

Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs
Health & Wellness Committee
April 12, 2023, 5-6:30pm
Zoom

Minutes

Members Present:

Mickey Dhir
Nicholas Augustine
Lee Blinder

Staff Present:

Jeremy Browning, Administrative Director

Members Not Present:

Sarcia Adkins
Anthony Fox

- I. Roll Call: Meeting called to order at 6:02pm.
- II. Acknowledgement of Meeting Guidelines
- III. Approval of Minutes from 11.3.2022: A motion was made by Commissioner Augustine to accept the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Dhir. Motion carried with all in favor.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. Committee Chair/Vice Chair: Commissioner Dhir will serve as Chair and Commissioner Augustine as Vice Chair.
 - B. Health Committee Description Draft: A motion was made by Commissioner Augustine to change committee name to the "Health & Wellness Committee" and adopt the committee description below and seconded by Commissioner Blinder. Motion carried with all in favor.

The Health and Wellness Committee of the Maryland Commission on LGBTQ Affairs is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of our LGBTQIA+ Marylanders. The Committee achieves this objective by engaging with the community and addressing the obstacles that prevent LGBTQIA+ individuals from accessing health care. Moreover, the Health and Wellness Committee develops legislative and administrative policy recommendations to ensure the healthcare system meets the unique needs of our LGBTQIA+ community. Additionally, this committee works to establish best practices for healthcare and wellness providers to improve access to transition related care, HIV prevention and treatment, primary care, and mental health care.
- V. New Business
 - A. Policy Priorities: (listed below in order of discussion)
 1. PrEP Access [SB064](#) - did not pass the 2023 legislative session

- a) Tension between pharmacists and providers over ability for pharmacists to give appropriate counseling
 - b) Look at how other states have been successful in passing similar legislation
 - c) Look at testimony submitted in support and opposition to better understand where bill is having trouble
2. Access to Mental Healthcare:
- a) Access problems for individuals with Medicaid that require mental health evaluations
 - b) Many insurance plans do not have adequate coverage for mental health services - need a standard for coverage
 - c) [Gender Affirmative Letter Access Project \(GALAP\)](#) is a resources for those in need of a mental health letter to receive transition related care
 - d) What can the Commission do? Start by connecting with folks and organizations that are pushing for health care equity - look into:
 - e) <https://healthcareforall.com>
 - f) <https://www.healthcareaccessmaryland.org>
 - g) <https://mhcc.maryland.gov>
 - h) Look up what groups have supported past health care insurance access bills
 - i) Delegate Cullison has been a leader on many health care access bills
3. Trans youth without supportive adults
- a) Add transition related care to minor consent laws
 - b) Lots of unsupported youth
 - c) Trans youth are facing lots of barriers
 - d) Look at minor consent laws for PrEP/PEP
- B. Best Practices - not discussed
- C. Outreach and Community Engagement - not discussed
- D. Other topics of discussion:
- 1. Next committee meeting will be held sometime in mid-July. Look for Doodle Poll.
 - 2. Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference will not be held in 2023, but will return in 2024. This year will be used as a “planning and development year.” [Read more here.](#)

VI. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Jeremy Browning