

Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

Policy Committee

May 2, 2023, 6-7pm

Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Members present:

Lee Blinder, Committee Chair
Joan Bryan, Committee Vice Chair
Debb Dunn
Stephen Martin
Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director

Members absent:

Margo Quinlan

- I. Meeting called to order by the Committee Chair, Lee Blinder at 6:03pm.
- II. Roll call was taken and recorded.
- III. Acknowledgement of Meeting Guidelines.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes:
 - A. A motion to approve Minutes from 12.2.2022 was made by Commissioner Bryan and seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - B. A motion to approve Minutes from 2.2.2023 was made by Commissioner Bryan and seconded by Commissioner Blinder. Motion carried with all in favor.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Vice Chair - Commissioner Joan Bryan was appointed Vice Chair
- VI. New Business
 - A. 2023 Legislative Session debrief:
 1. Trans Health Equity Act will take effect on January 1, 2024.
 - a) Celebration of the passage will be followed with efforts to ensure implementation.
 - b) Insurance challenges are to be expected.
 - c) Note new terminology: Transition related care is now being used to more accurately describe the type of care because not everyone receiving gender affirming care is transitioning.
 - d) Maryland is setting an example for other states.
 2. Commission Alterations signed into law and will take effect on October, 1 2023 changing the name to the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs and expanding membership to 21 seats.
 3. The Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act did not pass.
 - a) Note an ongoing lawsuit against DPSCS on the basis of ADA violations.

4. The Birth Certificate Modernization Act did not pass.
 - a) Opportunity for administrative changes.
 - b) Will likely need to be reintroduced next year.
 - B. Discussion of future policy issues and strategies:
 1. Discussion about whether Maryland should enact similar policies as the Governor of Wisconsin did to make Maryland a safe haven:
 - a) Make sure that policy would be legally sound in Maryland and not give folks a false sense of security.
 - b) Recognition of challenges that many LGBTQIA+ folks still face in Maryland, including unsupported youth and incarcerated people.
 2. The Medical Assistance program will again require folks to reapply following several years of continuation of service without the need to reapply due to Covid. May result in loss of coverage for folks who no longer qualify.
 3. Commission should engage with all the legislative caucuses.
 - C. Future committee meetings:
 1. Aim to hold meetings on the First Tuesday of every month from 6-7pm.
 2. The June meeting will be held on 6/6/2023 at 6:30pm to accommodate a conflict.
 3. The July meeting conflicts with Independence Day and the need for a July meeting will be determined at the June meeting.
- VII. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dunn and seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm