



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Policy Committee Minutes
February 7, 2025, 10:00am - 11:00am
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

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

Members Not Present:

*Rev. K.C. Ali Bell
*Ly Xīnzhèn Zhǎngsūn

**Member inadvertently excluded on the meeting invitation*

Staff and Guest Present:

Jeremy Browning, Director
Taylor Harer, Special Assistant
Charlotte Persephone Hoffman, Policy Committee Advisor

- I. Committee Chair Caballero called the meeting to order at 10:18am.
- II. Committee Chair Caballero acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Caballero.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Committee Chair Caballero opened the floor for any comments or additions to the agenda, with nothing added by the Committee. The Chair called for a vote to approve the agenda, and the agenda was approved with all in favor.
- V. Approval of 1.16.2024 Minutes: Commissioner Pease made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Hollywood. The motion carried with all in favor.

- VI. Discussion: Formalize Charlotte Persephone Hoffman as an advisor to the Policy Committee: The Committee discussed formalizing Charlotte Persephone Hoffman as an advisor to the Policy Committee. Chair Caballero called for a motion, which was made by Commissioner Hollywood and seconded by Commissioner Pease. The floor was opened for discussion, but no further comments were made. The motion passed unanimously, and Charlotte will now be officially recognized as “Advisor Hoffman” to the Policy Committee.
- VII. Discussion: Chair Caballero entertained a discussion of holding the Policy Meetings biweekly moving forward. There was consensus on maintaining the weekly schedule throughout the session and then transitioning to monthly meetings after the session adjourns.
- VIII. Discussion: Legislative Priorities and Testimonies: The Policy Committee reviewed the Commission’s legislative policy priorities and discussed recently filed bills. Advisor Hoffman provided information on HB556, explaining how it relates to the Commission and its impact on the LGBTQIA+ community, particularly regarding medical equipment used for hormone replacement therapy. Commissioner Pease made a motion to instruct Director Browning to sign up today to provide oral testimony on behalf of the Commission pending adoption from the full Commission to add HB556 as a priority bill at the February 10, 2025 meeting, proceed and Commissioner Hollywood seconded. There was no further discussion, and the motion passed with unanimous approval. Director Browning will add this item to the agenda for the Commission meeting on Monday.
- IX. Meeting adjourned by Chair Caballero at 10:38am.

Minutes submitted by: Taylor Harer, Special Assistant.