



Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2023

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

100 Community Place

Crownsville, MD 21032

Commissioners Present:

Joe Toolan, Chair
Debb Dunn, Vice Chair
Lee Blinder
Joan Bryan
Mickey Dhir

Kurt Doan
Anthony Fox
Jabari Lyles
Stephen Martin
Mark Ridderhoff

Commissioners Absent:

Nicholas Augustine
Margo Quinlan

Staff Present:

Greg Yancey, Chief of Staff, Governor's Office of Community Initiatives
Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director, Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

- I. Meeting was called to Order by Chair Toolan at 10:16 AM and the roll call was made.
- II. Governor's Office of Community Initiatives Chief of Staff Greg Yancey was introduced and made brief remarks. Housekeeping items and Meeting Guidelines were read by the Chair.
- III. Opening Remarks:
 - A. Chair Toolan welcomed everyone to the meeting and highlighted Pride Month events that the Commission participated in, including the Baltimore Pride Parade with Governor Moore. Additionally, the Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and gave a brief overview of the activities and purpose of the meeting and retreat.
 - B. Vice Chair Dunn expressed gratitude, acknowledged Pride Month activities, and shared a collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide training and support of transgender and

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nonbinary incarcerated people in need of gender-affirming care. Additionally, Vice Chair Dunn brought up issues with insurance denials with the Maryland Insurance Administration. A discussion followed around implementation of the Trans Health Equity Act, challenges for folks to access gender-affirming care, and lack of training for providers and community based organizations serving our communities.

- IV. The Soul Check was led by Commissioner Blinder. Commissioners and Staff were asked to share their name, pronouns, and answer the following questions:
 - A. If you could talk to your younger self, what would you say?
 - B. What is one goal you hope is accomplished for the LGBTQIA+ community by the time you're 90?

- V. Administrative updates were provided by Director Browning. Updates included changes effective October 1, 2023 resulting from the Commission Alterations HB141:
 - A. Name changes to the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs
 - B. Membership expansion from 15-21 members
 - C. Staggering of terms:
 - 1. Seven members with one year terms
 - 2. Seven members with two year terms
 - 3. Seven members with three year terms
 - D. Upcoming Commission meetings:
 - 1. September 11, 2023 from 6-8 PM - Zoom
 - 2. November 13, 2023 from 6-8 PM - Hybrid, location TBD

- VI. Approval of May 8, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Fox made the motion to approve the May meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Bryan. Motion carried with all in favor.

- VII. Old Business: (The discussion of New Business was started before the Old Business by mistake. Commissioner Fox noted the error and Old Business was discussed, before completing New Business.)
 - A. Youth & Education Committee updates were provided by Committee Chair, Commissioner Lyles where they gave an update of the progress of the recommendations for supporting LGBTQIA+ Students. Additional edits are needed with the goal of presenting the recommendations for approval at the September Commission meeting.

- VIII. New Business:
 - A. Chair Toolan gave a review of the 2023 Strategic Plan and noted that the Commission would wait until the nine new commissioners are appointed before completing the 3-5 year strategic planning process. Director Browning provided an update on staff related items. A discussion regarding website updates and it was suggested that the Commission create a workgroup to review and make recommendations for updates. Additionally, it was suggested to look at the Washington State LGBTQ Website as a model.
 - B. Director Browning reviewed the legislative mandates of the Commission from HB130 and HB141.
 - C. Director Browning provided updates on the 2023 Annual Report. All content for the report is requested no later than November 15, 2023 in order to publish the

report in late December or early January. Commissioners are invited to provide recommendations and feedback and it was suggested that a 2023 Annual Report workgroup be formed.'

- D. A discussion about community engagement and outreach was led by Chair Toolan. The Commission discussed several opportunities, including creating a neutral space for LGBTQIA+ organizations and leaders to uplift work that is already happening, connect community members to state government, and outreach to parents and families. Additionally, it was noted that there's an urgent need to make connections and find resources for current and new LGBTQIA+ Marylanders that are moving to the state in need of healthcare, housing, education and employment. It was stated that now that Maryland is a sanctuary state for LGBTQIA+ people, sanctuary funding is needed.

- IX. Break for lunch. A motion was made by Commissioner Blinder to recess for lunch and was seconded by Commissioner Lyles. Motion carried with all in favor.

- X. The Chair called the meeting back to order at 12:38 PM.

- XI. Mapping the Future: Prioritizing Commission Mandates was led by Commissioner Lyles. This was an interactive session to review the legislative mandates of the Commission (listed below) and prioritize short-term and long-term goals. Commissioners first met in pairs to come up with short and long term ideas for each mandate area and then returned as a group to discuss the findings.
 - A. Assess the challenges facing LGBTQIA+ communities
 - B. Collect data across state agencies on:
 - 1. Implementation of LGBTQIA+-inclusive policies
 - 2. Complaints alleging discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity
 - C. Study and establish best practices for inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities
 - D. Inform the Executive and Legislative branches of State government of issues concerning LGBTQIA+ persons
 - E. Offer testimony on issues concerning LGBTQIA+ persons before legislative and administrative bodies
 - F. Act as a Clearinghouse for activities to avoid duplication of efforts
 - G. Create surveys and appoint advisory committees in the fields of:
 - 1. Education
 - 2. Social Sciences
 - 3. Labor and Employment Laws and Policies
 - 4. Law Enforcement
 - 5. Health and Safety

6. New and Expanded Services
 7. Legal Rights
 8. Family Relations
 9. Human Relations
 10. Volunteer Services
- H. Publish annual report and any other material the Commission considers necessary, that includes recommendations on policies for LGBTQIA+ adults and youth that work to end discriminatory practices in the state
- I. Seek money from the federal government, foundations, and private sources for use of any of its purposes
- XII. Analysis for Strategic Advancement: This session was not held due to time constraints.
- XIII. Centering Joy: This session was not held due to time constraints.
- XIV. Open forum for general remarks or comments: Gratitude was expressed all around for the productive meeting and retreat.
- XV. A motion was made by Commissioner Doan to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Fox. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:58pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director