

**DISABILITY COMMISSION  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday September 21, 2022  
5:30-7:00p.m.

**Please watch video from meeting [here](#)**

**Revised Meeting Agenda**

## Meeting Called to Order

- 5:35pm

## Introductions

### Attendance

1. Kristen Mccosh
2. Carl Richardson
3. Olivia Richard
4. Wesley Ireland
5. Alice Fisher
6. Duysa Lyubovskaya
7. Paul Caron
8. Richard Glovsky
9. Jerry Boyd
10. Elizabeth Dean-Clower
11. Zary Amirhosseini
12. Charlie Kim

### Absent

1. Yardley Sanchez

## Approval of July & August Minutes

- Chair Wes Ireland made a motion to approve the August minutes, member Duysa Lyubovskaya seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

- Chair Wes Ireland made a motion to approve the July minutes, member Zary Amirhosseini seconded, with no objections the motion passed unanimously.

## New Member Introductions

- Chair Wes Ireland asked new Disabilities Commission Advisory Board appointees to introduce themselves
  - **Richard Glovsky** - is a lawyer based in Boston who specializes in employment law. He lives in the Back Bay neighborhood of the city. He shared that he is excited to join the Disabilities Commission Advisory Board because of the great work it has done.
  - **Charlie Kim** - is joining as the BPS parent representative on the Disabilities Commission Advisory Board. He has two daughters. One daughter was born with significant hearing loss and developmental delays, she is a student at the Hoarce Mann school.

## Presentation: Boston Public Schools Special Education: Marcia Fitzpatrick

- Presentation explained BPS services designed for transition age students (14-22 years old) to gain competitive employment.
  - 22% of BPS students receive Special Education services
  - What are transition services for students in special education:
    - A coordinated set of activities designed to facilitate a student's journey from school post school activities.
      - Transition services include instruction related activities in combination with community experiential learning opportunities
      - Transition services are delivered to students in partnership with over 19 community organizations.
      - Transition services also include preparation for college prep as well as dual enrollment programs.
- Extended School Year (ESY) Transitions services
  - ESY Transition services are available to students in grades 8-11th during the summer
  - Madison Park vocational exploration program is a comprehensive post-graduate transition program that offers students work experience in: auto detailing, bike mechanics, culinary arts, custodial services, office assistance services, landscaping, and more.

- ESY partners with over 10 community organizations for ESY programs

## Questions from the board :

- Chair Wesley Ireland asked: Would you be able to share the powerpoint?
  - Answer: YES!
- Member Richard Glovsky asked: How successful are the transition programs? Are there ways to measure its success?
  - Answer: It is a challenge to measure the success of these programs. Part of the challenge is because students of the many avenues students go down after they graduate. Some students attend day habs after they graduate, others go on to paid work, some go on to college, and some students do not work or go to college after high school. We don't track these outcomes, so we can not measure them.
- Member Charlie Kim: While volunteering for the Boston SpedPAC I heard about the "Hub", is there an actual plan to set that up? Also how can a parent consider transition services when choosing a specific BPS high school? When will a 'Centers for Excellence' be available? Is ARPA money being used on that?
  - Answer: We are getting closer to making the Hub a reality. Funding is necessary because we need more job coaches.
- Member Duysa Lyubovskaya : Thank you for the presentation. I loved that information was provided visually, it made it very clear to understand. I am personally very appreciative that you provide students (especially with Autism) training for administrative jobs, especially for people with Autism. I am very appreciative that there are a variety of job opportunities for young people with disabilities. I also appreciate all the college prep opportunities you are offering students with disabilities.
- Chair Wes Ireland asked: Can the City of Boston do something with MRC? I think the transition programs are great.
  - Answer: Newton is a good example of what can be done with MRC. But they have 28 students, we have 400 students.
- Chair Wes Ireland recognized a member of the public, Darian Gambrell, to ask question:

