



Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2023

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Commissioners Present:

Joe Toolan, Chair
Debb Dunn, Vice Chair
Nicholas Augustine
Lee Blinder
Joan Bryan

Mickey Dhir
Kurt Doan
Jabari Lyles
Stephen Martin
Mark Ridderhoff

Commissioners Absent:

Anthony Fox

Staff Present:

Greg Yancey, Chief of Staff, GOCI
Cherie Warehime, Executive Assistant, GOCI
Jeremy Browning, Director, Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, GOCI

- I. Meeting was called to Order by Chair Toolan at 6:01 PM.
- II. Chair Toolan completed the roll call, reviewed housekeeping items and meeting guidelines.
- III. Opening Remarks: Chair Toolan acknowledged the anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Additionally, Chair Toolan discussed upcoming appointments of new commissioners, committee work, and the work that folks are doing outside of the commission around the state.
- IV. Opening Remarks: Vice Chair Dunn discussed cultural humility trainings with the medical staff from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services on providing affirming care. Chair Dunn has also been working with a commissioner from the Maryland Insurance Administration to get things authorized. Additionally, Vice Chair Dunn raised an issue of concern in which transgender and nonbinary students in Carroll County Public Schools are required to complete a form, effectively creating a registry and outing students. A copy of the form was provided to commissioners.

Governor's Coordinating Offices

100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

- V. Administrative updates were provided by Director Browning. Updates included:
 - A. Introduction of Cherie Warehime, Executive Assistant to GOCI Executive Director, Larry Walker.
 - B. The Appointments Office is working to fill positions by early October.
 - C. Overview of Baltimore Safe Haven visit with Governor Moore and Lt. Governor Miller.

- VI. Approval of July 30, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Bryan made the motion to approve the May meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Dunn. Motion carried with all in favor.

- VII. Old Business:
 - A. Recommendations to Support LGBTQIA+ Students in Maryland's K-12 Schools: Commissioner Lyles gave an update and summary of the final changes of the recommendations. Commissioner Doan made a motion to approve the Recommendations for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students in Maryland's K-12 Schools and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - B. Review of SWOT Analysis: Commissioners were reminded to complete the SWOT form so the results can be discussed at a future meeting. Responses are anonymous and will be aggregated.
 - C. Director Browning provided an update on the progress of the 2023 Annual Report and requested all recommendations, best practices, data, and information for the report to be provided by November 15, 2023.

- VIII. New Business:
 - A. Bylaws updated to change to LGBTQIA+: The Alterations to the Commission (HB141) changes the name to the Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs and takes effect on October 1, 2023. Commissioner Augustine made a motion to approve the updates to the Bylaws and was seconded by Vice Chair Dunn. Motion carried with all in favor.
 - B. Website Recommendations: Director Browning provided an update on the progress of website recommendations suggested by the Website Workgroup and updates are underway.
 - C. Draft information sharing guidelines: The purpose of these guidelines would be to do some basic screening to ensure that information shared is transparent and includes specific information regarding the source, details, accessibility, etc. The Policy Committee was designated to draft guidelines for the full commission to review.
 - D. October LGBTQIA+ History Month & Upcoming Events: Chair Toolan reviewed upcoming Pride celebrations and events. Commissioner Lyles informed commissioners about Baltimore Blaq Pride during the month of October and mentioned the Baltimore Homecoming Awards.
 - E. GOCI Chief of Staff, Greg Yancey offered to provide commissioners a form or affidavit to use with public engagements for an added layer of protection against folks who may be misrepresenting themselves for the purposes of creating harmful content.

- IX. Open forum for general remarks or comments: Chair Toolan opened the floor for general remarks and commissioners and members of the public made comments.
- X. Closing Remarks: Chair Toolan expressed his excitement that the Recommendations to Support LGBTQIA+ Students had been adopted and thanked everyone for their hard work. Chair Toolan also mentioned that September 15 - October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month.
- XI. A motion was made by Commissioner Blinder to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Commissioner Dunn. Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:56pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Director, Jeremy Browning

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