MA LGBTQ Aging Commission

Quarterly Meeting

March 14, 2023

Minutes

Commissioners Present:  Senator Pat Jehlen, Bill Bogdanovich, Sean Cahill, Kevin Cranston, Chris Erchull, Val Frias, Paul Glass, Dave Gott, Lisa Krinsky, Margaux LeClair, Tanya Neslusan, Lenny Alberts, Michelle LaPointe, Carole Malone, Barrie Atkin, Representative Tom Stanley, Lynn Vidler

Commissioners Excused: Carole Malone, Stacey Minchello

Guests: Alejandro Marcel, Alex Bergson, Siobhan Coyle, Whitney Crebase, Juliq Faqir, Ian Flood, Vicki Halal, Alex Jarecki, Brianne Oliveieri-Mui, Jacqueline Shen, Isabelle Thibault, Isabel W., Debra Winters

Commission Business:

* Dec 2022 Minutes: Lenny Alberts motions to approve, Valerie Frias seconds motion. All other Commissioners approve minutes.  No abstentions.
* Biannual Report: Finalizing a draft from 2021-2022.
* FY 2024: proposed edits to legislation then costs for redo logo; new materials
  + No changes to scope of work, just changes to language and terminology (LGBT 🡪 LGBTQ)
* Listening Sessions – looking to hold in the next couple of months (some virtually and some in person)
  + late June (after the bulk of PRIDE). Will try and do one in Western Mass later in the calendar year.
  + Theme: COVID, experiences of discrimination
* Pride 2023
  + **Action item**: think of materials, resources and how this group can be involved. Promotion of the listening sessions at the common during the Pride Parade.

Workgroup Reports, Priorities and Discussion:

* Housing: Request for public comment around furthering affirmative housing. Builds on expanding fair housing laws that already exist.
  + Sean and Lisa will draft a letter and circulate to Commission Members. Will plan to submit letter by April 10th.
* Long Term Services and Supports: LGBTQ LTC Bill of Rights was drafted and filed by lead sponsors, Peake, Jalen, and Lewis. Modeled after the law passed in New Jersey in 2021. Explicitly enumerates what SOGI non-discrimination laws mean for LTC facilities and nursing homes. Waiting to hear about a hearing date.
  + The federal government is developing a LTC Bill of Rights subsequent to Biden’s EO last June.
* Senior Centers/Engagement: **Action Item**: Continue to think of places SOGI questions can be added to surveys or forms.

Open Meeting/Discussion:

**Upcoming 2023 schedule for Quarterly Commission Meetings**

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

**June 13th, September 12th, December 12th**