



MA LGBTQ Aging Commission

Quarterly Meeting

June 13, 2023

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Senator Pat Jehlen, Sean Cahill, Kevin Cranston, Val Frias, Paul Glass, Dave Gott, Lisa Krinsky, Margaux LeClair, rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian, Stacey Minchello, Tanya Neslusan, Lenny Alberts, Michelle LaPointe, Barrie Atkin, Lynn Vidler

Commissioners Excused: Bill Bogdanovich, Julie Watt Faqir, Chris Erchull

Guests: Chris Abbuhl, Marc Barrette, Alex Bergson, Haley Brown, Rosann Case, Siobhan Coyle, Whitney Crebase, Kerrie Fallon, Julia Germani, Vicki Halal, Kristin Moccia, Gabi Morgan, Brianne Olivieri-Mui, Marie Seufert, Isabelle Thibault, Gretchen Van Ness, Deb Winters

Welcome and Introductions:

- New House Co-chair: Representative Kate Lipper-Garabedian
 - Thank you to Representative Thomas Stanley
- New Commission members:
 - Julie Watt Faqir – Home Care Aide Council
 - Alejandro Marcel – Transgender Older Adult; appointed by Gov. Healey

Commission Business:

- March 2023 Minutes: motions to approve, Paul Glass seconds motion. All other present Commissioners approve of minutes. Stacey, Rep. Lipper-Garabedian, and Elder Affairs abstain as they weren't present in March.
- FY 24 budget: Thank you to Senator Jehlen who sponsored Senate amendment: \$50,000 funding and change in LGBTQ language. \$50k approved; language not.
- MA LGBTQ Aging Commission language change – will look into opportunity for late filing of bill to change this language.
- Listening Sessions: Summer 2023 Cape and Central MA in person. Aim for 5-6 Commissioners present at each session and will share results with the others. Will try to add Western Mass, Boston and a virtual option for folks who can't attend the others.
- Collab with Youth Commission – Looking for volunteers as well as anyone who is already currently involved (Tanya Neslusan)

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Congratulations to Kevin Cranston on 35 years of amazing work and service, and thank you for your dedication and commitment to this Commission and all of the transformative work you've done.

Workgroup Reports, Priorities and Discussion:

- Legal & Policy Issues: LGBTQI LTC bill of rights legislation (enumerates what nondiscrimination means for LGBTQI folks). This was filed, and LEK and Alejandro Marcel testified at the Elder Affairs Committee hearing in support. Fenway Health provided written testimony, and they are still accepting written testimony. The hearing can be watched [here](#). June 26th is the next hearing for this Committee and will hear the bill allowing individuals under 60 living with HIV to access home health care.
- Long Term Services and Supports: 2023 LGBTQIA+ Community Meals and Program Calendar was created and will be shared with Commissioners post-meeting.
- Public Health: Updates from Sean Cahill & Kevin Cranston:
 - March 2023 federal court ruling in the Braidwood decision (TX employers rejecting covering PrEP). In Massachusetts, we will continue to be fully covered by insurance for preventive health, but other parts of the country will not.
 - FDA has finalized a new policy for blood donation for low-risk gay and bisexual men to donate blood. Policy is gender neutral but protects the blood supply and has a set of risk questions that does not single out a group of people.
 - Public Health work group has been managing the letter sent to DPH with focused data on older folks with HIV. Finalizing a draft and will share with the Commissioners in the next week or two.
- Senior Centers/Engagement: Summary of Findings COAs is coming together and will be available soon. List is at 30 of different programs wanting to expand their programs, and the list is growing.

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Open Meeting/Discussion:

LGBTQ+ Elders in an Ever-Changing World Conference happening Thursday, June 15th with keynote speaker: Dr. Imani Woody.

MCOA send out a brief this week to remind all MCOA directors that all employees have to take the LGBTQIA+ training developed by the LGBTQIA+ Aging Project. Will look for ways to remind other groups about this training: ASAP Aging Network, Elder Affairs Newsletter.

Grief groups on the Cape have been very successful and hoping to put something together to do more planning for social and grief groups. Lack of continuous funding source has hurt in the effort of having regular sessions that are planned so they are option to guidance and recommendations.

Upcoming 2023 schedule for Quarterly Commission Meetings

2nd Tuesday of the month 11am -1pm ALL MEETINGS REMAIN ON ZOOM

September 12th

December 12th

Workgroup meetings in July – we will send schedule reminders to see how vacation schedules impact attendance.