



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Policy Committee Minutes
January 8, 2025, 6:00pm - 7:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Josie Caballero, Committee Chair
Ex-Officio: Chair Lee Blinder
Joan Bryan
Nicole Hollywood
M Pease

Guests Present:

Charlotte Hoffman

Staff Present:

Jeremy Browning, Director
Taylor Harer, Special Assistant

- I. Committee Chair Caballero called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.
- II. Committee Chair Caballero acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Caballero.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Director Browning presented the agenda to the Committee, including an additional agenda item. The floor was opened for discussion with no comments from the Committee members. Committee Chair Caballero called a vote and the agenda was approved with all in favor.
- V. Approval of 8.15.2024 Minutes: Live edits were made to the minutes from the last meeting in order to correct errors. The floor was opened for additional comment and discussion. Committee Chair Caballero called a vote and the corrected minutes were approved with all in favor.
- VI. Discussion - 2025 Meetings: Committee Chair Caballero stated that she would like to have the Committee meet more frequently throughout the legislative session. The floor was opened for discussion with several Committee members voicing their agreement with meeting more frequently. The Committee will be meeting once a week throughout session on Thursdays at 10:00am, starting Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 10:00am.

- VII. Discussion - Post-Election Community Insights Report: Vice Chair Pease provided a brief update on the survey, sharing that nearly 800 responses were received, providing a solid quantitative basis for analysis. Director Browning presented the report, which highlighted key findings. Vice Chair Pease identified 20 common themes that emerged across the responses. Committee Chair Caballero will continue working on qualitative analysis.
- VIII. Discussion: 2025 Policy Priority Updates: Director Browning provided an update on the 2025 Policy Priorities document, detailing recent changes made to it. Additionally, hearings for bills have begun to be scheduled, with more expected to be scheduled after MLK Day. The Committee engaged in a discussion on key “bills to watch,” regarding isolation and loneliness, as well as homelessness.
- IX. Discussion: A to Z Recommendations and Best Practices Updates: Director Browning shared a proposal for a streamlined format and provided a review of the proposed format. The goal is to have the document completed before the Commission Meeting on Monday. The Committee expressed support for the proposed format.
- X. Discussion: LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Symposium Follow-Up: Director Browning provided an update on the LGBTQIA+ Inclusion Symposium, expressing a desire to hold another symposium in the future. The discussion included exploring models that could be replicated for another event and additional opportunities to bolster LGBTQIA+ inclusion efforts across the state.
- XI. Meeting adjourned by Committee Chair Caballero at 7:23pm.

Minutes submitted by: Taylor Harer, Special Assistant.