

# Health Equity Task Force

September 16, 2020 Public Hearing

# Welcome

*This is the first public hearing (of at least three public hearings) of the legislative task force established by Chapter 93 of the Acts of 2020 (referred to as the “Health Equity Task Force”) to study and make recommendations to the General Court that address health disparities for underserved or underrepresented populations based on culture, race, ethnicity, language, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, geographic location, including, but not limited to, gateway cities with hospitals dedicated to caring for patients who test positive for COVID-19, and age in the commonwealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

# Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions of Task Force members
2. Public Testimony
3. Conclusion & Next Task Force Meeting

# 1. Introduction of Task Force Members

## Senate Appointees

**Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz**

**Senator Julian Cyr**

**Task Force Co-Chair, Michael Curry, Esq.**, Deputy CEO and General Counsel at Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

**Dr. Milagros Abreu**, Executive Director, President and Founder of The Latino Health Insurance Program

**Dr. Cassandra Pierre**, infectious diseases physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Boston University

**Dr. Frank Robinson**, Vice President, Public Health and Community Relations, Baystate Health

**Hirak Shah**, Legal Counsel for Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr

## House Appointees

**Representative Chynah Tyler**

**Representative José F. Tosado**

**Task Force Co-Chair, Dr. Assaad Sayah**, CEO, Cambridge Health Alliance; Commissioner of Public Health, City of Cambridge; Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School

**Dr. Kiame Mahaniah**, CEO, Lynn Community Health Center

**Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan**, President & CEO, DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement and Catalyst Institute

**Jeffrey Sanchez**, Lecturer, Center for Public Health Leadership, TH Chan School of Public Health; Senior Advisor, Rasky Partners

**Beverly Stables**, Health Care Policy Analyst for House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

**Chair of the MA Black and Latino Legislative Caucus**

**Representative Carlos González**

**Chair of the MA Asian-American Legislative Caucus**

**Representative Donald H. Wong**

# Testimony & Ground Rules

## Oral Testimony Today

- We are pleased of the high level of interest in testimony: 16 panels of over 50 people.
- It is important to us that everyone's testimony is heard.
- Task Force Members should have your cameras on throughout the hearing.
- The Co-Chairs will recognize each panel sequentially to turn on your video and audio to testify. To transition to the next panel, the panel listing will briefly be shown on screen.
- Then, each person will have up to 3 minutes for oral testimony. Please summarize your testimony and try not to repeat points made by others.
- A staff person will be visible on the screen (with a sign) to signal when 30 seconds remain and again as time has elapsed. Please be sure to wrap up your remarks then.
- Once the panel's testimony is concluded, the panel will be excused.
- Please mute your line and turn off your video after your testimony.
- The Co-Chairs will then recognize the next panel.

**Written testimony is also encouraged. Please email in PDF format to:**

[mmccallister@massleague.org](mailto:mmccallister@massleague.org) and [dfox@challiance.org](mailto:dfox@challiance.org)

# Panel 1 Testimony: Immigrant Impact

- **Eva A. Millona**, President and CEO, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
- **Anh Vu Sawyer**, Executive Director, the Southeast Asian Coalition
- **Helena DaSilva Hughes**, Executive Director, Immigrants' Assistance Center
- **Iris Coloma Gaines**, Statewide Language Access Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

# Panel 2 Testimony: Health Care and Community Perspectives I

- **Lou Brady**, CEO of Family Health Center of Worcester
- **Avlot Quessa**, Co-Chair Diversity Council and Senior Director, Multicultural Affairs and Patient Services, Cambridge Health Alliance
- **Dr. Laura Sullivan MD**, Chief of Family Medicine, Cambridge Health Alliance
- **Dr. Maryam Robinson MD, MPH**, Family Medicine Resident, Cambridge Health Alliance

# Panel 3 Testimony: Food Insecurity

- **Jennifer Lemmerman**, Director of Government Affairs, Project Bread
- **Casey Burns**, Director, Coalition for a Healthy Greater Worcester



# Panel 4 Testimony: Special Populations and COVID-Related Equity Concerns

- **Maura K. Sullivan**, MPA, Director of Government Affairs - The Arc of Massachusetts and Program Director/Instructor, Operation House Call
- **John B. Kelly**, Director, Second Thoughts MA
- **Ellen Leigh**, Disability Rights Advocate
- **Chris Hoeh**, Advocacy Representative, Greater Boston Chapter of United Spinal Association
- **Rhoda Gibson**, Co-Founder, MassAdapt
- **Crystal Evans**

