



# Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

## Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2023  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
Zoom Meeting

### Commissioners Present:

Joe Toolan, Chair  
Debb Dunn, Vice Chair  
Nicholas Augustine  
Lee Blinder  
Joan Bryan  
Mickey Dhir

Kurt Doan  
Anthony Fox  
Jabari Lyles  
Stephen Martin  
Margo Quinlan  
Mark Ridderhoff

### Commissioners Absent:

Sarcia Adkins

### Staff Present:

Larry Walker, Executive Director - Governor's Office of Community Initiatives  
Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director - Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

- I. Meeting was called to Order by Vice Chair Dunn at 6:00pm. Housekeeping items and Meeting Guidelines were read by the Vice Chair.
- II. Roll Call was made by the Administrative Director and Commissioners were asked to share their pronouns.
- III. Guest Speakers:
  - A. Maryland State Ethics Commission presentation provided by Katherine (Kate) Thompson. Kate provided an overview of Maryland State Ethics requirements and provisions for commissioners. The presentation covered financial disclosures, potential conflicts of interests, prestige of office, and gifts. Kate also provided resources and her contact information for commissioners.
  - B. Liberate Your Mind, Obse Abebe. Due to a GOCI communications mix-up, Obse Abebe was not able to join the meeting.
- IV. Remarks were made by Vice Chair, Debb Dunn. Vice Chair Dunn shared a warning from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) about anti-trans groups infiltrating

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### Governor's Coordinating Offices

100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032

gender-affirming clinics pretending to be supportive to obtain information, interviews, and videos for the purposes of malicious misrepresentation. Beware, especially as Pride Month approaches, of anyone requesting to interview or video you.

- V. Remarks by Chair Joe Toolan. Chair Toolan reviewed accomplishments since our last meeting, including passage of the Trans Health Equity Act. Chair Toolan also acknowledged infiltration of anti-LGBTQ+ groups and attacks aimed at our community.
- VI. Remarks were made by Administrative Director, Jeremy Browning, including a reminder about 2022 Financial Disclosures, Commission vacancies, and welcomed new GOCI Staff:
  - A. Remarks were made by Executive Director Larry Walker. Director Walker committed to providing support to our LGBTQIA+ community and ensuring that the Moore-Miller Administration would leave no one behind. Director Walker expressed a sense of urgency to address the needs and challenges the community faces and gratitude for the work of the commissioners.
  - B. Operations Coordinator, Lisa Woodfolk (not present at meeting)
- VII. Approval of March 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Bryan made the motion to approve the March meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Ridderhoff. Motion amended to reflect attendance of Commissioner Fox. Amended motion carried with all in favor.
- VIII. Committee Updates: Chair Toolan announced that “Committee Updates” would now be under either “Old Business” or “New Business” to avoid confusion.
- IX. Old Business:
  - A. Youth & Education Committee updates were provided by Chair Toolan and Committee Chair, Commissioner Lyles where they gave an update of the progress of the recommendations for supporting LGBTQIA+ Students. Additional edits are needed with the goal of presenting the recommendations for approval at the July Commission meeting in advance of the school year. Commissioner Lyles reviewed the edits and updates that were made since the last meeting.
- X. New Business:
  - A. Pride Month Events: Chair Toolan gave an update on Pride Month events and encouraged Commissioners to participate in events throughout the state. Chair Toolan recommended the Commission vote to attend Pride Events around the state and shared that several commissioners have expressed interest in attending Baltimore Trans Pride. A discussion followed about how the Commission can and should participate in events. Commissioner Blinder made the motion for the Commission to participate in the march and table at Baltimore Trans Pride and for commissioners to attend Pride events around the state on behalf of the Commission and was seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Motion carried with all in favor.
  - B. November Meeting in-person (hybrid): Following a discussion, Commissioner Fox made a motion to hold the November meeting in-person in a hybrid

format and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Motion carried with all in favor.

- C. Strategic Planning updated timeline: Director Browning gave an update on strategic planning timeline which included additional time to secure funding, establish a stakeholder list, and identify organizations to partner with to conduct listening sessions. The Strategic Planning Committee had discussed creating a brief survey to solicit feedback during Pride Month.
  - D. Recommendations and best practices: Director Browning proposed that the Commission consider making recommendations for inclusive single occupancy bathroom signage, model language for inclusive forms, and importance of pronouns. It was noted that these recommendations are important for state agencies, but this work takes a lot of labor and the state government should allocate additional resources to develop these resources.
  - E. Future guest speakers: Chair Toolan invited Commissioners to make recommendations for future speakers. Director Browning requested that the Commission prioritize which state agencies should be invited to speak. Commissioner Lyles requested that we hear from:
    - 1. Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)
    - 2. Department of Juvenile Services (DJS)
    - 3. Local [LGBTQIA+] organizations and nonprofit leaders
    - 4. Student groups, such as Maryland Leadership Workshop, Maryland Association of Student Councils, local student organizations
  - F. Upcoming Meetings: There was a discussion about combining the July 10th meeting with the July 29th retreat. It was noted that the Commission should confirm that there will be a quorum on July 29th. Director Browning will confirm quorum before initiating a vote by email to combine the meeting and the retreat.
- XI. Open Forum for General Remarks or Comments:
- A. Chair Toolan proposed creating time for commissioners to share personal and professional experiences in a member spotlight at meetings. Commissioners expressed support for this and Chair Toolan recommended beginning at the November meeting.
  - B. Commissioner Augustine inquired about what happened to the bios that had been requested when the Commission was formed.
- XII. Closing remarks from Chair Toolan. Chair Toolan thanked everyone for their hard work in the meeting and on the committees. Additionally he encouraged commissioners to reach out if they have any questions or concerns.
- XIII. Motion was made by Commissioner Doan and seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director