



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Policy Committee Minutes
May 2, 2025, 12:00pm - 1:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Josie Caballero, Committee Chair
M Pease, Committee Vice Chair
Ex-Officio: Lee Blinder
Rev. Ali K.C. Bell
Nicole Hollywood

Members Not Present

Joan Bryan
Ly Xīnzhèn Zhǎngsūn

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 12:37pm.
- II. Committee Chair Caballero acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Caballero.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Commissioner Hollywood made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Bell. The motion was unanimously passed.
- V. Approval of 4.7.2024 Minutes: A motion was made by Commissioner Bell to approve the minutes and was seconded by Committee Vice Chair Pease. The motion was unanimously passed.
- VI. Discussion: 2025 Legislative Session Debrief: The Committee expressed disappointment in the outcome of the legislative session noting that several key bills, including the Birth Certificate Modernization Act did not pass. Despite the tough session, the Carlton R.

Smith Act to decriminalize transfer of HIV passed after 13 years. Additionally, several members shared positive reflections, highlighting how proud they are of the Commission's work and commending the united front maintained throughout the session. Policy Committee Chair Caballero requested that a Policy Chair Report be added to the next full Commission meeting.

- VII. Discussion: Policy Committee Priorities - There was a discussion surrounding priorities for the upcoming year, expressing a desire to add more events and initiatives to increase engagement. There was strong interest in holding more meetings and events with the LGBTQIA+ Caucus to strengthen collaboration. The Committee emphasized the importance of increasing visibility during next year's session and proposed hosting a "Meet the Commissioners" happy hour as a way to connect. Commissioner Bell made a motion to increase outreach and inreach with stakeholders to have a greater impact to address issues facing LGBTQIA+ people. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Pease. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.
- VIII. Discussion: Future Meeting Cadence - Committee Chair Caballero recommended that the Committee meet at least a week prior to the full Commission meetings. Director Browning suggested meeting monthly, with the exception of June. It was agreed that future meetings would be held on the second Friday of the month at 12:00pm. At the request of the Committee, staff will increase reminder emails and messages to members of the Committee.
- IX. Meeting adjourned by Committee Chair Caballero at 1:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Taylor Harer, Special Assistant