



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Policy Committee Minutes
August 11, 2025, 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Josie Caballero, Committee Chair
M Pease, Committee Vice Chair
Joan Bryan
Nicole Hollywood
Ly Xīnzhèn Zhǎngsūn
Ex-Officio: Lee Blinder

Members Not Present

Rev. Ali K.C. Bell

Staff and Guest Present:

Jeremy Browning, Director
Taylor Harer, Special Assistant
Charlotte Persephone Hoffman, Policy Committee Advisor

- I. Committee Chair Caballero called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- II. Committee Chair Caballero acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Caballero.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: There were no additions or comments. There was a vote to approve the agenda and it was passed with all in favor.
- V. Approval of 7.9.2025 Minutes: There were no additions or corrections. Commissioner Zhǎngsūn made the motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Bryan seconded. The minutes were approved with all in favor.
- VI. Discussion: Fall Schedule - There was a discussion regarding the fall meeting schedule. Chair Caballero recommended meeting once a month for the remainder of the year. The

Committee decided to proceed with monthly meetings throughout the next three months. Director Browning will send out a Doodle poll for each month to finalize the meeting time.

- VII. Discussion: Top Challenges and Recommendations - The Committee reviewed a draft statement on federal attacks against LGBTQIA+ Marylanders, discussed potential expansions for the legislative session, and considered the implications of the Supreme Court revisiting same-sex marriage. The statement will be updated with an introduction and shared with the full Commission before the September meeting.
- VIII. Discussion: Preliminary 2026 Legislative Policy Priorities - The Committee reviewed the Draft 2026 Legislative Priorities document, discussing support for a Reparations Commission and creating an Office of LGBTQIA+ Affairs, creating and affiliated foundation, and ending child marriage. Further discussions included concerns about Medicaid funding cuts affecting the Trans Health Equity Act, the need to meet with the LGBTQ Caucus and legislative leadership.
- IX. Discussion: Succession Planning - The Committee reviewed the draft Director Vacancy Appointment Process document and were asked to review and provide feedback. Director Browning is seeking feedback from the Office of the Attorney General and the Governor's Office of Financial Administration to ensure it is aligned with state laws and policies.
- X. Meeting adjourned by Committee Chair Caballero at 8:05pm.

Minutes submitted by: Taylor Harer, Special Assistant