



Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs

Health & Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2024, 6:00-7:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Mickey Dhir, Committee Chair
Stephen Martin
Paula Neira
Exofficio: Chair Lee Blinder
Staff: Jeremy Browning, Director

Committee members absent:

Vice Chair, Anthony Fox
Tina Jones

- I. Meeting called to order by Committee Chair Dhir at 6:03pm.
- II. Roll call completed by Committee Chair Dhir.
- III. Committee Chair Dhir read Housekeeping and Meeting Guidelines.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Neira made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried with all in favor.
- V. Approval of Minutes from 2.8.2023. Commissioner Neira made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Martin. Motion carried with an abstention from Commissioner Martin.
- VI. Discussion of 2024 Goals and Priorities: The committee had a lengthy discussion on goals and priorities with main points summarized below:
 - A. Assess challenges in accessing gender-affirming care related to insurance coverage.
 - B. Make a statement regarding challenges with access to gender-affirming care provided by the Trans Health Equity Act. Currently there are no hair removal providers in-network.
 - C. Request the Maryland Exchange to create a comparison of plans offering gender-affirming care.
 - D. Need for a LGBTQIA+ provider search tool, but acknowledging that self attestation may lead to inconsistent patient experiences based on identities. A public directory also could make providers targets.



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- VII. Discussion - HIV Treatment and Prevention:
 - A. Ongoing concerns with the Maryland Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) which has not taken public comments regarding Biktarvy seriously. Concern is that the PDAB could inadvertently reduce access.
 - B. Funding for HIV prevention is facing drastic cuts.
 - C. More discussion is needed.
- VIII. Updates - Fall LGBTQIA+ Symposium: Workgroup is in formation.
- IX. Adjournment: Commissioner Dhir adjourned the 7:01pm.

Meeting minutes submitted respectfully by: Jeremy Browning, Director.