# Panel 5 Testimony: Housing

- **Annette Duke**, Housing Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
- **Andrea Park**, Housing and Homelessness Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
- **Nicole Stewart**, CEO, Homes for Families
- **Kelly Turley**, Associate Director, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
- **Caitlin Golden**, Director of Public Policy, Massachusetts Housing & Shelter Alliance
- **Pamela Schwartz**, Director, Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness

# Panel 6 Testimony: Local Public Health

- **Kristina Kimani**, Assistant Policy Director, Massachusetts Public Health Association
- **Claude A. Jacob**, DrPH(c), MPH, Chief Public Health Officer, Cambridge Public Health Department
- **Triniese Polk**, Director of the Office of Health Equity, Boston Public Health Commission
- **Stacey Kokaram**, Director of the Office of Health Preparedness, Boston Public Health Commission
- **Michael R. Hugo, JD**, Government Affairs, Mass. Association of Health Boards

# Panel 7 Testimony: Behavioral Health

- **David Matteodo**, Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems

# Panel 8 Testimony: Older Adults

- **Lisa Gurgone**, MS, Executive Director, Massachusetts Home Care
- **Dr. Serena Chao**, MD, MSc, AGSF, Chief of Geriatrics and Director, House Calls Program, Cambridge Health Alliance
- **Candace Kuebel**, Executive Director, MassPACE Association

# Panel 9 Testimony: Children and Families

- **Deborah Harris**, Senior Staff Attorney, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
- **Naomi Meyer**, Senior Attorney, Greater Boston Legal Services
- **Julia Koehler**, Pediatric Infectious Disease clinician, Microbiology bench scientist, and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School

# Panel 10 Testimony: Occupational Safety & Health

- **Jodi Sugerman-Brozan**, Executive Director, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCOSH)
- **Al Vega**, Director of Policy & Programs, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (MassCOSH)
- **Enid Eckstein**, Raise Up Steering Committee

# Panel 11 Testimony: Health Care Access and Safe Communities

- **Amy Grunder**, Director of State Policy and Legislative Affairs, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
- **Dr. Fiona Danaher MD**, Pediatrician, MGH Chelsea Health Center
- **Hema Sarang-Sieminski**, Policy Director, Jane Doe Inc.



# Panel 12 Testimony: Immigration Policies

- **Laura Maslow-Armand**, Health Disparities Project Director, Lawyers for Civil Rights Boston
- **Luz Arevalo**, Esq., Greater Boston Legal Services- Tax Clinic
- **Rev. Elizabeth Nguyen**, Volunteer with the Boston Immigration Justice Accompaniment Network (<https://beyondbondboston.org/>)

# Panel 13 Testimony: COVID-19 Issues in Prisons and Jails

- **Oamshri Amarasingham**, Esq., Deputy Legislative Director, ACLU of Massachusetts
- **Elizabeth Matos**, Executive Director, Prisoners' Legal Services
- **Christine Mitchell**, ScD, MDiv, Health Instead of Punishment Research Associate, Human Impact Partners

# Panel 14 Testimony: Budget and Revenue Policy

- **Phineas Baxandall**, Senior Policy Analyst, MA Budget and Policy Center

# Panel 15 Testimony: Health Care & Community Perspectives II

- **Dr. David A. Rosman**, MD, MBA, President, Massachusetts Medical Society
- **Dr. Aisha James**, MD, Internal Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Dr. Mary Raddawi**, MD, Internal Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital
- **Alex Scheff**, Co-Director, Policy and Government Relations, Health Care for All
- **Jessica Aguilera-Steinert**, MSW, LICSW, Director, Health Services, Action for Boston Community Development

# Panel 16 Testimony: Data Collection and Reporting

- **Maddie Ribble**, Director of Public Policy & Campaign Strategy, Massachusetts Public Health Association
- **Sean Cahill**, Director of Health Policy Research at the Fenway Institute
- **Stewart Landers**

# Next Health Equity Task Force Meeting

## September 18 (12 - 1:30 PM) Virtual Meeting

### Description

This is a meeting of the Health Equity Task Force to review findings from the September 16, 2020 public hearing and discuss initial areas of recommendations.

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions of Task Force Members
2. Review & Approval of September 3rd Meeting Minutes
3. Discuss Findings from September 16 Public Hearing & Areas of Recommendations
4. Open Discussion & Next Steps