



Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

Health & Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2024, 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Mickey Dhir, Committee Chair
Anthony Fox, Vice Chair
Tina Jones
Stephen Martin
Paula Neira
Exofficio: Chair Lee Blinder
Staff: Jeremy Browning, Director

Committee members absent:

All members present

- I. Meeting called to order by Committee Chair Dhir at 7:02pm.
- II. Roll call completed by Committee Chair Dhir.
- III. Committee Chair Dhir read Housekeeping and Meeting Guidelines.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried with all in favor.
- V. Approval of Minutes from 4.15.2023. Chair Dhir called for a vote to approve the minutes and the minutes were approved with an abstention from Commissioner Jones.
- VI. Discussion of HIV Funding:
 - A. Chair Dhir presented a summary of the HIV Funding Crisis including recent actions, including:
 1. The Commission approved a statement at the May meeting.
 2. Resolution from the Baltimore City Council introduced by Councilperson Zeke Cohen.
 3. Baltimore Collaborative meeting with Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) discussed services that will be cut.
 - B. The Committee discussed the following items:
 1. Need to meet with stakeholders.

2. Upper Eastern Shore is ending several HIV services including mobile clinics which is also affecting reproductive health as well. Ryan White funding was piggy backing on reproductive health.
 3. Explore alternative funding streams, including funding that may be available from hospital systems to certain zip codes.
 4. Director Browning shared the 5 year plan prepared by the Maryland Department of Health HIV Planning Committee (HPC).
- C. Next Steps: Get involved in existing HIV groups and meet with the Maryland Department of Health HPC.
- VII. Discussion: Trans Health Equity Act implementation/access challenges:
- A. Chair Blinder provided a summary of the implementation progress and challenges, including:
 1. Insurance companies changing criterias.
 2. Lack of electrolysis and hair removal providers in the Medicaid network.
 3. Difficulties navigating the Maryland healthcare system.
 4. No entity to legally hold MCOs accountable.
 5. Network adequacy not enforced.
 - B. Discussions included:
 1. Impact litigation.
 2. Ethics of equitable distribution of resources.
- VIII. Discussion on 2025 Policy Priorities will occur at the next meeting due to time constraints.
- IX. Adjournment: Commissioner Dhir adjourned the 8:00pm.

Meeting minutes submitted respectfully by: Jeremy Browning, Director.