



Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Aging

Quarterly Meeting Tuesday, September 9, 2025 Minutes

Commissioners Present: Lenny Alberts, Kathy Betts, Bill Bogdanovich, Sean Cahill, Barry Callis, Josie Dutil, Lisa Krinsky, Michelle LaPointe, Margaux LeClair, Tanya Neslusan, Lynn Vidler, Gary Yuhas

Commissioners Absent: Senator Pat Jehlen, Representative Sam Montaña, Chris Erchull, Paul Glass, Jordina Shanks, Julie Watt Faqir

Guests: Alex Bergson, Whitney Demetrius, Vicki Halal, Makieya Kamara, Mary Miller, Mark Mishkind, Alice Rich Lewis, Gretchen van Ness, Meg von Lossnitzer, Deb Winters

Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions of Commissioners and guests
- Welcome to Gary Yuhas, representative for Mass Aging Access

Commission Updates

- New logo and branding
- Completed and published the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
 - Printing hard copies and sending to Commissioners
 - Sent a press release - only picked up by Bay Windows
 - Commissioners encouraged to share with organizational leadership to show how organization is involved with Commission

- Reviewed Commission website
- MA legislature website has been updated with 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, membership name changes
- Waiting for legislative approval for Commission's official name change to: Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Aging
- Awaiting earmark award from Executive Office of Aging and Independence (AGE) to hire full-time Director of Commission

National and State LGBTQIA+ Aging Policy Update

- Dramatic policy rollback with federal administration and Congress:
 - Anti-transgender executive orders, anti-LGBTQIA+ federal funding limitations
 - Against gender-affirming care (GAC) for youth in particular
 - Cannot use Medicaid or CHIP for GAC for youth
 - Congress passed Big, Beautiful Bill
 - Cannot use Medicaid or CHIP for GAC for people of all ages
 - Language struck down but set dangerous precedent of attacking GAC for adults
 - Expectations: reversal of pro-LGBTQIA+ aging advancements under the Biden-Harris administration
 - Big, Beautiful Bill changes eligibility requirements for Medicaid and SNAP - many will lose health insurance
 - LGBTQIA+ people are more likely to use Medicaid
 - Trans and people living with HIV are 2x as likely to use Medicaid
 - LGBTQIA+ people are more likely to be food-insecure
 - Federal administration has put forth a budget that greatly cuts Health and Human Services (CDC, anti-poverty programs)
- MA updates:
 - Have consistently received the same funding amount for HIV prevention for years
 - Protections:

- Affirming care trust fund: appropriates at least \$1 million for GAC
 - Reproductive care trust fund: appropriates \$6 million for abortion and other reproductive health care in case of federal funding restrictions
 - Protections for health providers - medical prescriptions can have health organization name rather than requiring prescriber's name
- Rollback on SOGI data for clinical care and population health management
- COVID and other vaccines recently made available to older adults as a vulnerable population
- The Joint Committee on Aging and Independence reported H.776 - An Act relative to LGBT and HIV-positive seniors in the Commonwealth favorably and the bill has gone to House Ways and Means.
 - Bill codifies into state law that LGBTQ and HIV older adults as a population of greatest social need for AGE programs
 - Priority for Commission

Commission General Discussion

- Planning 3 listening sessions for FY26
 - Virtual, Western MA (Northampton), North Shore (Danvers, Salem)
 - Could reach North Central MA
 - Listening sessions scheduled in addition to quarterly meetings
- Reviewed first three priority areas of 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
 - Infrastructure for Commission -
 - Mostly will be operationalized by future full-time Director of Commission
 - Employ DEI Lens for All Commission Work -
 - Exploring DEI training opportunities for Commissioners
 - Discuss both the framing and next steps/applications to work
 - Delivery to a diverse group of people
 - Establish a community advisory board
 - Public Visibility and Advancement of Commission -

- Created a website with a LGBTQIA+ aging resource page
 - Distributed Strategic Plan 2025-2030
 - Increase visibility of Commission at LGBTQIA+ and/or aging community events
 - Build collaborative relationships with partners, other Commissions
 - Schedule ongoing community listening sessions
- Connect with hospital systems that conduct community health needs assessments to include LGBTQ questions
 - Follow-up with Hospital Association to collaborate

Open Meeting

- Upcoming EOHCL Fair Housing listening session

Wrap-up and Closing

- Next Meeting: Tuesday December 9th virtual quarterly meeting
 - Guest speakers: DPH Commissioner Robbie Goldstein and Amy Kaplan to discuss LGBTQIA+ initiatives