



## **Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Health & Wellness Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 12, 2024, 7:00pm - 8:00pm  
Zoom Meeting

### Attendees:

Mickey Dhir, Committee Chair  
Anthony Fox, Vice Chair  
Stephen Martin  
Paula Neira  
Staff: Jeremy Browning, Director

### Committee members absent:

Tina Jones  
Exofficio: Chair Lee Blinder

- I. Meeting called to order by Committee Chair Dhir at 7:11pm.
- II. Roll call completed by Committee Chair Dhir.
- III. Committee Chair Dhir read Housekeeping and Meeting Guidelines.
- IV. Approval of Agenda: Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Niera. Motion carried with all in favor.
- V. Approval of Minutes from 6.24.2023. Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Niera. Motion carried with all in favor.
- VI. Discussion of HIV Funding:
  - A. Chair Dhir presented a summary of the HIV Funding Crisis including recent actions, including:
    1. The Commission approved a statement at the May meeting.
    2. The Maryland Department of Health came up with priority areas.
    3. CDC has identified \$20k grants and it was noted that is not nearly enough to offset the dramatic funding shortfall.
    4. The 5 year funding outlook shows further cuts.
  - B. The Committee discussed the following items:
    1. DC is also facing major cuts, along with NY.
    2. National trends show major funding cuts.
    3. Worse cuts could be ahead.
    4. Schedule follow-up meeting with Peter DiMartino.

- VII. Discussion on 2025 Policy Priorities
  - A. HIV Decriminalization
    - 1. FreeState Justice hosts a meeting on the 4th Tuesday at 4:30pm.
  - B. PrEP Access
    - 1. Challenges with access to injectables.
    - 2. Maryland Medicaid might be able to improve access.
    - 3. No bills expected.
    - 4. People have issues accessing the type of PrEP they want.
  - C. Additional Priorities
    - 1. Identify additional 2025 Policy Priorities and comments to the document.
- VIII. Adjournment: Commissioner Dhir adjourned the 8:00pm.

Meeting minutes submitted respectfully by: Jeremy Browning, Director.