



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Development Committee Minutes
February 3, 2025, 10:00am - 11:00am
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Debb Dunn, Committee Chair
Ex-Officio: Chair Lee Blinder
Wendy Novak
Stephen Martin

Members Not Present:

Anthony Fox

Staff Present:

Jeremy Browning, Director
Taylor Harer, Special Assistant

- I. Committee Chair Dunn called the meeting to order at 10:04am.
- II. Committee Chair Dunn acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Dunn.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Committee Chair Dunn called a vote and the agenda was approved with all members in favor.
- V. Approval of 7.23.2024 Minutes: Committee Chair Dunn called a vote and the minutes were approved with Commissioner Toolan abstaining.
- VI. Discussion: State Funding for LGBTQIA+ Communities - Director Browning expressed concerns about the potential loss of federal funding for LGBTQIA+ organizations. Despite the rescinding of the federal funding freeze memo, there remains a risk of losing significant financial support. It is estimated that up to 6-7 million dollars in federal funding could be cut, which would greatly impact LGBTQIA+ organizations. Director Browning mentioned that he will keep everyone informed of any additional information as it becomes available.
- VII. Discussion: Establishing a Companion 501c3 - Director Browning explained that increasing the Commission's funds is part of the 2025 strategic plan. This additional funding would help support events, travel, meetings, speakers, and other activities that align with the Commission's work. He also provided a brief overview of how the

Commission on Women is structured and mentioned he would share related documents with the Committee for review.

- VIII. Discussion: iConsultancy Projects Around Funding Sources and Strategies - The iConsultancy projects focused on funding sources and strategies will continue next semester. Director Browning shared that he has already met with the instructor of the class to discuss the Commission's needs. Commissioners have until the end of this week to update the project list. iConsultancy will follow up on and build upon the work completed last semester to ensure continued progress on the projects.
- IX. Discussion: Next Steps - Director Browning encouraged the Committee to start considering what the meeting cadence should look like moving forward, specifically whether this meeting time will work for everyone throughout the legislative session.
- X. Meeting adjourned by Committee Chair Dunn at 10:48am.

Minutes submitted by: Taylor Harer, Special Assistant.