



Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

Health & Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024, 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Mickey Dhir, Committee Chair
Tina Jones
Stephen Martin
Paula Neira
Exofficio: Lee Blinder
Staff: Jeremy Browning, Director
Staff: Taylor Harer, Special Assistant

Committee members absent:

Anthony Fox, Vice Chair

- I. Meeting called to order by Committee Chair at 7:08pm.
- II. Roll call completed by Committee Chair.
- III. The Committee Chair read Housekeeping and Meeting Guidelines.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: The Committee Chair opened the floor for discussion to approve the agenda. No comments or suggested changes were made by the commissioners. The Committee Chair called for a vote to approve the agenda as presented and it was approved with all in favor.
- V. Approval of Minutes from 8.12.2023: The Committee Chair opened the floor for discussion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. There were no comments or suggested changes made by the commissioners. The Committee Chair called for a vote and the minutes were approved with all in favor.
- VI. Discussion: HIV Funding
 - A. The Committee Chair discussed and reviewed items from the last meeting regarding cuts to HIV funding.
 - B. The Committee discussed the following items:
 1. Barriers to care and issues with Maryland Medicaid not covering all routes of PrEP, mainly injectable administration.
 2. A Commissioner suggested the need to create a resource map

3. An idea was suggested to connect with the Pride Center of Maryland for more information. The Director stated that he will reach out to see what services they offer and to provide a point of contact.

VII. Discussion on 2025 Policy Priorities

A. HIV Decriminalization Bill

1. A Commissioner brought up the concern of the struggle of finding community members to offer support.
2. This bill may be renamed for the upcoming legislative session

B. PrEP Access

1. Continued discussion on challenges with access to injectables.
2. Continued concerns of people have issues accessing the type of PrEP they want.

C. Additional Priorities

1. The Director provided the commissioners with the link to the Policy Priority Document as well as a brief overview of the document.
2. All Commissioner comments and suggestions should be sent to the Director by October 1, 2024.
3. Once all the suggestions have been submitted, the document will be sent to the Policy Committee to be reformatted and edited into manageable sections.

VIII. Next Steps: Meeting Schedule - The director will be sending a poll out to the commissioners to determine when the next Committee meeting will be held. The meeting will be held some time in mid October and regular meeting times will be established shortly.

IX. Adjournment: The Committee Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:03pm.

Meeting minutes submitted respectfully by: Taylor Harer, Special Assistant