- Darian Gambrell: I have two questions. 1.) How do students apply to KEE at RCC? 2.) When students are ready to graduate and have already applied to MRC, what are some next steps you take with those students before they graduate?
  - Answer:
    - 1.) Students apply for KEE at RCC before they graduate (some students in this program are dually enrolled and earn college and High school credit while in the program).
    - 2.) Some steps we make with students who applied to either MRC and/or DDS is to make sure they understand that unlike school services there is no entitlement to receive services from either of those agencies.. We work hard to make sure students are connected when they graduate, and recognize that those connections can become disconnected.
- Charlie: I want to make a comment to follow up on Mr. Glovsky's question about measurements of success for BPS Transition services. We are seeing more metrics on other items, it would be helpful if BPS created a metric on transition services to measure things like how many jobs applicants were hired.
  - Answer: BPS is aware of transition students successes, but have not made it into a graph or formal way to measure that.

## Chair's Report: Wesley Ireland

- ADA Day was a lot of fun. The Advisory Board took a tour of the new City Hall Plaza and it looks great. The playground looks very accessible.
- First day of school was 9/8/22 on behalf of the Disability Commission Advisory Board. Paul and I passed out pencils to kids on the first day of school. I got to meet Councilor Erin Murphy who was also passing out pencils on the first day of school.
- I encourage the Board, and the entire disability community, to take advantage of the little free libraries throughout the city. I visited one and got a great book there called, 'Handbook for an Urban Revolution Street Fight' It's a good book, I will of course return the book to the Little Free Library when I am done with it
- November 4th is election day - please make sure you are up to date with your voting plan. Get to know the candidates, at events and other opportunities.
- Today is the last day of summer. First day of autumn is tomorrow, this was one of the best summers I had. Maybe because we are post-pandemic sorta because we need to get ready for fall COVID /Flu surge, get your shots! Also the red sox are almost done but getting ready for Patriots, Celtics, and Bruins!

## Advisory Board Member Spotlight

- none

## Commissioners Report: Kristen McCosh

- ADA Day - Over 200 people attended the outdoor event.
- The Advisory Board's tour of the new plaza was great, can't wait for the new plaza to open!
  - Sasaki, the firm that lead the work on the new plaza, will present at a future meeting to discuss the specifics on accessibility improvements made to the new plaz
- We have ADA Day t-shirts if you didn't get one already let us know and we will mail one to you.
- The Disabilities Commission Bike Awareness Plant is getting closer to launch
- Plan to invite the Boston Public Health Commission to a present at a future Advisory Board meeting
- Disabilities Commission staff have been attending Community Resource Fairs and Job Fair event led by the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet. Next event is October 8, 2022
- Civic Engagement Day - Wednesday Oct 12, 2022 from 10-12pm
- The Office of Budget Management is hosting educational workshops and there will be a workshop dedicated to the disability community.
- Voting:
  - Early Voting
  - Voter Registration
  - Election Dates
  - Accessible Online Electronic Voting
- MBTA initiatives
  - Orange Line repairs are finished and service has been restored
    - Accessibility issues were reported during the OL closure
    - Accessibility improvements after shutdown include:
      - 60+ new Orange Line cars with visual and audio messaging, priority seating, dedicated WMD seating areas, accessible signage and ample handholds
      - Forest Hills station was made fully accessible from both Washington Street and Banks Place
      - and finished repairing an elevator in Forest Hills station.
      - Oak Grove station's accessibility was improved with upgrades to the roof, doors, windows, stairs, and elevators

- Detectable warnings were replaced at Green Street, Roxbury Crossing, Ruggles, Sullivan and Community College
  - Concrete & broken brick was replaced at Green Street, Mass Ave, Back Bay and Downtown Crossing
- MBTA Fare Transformation
  - People with disabilities can now apply or renew TAP or Blind Access Charlie Cards online and have cards mailed to them!
  - Charlie Card store is still an option to get a TAP or Blind Access Card, but it is no longer required, you can now apply/renew from the comfort of your own home.
    - Katie Kalugin - MBTA
      - Presented info on new online application
        - Online application is fully accessible.
          - Been tested by screen reader users to ensure accessibility
        - Online application makes clear what to submit as part of the application, and what to expect after applying
        - The online application is available in multiple languages including Spanish, Portugueses, Chinese, and English
        - The online application is mobile device friendly, you will be able to complete the application using a mobile device

