



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Youth & Education Committee Minutes
August 20, 2025, 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Wendy Novak, Committee Vice Chair
Joan Bryan
Sarah Stern
Brandon Russell

Members Not Present:

Asher Kennedy, Committee Chair
Ex-Officio: Lee Blinder

Staff Present:

Director: Jeremy Browning
Special Assistant: Taylor Harer

- I. Committee Vice Chair Novak called the meeting to order at 6:06pm
- II. Committee Vice Chair Novak acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Vice Chair Novak.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: There were no additions or changes and the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- V. Approval of 7.1.2025 Minutes: There were no additions or changes and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- VI. Discussion: Updates on MSDE Requests - The Committee received updates from Director Browning on MSDE requests. MSDE is working on removing binary language from the non-discrimination document, but creating additional surveys for school systems remains a challenge. The Committee also discussed MSDE's overall compliance efforts, bathroom access for transgender students, and enforcement of the Freedom to Read Act. Director Browning shared that the only state-required training is

anti-bias training. The Committee agreed to add a link on the Commission website for filing appeals with MSDE, and there was further discussion on recommending that MSDE develop an access hub where teachers can easily access online training and resources for LGBTQIA+ inclusion.

- VII. Discussion: Federal Attacks Related to Education - Director Browning provided an overview of the *Statement on the Ongoing Federal Attacks on LGBTQIA+ Marylanders* being worked on by the Policy Committee and noted the importance of adding a segment on education from this Committee. Members agreed to provide comments and suggestions being submitted by the end of the month.
- VIII. Discussion: Review and Update of Recommendations and for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students - Director Browning walked through the edits and comments made to the document, and the Committee engaged in an open discussion. The Committee discussed the need to share the document with external stakeholders to gather additional feedback.
- IX. Meeting adjourned by Committee Vice Chair Novak at 8:31pm.

Minutes submitted by: Special Assistant, Taylor Harer