

Uphams PACE Quality Program

The PACE Participant Advisory Committee (PAC) is a dynamic group of PACE participants and caregivers who meet quarterly to ensure that PACE operations align with member priorities and goals. The Chief PACE Program Officer and Quality Manager attend all PAC meetings, both playing key roles in developing agendas and inviting guest speakers based on PAC interests. Some PAC members have served for over five years, while several others joined within the past year. The committee actively encourages new participants and caregivers to join.

On January 10, Jessica McNeice, PACE Engagement Manager, attended the first PAC meeting of 2025 and led a brainstorming session focused on enhancing PACE activity programming. PAC members emphasized the importance of music and movement activities in fostering a welcoming and engaging environment at the PACE centers. They expressed appreciation for the monthly live music performances in 2024 by the local group Toonfoolery, and requested more live music events. Additionally, they suggested larger group activities featuring a DJ, karaoke, and dancing.

Following these discussions, Jess connected with the Berklee School of Music to expand music programming. On February 10, Berklee Music Therapy Instructor Cynthia Koskela and two students launched a weekly music therapy group at the 36 Dearborn Street PACE Center. Eleven PACE participants attended the first session and are eager to continue.

Building on this enthusiasm, Jess and the Activities staff have been busy planning a spring dance/prom event. Participant input is essential to the success of all PACE activities, and excitement is growing as these plans take shape. Discussions so far have included music selection, decorations, and bringing together participants from all PACE centers for the event. Stay tuned for more news!