



## **Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Meeting Minutes  
April 7, 2025  
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Commissioners Present:

Lee Blinder, Chair  
M Pease, Vice Chair  
Ali K.C. Bell  
Joan Bryan  
Josie Caballero  
Mickey Dhir  
Kurt Doan  
Debb Dunn

Anthony Fox  
Nicole Hollywood  
Stephen Martin  
Paula Neira  
Wendy Novak  
Brandon Russell  
Joe Toolan  
Ly Xīnzhèn Zhǎngsūn

### Commissioners Not Present:

Asher Kennedy  
Sarah Stern  
Kijana West

### Staff Present:

Jeremy Browning, Director, Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs  
Taylor Harer, Special Assistant, Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs  
Sam Feder, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to Order by Chair Blinder at 7:03 PM. Housekeeping and Meeting Guidelines were read and acknowledged. Additionally, meeting attendees were reminded to add their pronouns to their Zoom names and instructions were provided.
- II. Roll Call: Roll call was conducted by Chair Blinder and they provided a review of the voting procedures using the Zoom reaction functions to indicate vote (green "check" to indicate "yea" and the red "X" to indicate "nay" and no action to abstain).
- III. Agenda Approval: Chair Blinder presented the agenda for the meeting, including an additional agenda item for an open forum for general remarks or comments. After hearing no opposition, Commissioner Caballero made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner Bryan and the agenda was approved.

- IV. Approval - Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the March 10, 2025 meeting were presented to the Commission. There were no additions or objections from the Commission. Commissioner Zhāngsūn made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting with suggested edits. It was seconded by Commissioner Hollywood and the minutes were approved.
- V. Discussion: Commission Response and Next Steps Following Recent Engagement with the Administration:
- Policy Chair Caballero began by thanking attendees for their participation and highlighted its importance given the challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community. She discussed two recent engagements with the administration, including a roundtable discussion with the Governor and the Transgender Day of Visibility event at the State House. Policy Chair Caballero expressed gratitude to the Governor for his support, including the Trans Health Equality Act and his recognition of Trans Day of Visibility.
  - Policy Chair Caballero acknowledged Chair Blinder's leadership in addressing the community's urgent needs amid escalating attacks on trans individuals, emphasizing their commitment to data-driven, inclusive policies that ensure safety and equality for all in Maryland.
  - Policy Chair Caballero reviewed the prepared draft statement, Transgender Day of Visibility Statement & Call to Action.
  - The floor was opened for any comments or points of discussion and several commissioners offered comments pertaining to the issue at hand, all of which contained words of support and affirmation for Chair Blinder and the Commission's work as a whole.
  - Statement Approval: Policy Chair Caballero made the motion to approve the statement Transgender Day of Visibility Statement & Call to Action as written. It was seconded by Commissioner Zhāngsūn and the statement was approved and adopted unanimously by the Commission.
- VI. Open Forum for General Remarks or Comments: Members of the public were encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions regarding the Transgender Day of Visibility event. Several members of the public provided comment and feedback overwhelmingly supportive of Chair Blinder and the Commission's work.
- VII. Closing Remarks: Chair Blinder thanked the public for their turnout and the commissioners for their hard work, especially in organizing an unscheduled meeting. They highlighted the meaningful and powerful nature of the space they created and expressed gratitude for serving with the commissioners. Director Browning echoed their words and added how grateful he was for the Commission's dedication, while reaffirming his commitment to the community.
- VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:36 by Chair Blinder

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Special Assistant, Taylor Harer