

Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs
Health & Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023, 7-8:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Committee members present:

Mickey Dhir, Committee Chair
Lee Blinder
Anthony Fox
Jeremy Browning, Director

Committee members absent:

Nicolas Augustine

Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order by Commissioner Dhir at 7:01.
- II. Roll call completed.
- III. Acknowledgement of Meeting Guidelines.
- IV. Approval of [Minutes from 7.19.2023](#). Commissioner Dhir motioned to approve the 7.19.2023 meeting minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Blinder. Motion carried with all in favor.
- V. Old Business
 - A. Policy Priorities
 1. PrEP access:
 - a) Schedule H&W Meeting with Senator Lam
 - b) Consider for policy priority
 - c) Reach out to those opposed and address past concerns
 - d) SB64 Provider vs. pharmacist concerns and complexity
 - (1) Doesn't necessarily increase access
 - e) Preventative care should be covered at 100%
 - f) Advocacy lead on this?
 - g) Identify folks around the state
 - h) Model bill? California has good policies
 - i) Commissioner Dhir will create draft of what the ideal PrEP access policy will look like
 2. Access to mental health
 - a) Not enough providers with training and knowledge to care for LGBTQIA+ patients
 - b) Some medical providers don't take insurance because the reimbursements are so low
 - c) Less about access and more about expanding increasing a knowledgeable and culturally competent workforce
 - d) Even more limited providers for transgender patients

- e) Access piece is around Medicaid - if you are not near Chase Brexton or Whitman Walker you are not going to get good healthcare
 - f) Letter project - <https://www.thegalap.org/>
 - g) Legacy issues around Medicaid and challenges to sign up to take Medicaid prevent providers from
 - h) Access gaps around race and LGBTQIA+
 - i) Need more research on points to understand issues, barriers, solutions
 - j) Start to write it out and bullet point it, break it down and tackle one at a time
3. Trans youth without supportive adults
- a) Important that we talk about it
 - b) Whole state of children who can't access gender affirming care
 - c) Political situation is not favorable
 - d) No one is the voice for these young people
 - e) Begin explore writing brief or article

B. Recommendations and best practices for 2023 Annual Report. Commissioner Fox made a motion for the Health & Wellness Committee to prepare recommendations and best practices list below and was seconded by Commissioner Blinder. Motion carried with all in favor.

1. PrEP access - one page draft what ideal access would look like
2. Address lack of providers and access to affirming mental health care services through
 - a) Increased training and education for providers
 - b) Funding for providers providing gender affirming care medical and mental health care - statewide proficiency certification?
 - c) Requirement for LGBTQIA+ training for license renewals
 - d) CEU providers for LGBTQIA+ care providers inclusive of gender affirming care and particularly surgical care
 - e) Training should be offered by people with lived experience
3. Address quality of care for people of color in healthcare causing disparities in LGBTQIA+ and gender affirming care
 - a) Anti-Blackness in gender affirming care
 - b) Language barriers
4. Address Trans Health Equity Act implementation barriers:
 - a) Electrolysis providers don't take insurance in Maryland/NPI(National Provider Identifier)
 - b) Patients must cash pay
 - c) Not reimbursed

C. Outreach and community engagement. Not discussed due to lack of time.

VI. New Business. No new business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment: Commissioner Dhir Made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Blinder. Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

Meeting minutes submitted respectfully by: Jeremy Browning, Director.