*Questions about fare transformation from the Board:*

- Chair Wes Ireland: I don't see MassHealth to be proof of disability?
  - Answer: Because people can qualify for some MassHealth programs based on low income, rather than disability, not all MassHealth programs are accepted.
- Member Carl Richardson: As a blind Charlie Card user I am thrilled the application is online. Has the application process been tested for people who use screen readers?
  - Answer: yes
- A member of the public, Susan, asked: Is the delay with creating these Charlie Cards still in place, with the machines stuck in Germany?
  - We should have machines in Boston soon, so you can get cards faster.

*End of questions on fare transformation*

- Commissioner McCosh shared that changes to Boston Roadways Piloted During Orange Line will become permanent. This includes:

- Chinatown: Newly added SL5 bus stop that creates link for Chinatown residents to the SL5
- Huntington Avenue bus & bike priority lane: The priority bus and bike lane that was added to Huntington Avenue from Brigham Circle to Gainsborough Street
- South End loading zones and drop-off zones: Changes to parking restrictions will remain in place to reduce double parking in the unprotected bike lane.
- Jamaica Plain pavement marking and signage: Traffic safety elements include “Don’t Block the Box” and parking restrictions at corners to improve visibility
- Boylston Street one-way for vehicles: Closing part of Boylston Street (between Amory & Lamartine) to traffic to improve safety
- Copley Square bus lanes: Include Boylston Street, Clarendon Street, and St. James Street
  - These bus lanes support the 39, 9, and 10 bus routes, which together serve more than 10,000 riders per weekday
- Blue Bikes changes include:
  - The City will retain Bluebikes docks added during the shutdown to keep up with record-breaking ridership numbers
  - The City is also exploring options to provide free or low-cost bike share service.

## Questions from the Board:

- Member Alice Fisher: Will bike lanes be shared with the bus?
  - Answer: Yes, if that is the way that it is marked.
- Chair Wes Ireland: I have a question about the Blue Bikes, why did the membership go up?
  - We are not sure right now.

## Announcements

- None

## Old Business

- Remote access to public meetings advocacy
  - Member Carl Richardson reported that he confirmed with Rep. Cabral office that they will most likely introduce the bill. The bill will not be filed until December (at the earliest) right now there is nothing for us to do because the bill has not been filed.

- Chair Wes Ireland commented: Thanks for that update and letting us know we have more time
- Captions Ordinance
  - Not yet filed but we have discussed this with the Mayor's office and plan to work with the Cabinet of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion.
- Questionnaire for Governor Candidates
  - Create an archive of previous candidate questionnaires
    - Member Olviia Rocahrds will assist collecting those
  - Member Richardson mentioned that BCIL is holding a Gubernatorial candidates forum
    - Member Olivia Richards will share details after contacting BCIL

## New Business

- Member Elizabeth Dean-Clower announced that on September 29, 2022 from 5:30-7pm there will be a RTAG general meeting to discuss the Orange Line Shutdown held on Zoom. I hope you can all attend.
  - Member Jerry Boyd added that the RTAG meeting is a listening session and also encouraged the board to attend.
- Member Paul Caron shared that there is an exhibit at the Museum of Science about mental health called “Mind Matters”. The exhibit is open now and will be until January 22, 2023. He encouraged everyone to check it out.

## Public Input

- Chair Wes Ireland announced here is no time for public input during this meeting.

## Adjournment

- Member Carl Richardson made a motion to adjourn, Jerry seconded, motion passed unanimously.
  - Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm