



# Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

## Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2023

6:00pm-8:00pm

Zoom Meeting

### Commissioners Present:

Joe Toolan, Chair  
Debb Dunn, Vice Chair  
Nicholas Augustine  
Lee Blinder  
Mickey Dhir

Kurt Doan  
Anthony Fox  
Jabari Lyles  
Stephen Martin  
Margo Quinlan  
Mark Ridderhoff

### Commissioners Absent:

Sarcia Adkins  
Joan Bryan  
Rowan Willis-Powell

### Staff Present:

Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director - Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

- I. Meeting was called to Order by the Chair at 6:10pm. Housekeeping items and Meeting Guidelines were read by the Chair.
- II. Roll Call was made by the Chair and Commissioners were asked to share their pronouns.
- III. Remarks were made by Chair Joe Toolan. Chair Toolan reviewed accomplishments made in the first year, including the publication of the 2022 Annual Report.
- IV. Remarks were made by Vice Chair, Debb Dunn. Vice Chair Dunn expressed the importance of collaboration with other state commissions.
- V. Guest Speakers:
  - A. Kara Hunt, Director of Education and Outreach, Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR): The presentation provided an overview of MCCR and opportunities to collaborate and partner, including their upcoming Hate/Bias Forum.

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### Governor's Coordinating Offices

100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032

- B. Yolanda Wright, Program Manager, and Ilene Rosenthal, Program Director, Alzheimer's Association, Greater Maryland Chapter: The presentation included an overview of their work, resources, and their upcoming virtual LGBTQIA+ community forum.
- VI. Remarks were made by Administrative Director, Jeremy Browning, including a reminder about 2022 Financial Disclosures, ethics guidelines for state boards and commissions, attendance policy reminder, and how to request citations/proclamations from the Governor's Office.
  - VII. January 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Augustine made the motion to approve the March meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Fox. Motion carried with all in favor.
  - VIII. Committee Updates:
    - A. Policy Committee updates were provided by Committee Chair, Commissioner Blinder and included the status and progress of the priority bills:
      - 1. Trans Health Equity Act
        - a) [HB283](#) - Hearing: 2/14 at 1pm
        - b) [SB0460](#) - Hearing: 2/28 at 1pm
        - c) Next steps - Bill is awaiting committee votes in the House and Senate
      - 2. Transgender Respect, Agency, and Dignity Act
        - a) [HB0426](#) - Hearing: 2/21 at 1pm
        - b) [SB0761](#) - Hearing: 3/15 at 1pm
        - c) Next steps - Hearing on 3/15 at 1pm in Judicial Proceedings committee - witness testimony submission on 3/14 between 8am and 3pm
      - 3. Birth Certificate Modernization Act
        - a) [HB0361](#) - Hearing: 2/21 at 1pm
        - b) Next steps - Bill is awaiting committee vote in the House
      - 4. Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs - Alterations
        - a) [HB0141](#) - Hearing: Feb 15th at 1pm - Third reading - passed 3/2, referred to Education, Energy, and Environment on 3/3
        - b) [SB0251](#) - Hearing: Feb 7th at 2pm - Third reading - passed 2/17, referred to Health, Government and Operations on 2/23
    - B. Youth & Education Committee updates were provided by Committee Chair, Commissioner Lyles where they gave a summary of the work of the Committee. Updates included a review of the draft recommendations listed below for supporting LGBTQIA+ youth and commissioners were invited to provide feedback by the end of March.
      - 1. Policy
      - 2. Professional Development
      - 3. Inclusive Curriculum
      - 4. Gender Sexuality Alliances (GSAs)
      - 5. Parent/Community Education
      - 6. Data Collection

- IX. New Business: Strategic Planning Discussion. Director Browning gave an overview of progress and reviewed and updated timeline and next steps. There was a lively discussion on how the commission would like to gather information and solicit input from the community. Ideas were recorded on a shared document and commissioners were encouraged to continue to add their thoughts following the meeting. It was noted that funding would be needed in order to conduct listening sessions and a survey.
  
- X. Open Forum for General Remarks or Comments:
  - A. Commissioner Dhir raised a question about future committee meetings and Director Browning stated that committees would meet in April and to look for doodle polls for scheduling.
  - B. Commissioner Quilan mentioned action alerts from the Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition regarding policy priorities and requested to have them shared with the commission.
  - C. Commissioner Lyles flagged some upcoming events, including a Trans Health Fair at Baltimore Center Stage on April 2 and Baltimore Trans Pride hosted by Baltimore Safe Haven on June 3 and they are currently looking for marchers, vendors, and sponsors.
  
- XI. Closing remarks from Chair Toolan. Chair Toolan thanked everyone for their time and commended commissioners for their work and dedication to the commission.
  
- XII. Motion was made by Commissioner Fox and seconded by Commissioner Augustine. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director