



MA LGBTQ Aging Commission  
Quarterly Meeting  
January 23, 2024  
Minutes

Commissioners Present: Bill Bogdanovich, Sean Cahill, Barry Callis, Val Frias, Paul Glass, Lisa Krinsky, Margaux LeClair, Rep. Kate Lipper-Garabedian, Lenny Alberts, Lynn Vidler

Commissioners Excused: Senator Pat Jehlen, Michelle LaPointe, Barrie Atkin, Tanya Neslusan, Julie Watt Faqir, Chris Erchull; Alejandro Marcel

Guests: Vicki Halal, Whitney Crebase, Heather Trites, Jeanne Calen, Monica Salazar-Carmona, Ryan Berard; Liisa Randall – DPH, MORE Advertising: Anna Marie Finley, Tiffany Chen

Presentation: DPH Care That Fits You Campaign

- MORE Advertising presentation of their website and campaign with the initiative that educates, encourages, and connects gay, bisexual and MSM with sexual health info and services through service locators.
  - Campaigns focus primarily on 18-40 year old cisgender men; has been audience tested and community informed; focuses on PrEP, Mpox, HIV, STIs
  - Goal is to normalize PrEP – having PrEP be part of your self-care routine
- Feedback shared from the Commission
  - Add visuals of folks that are 50+, those with disabilities (doesn't need to be an older person), partners and groups of friends, etc
  - More specific outreach and attention to Black MSM
  - Addition of tabs at top of webpage or featured pages on site:
    - Dedicated to 30+ folks
    - Ways to reduce risk
    - Sexual health in general, sexual dysfunction; substance use
      - Remind folks about condoms and lubrication as tools
    - Info on healthy relationships, self-esteem, loneliness, lack of social support
    - Hep A & B Vaccinations
    - Coming out to your provider – can be expanded to include older folks
  - Ask “HOW are you sexually active?” – gives older folks permission to know they are sexual beings.
  - Add framework for folks of different generations.
  - Conceptualizing the story of HIV/AIDS is important.
  - Contact to give additional feedback to MORE: [afinley@moreadvertising.com](mailto:afinley@moreadvertising.com); [tchen@moreadvertising.com](mailto:tchen@moreadvertising.com)

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COMMISSION ON  
LESBIAN, GAY,  
BISEXUAL AND  
TRANSGENDER  
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Commission:

- Review of June 2023 minutes (September 2023 listening session)
- Bill motions to approve minutes from June, Barry seconds. All other Commissioners present approve, no one disapproving or abstaining.
- Commission membership
  - Dave Gott has resigned. This opens a position for someone from the Western Mass area. (1 of 5 seats appointed by the Gov – the new person would need to apply through the Governor’s office)
    - Recommendation: Jennifer Levi, she/her. (Senior Director of Transgender and Queer Rights at GLAD and professor of law at Western New England University.)
  - Difficulty connecting with Alejandro Marcel and the nursing home he was living at closed a few months ago. May need to find a new person to fill the seat for a transgender older adult.
  - Stacey Minchello left MCOA - waiting on MCOA to appoint their next representative.

2014 – Ten Years of MA LGBTQ Aging Commission

- Past Ten Years: Review/Accomplishments
  - Made the Commission permanent & included funding
  - Called attention to older LGBTQ+ people and families as a baseline: specifically needs and capacities and residencies of older populations.
  - Two rounds of listening sessions around the state and started our third.
  - Connected with LGBTQIA+ older adults across the state
  - Legislative work – incubated a number of bills and many have passed
  - Created trainings and new level of awareness for nursing home staff that didn’t exist before trainings
  - Opportunities to have state agencies respond to action from the Commission. Created awareness, action, and accountability.
  - Added SOGI questions to needs assessments and helped with training staff on how to collect SOGI
  - Have seen goals achieved through other groups’ work: LGBTQ friendly, affordable housing (The Pryde is the culmination of this); Virtual senior center (Out-Standing Life folks have created this).
  - Will create a 10 year review/new goals report for December 2024 when Commission’s biannual report to the legislature is due. Will need to write, rebrand, print/disseminate.

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- Next Ten Years: Vision/Goals
  - Ideas for a strategic plan for the next 10 years:
    - Look at what each of the workgroups prioritizes to bring to the full group. What are areas we look forward to in the next 10 years and where do we want to focus?
    - More promotion of the Commission and the work being done
    - Update our language – name of Commission, rebranding/logos
    - Consistent and increased collection of SOGI data
    - Create more collaborative pathways between organizations on the Commission
    - Areas of focus:
      - Social isolation and loneliness
      - Transgender older folks
      - Medical advocacy/legal areas – education for folks around decision making, advanced planning, healthcare proxies (fact sheet)
        - Next step: Connect with Michelle LaPointe to create this
      - Dementia/Alzheimers
        - Next step: join the Alzheimer’s advisory council (Quarterly, open meeting)
      - Break work up into age cohorts within the aging community – through the lens of generations and differences between these groups and their life experiences/views
      - Better intersectionality of workgroups
    - **Action steps:**
      - Create a strategic planning/visioning group that can help us pull these concepts together and have folks on the commission review and give feedback. Work on creating more synergy between workgroups.
      - **At next meeting** - have a basic outline for how the report can be organized and filled in by the end of the year during each meeting.

**2024 schedule for Quarterly Commission Meetings**

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

**March 12**                      **September 10**

**June 11**                        **December 10**