



# Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Aging

Quarterly Meeting  
Tuesday, December 9, 2025  
Minutes

**Commissioners Present:** Senator Pat Jehlen, Lenny Alberts, Kathy Betts, Bill Bogdanovich, Sean Cahill, Barry Callis, Josie Dutil, Paul Glass, Lisa Krinsky, Michelle LaPointe, Margaux LeClair, Tanya Neslusan, Jordina Shanks, Lynn Vidler, Julie Watt Faqir, Gary Yuhas

**Commissioners Absent:** Representative Sam Montaña, Chris Erchull

**Guests:** Representative Rodney Elliott, Commissioner Robert Goldstein, Alex Bergson, Bruce Broisman, Cassie Cramer, Dawn Fukuda, Harvey Gibbs, Vicki Halal, Sunnie Hodge, Nathalie Huitema, Rachel Hunt, Amy Kaplan, Mark MacKay, Alejandro Marcel, Thera Meehan, Mark Mishkind, Brianne Olivieri-Mui, Martha Reed, David Reedy, Alice Rich, Carlos Rios, Ellyn Ruthstrom, Gretchen van Ness, Meg von Lossnitzer, Deb Winters

## Welcome

- Welcome to Commission and guests
- Introduction of guest speaker, Department of Public Health Commissioner Robert Goldstein

## Commission Updates

- Mailed out copies of 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
  - Share with Commissioners' organizations
  - Accessibility review of document
- FTE Director of Commission job posting
- Passed Bill S.2711 in Senate - change name to Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Aging

- Bill H.783 still in House - provide access to home care services to people living with HIV regardless of age eligibility
- Bill H.776 still in House - codify into law that LGBTQ older adults and people living with HIV are populations of greatest social need under OAA

### **National LGBTQ Aging Policy Update**

- Federal agencies have decreased capacity to function due to budget cuts or abolishment of agencies
  - House budget proposal would significantly decrease funding for housing and services for people living with HIV
  - Federal agencies working toward racial, disability, and LGBTQ equity eliminated by DOGE
  - Impact on aging services - agency that administered OAA was eliminated
- Rollback on Medicaid and SNAP benefits will disproportionately impact LGBTQ populations and people living with HIV
- Ongoing attempts to add anti-LGBTQ policies into budget proposals and other legislation

### **Department of Public Health's LGBTQIA+ Aging Initiatives**

- Preparation and response to public health emergencies
  - Anti-trans/LGBTQIA+ legislation considered an ongoing emergency
- DPH priorities:
  - LGBTQIA+ cultural competency training for health providers
  - Launched LGBTQIA+ webpage with health aging resources
  - PrEP access, utilization, and STI testing
  - Substance use and tobacco cessation among LGBTQIA+ populations
- Legislative implementation:
  - Shield Law 2.0 - protecting reproductive and gender-affirming care providers
  - LGBTQIA+ competency for CNAs in long-term care facilities
  - LGBTQI Long-Term Care Bill of Rights
- Develop partnership with MA Commission on LGBTQ Aging to actualize 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and DPH priorities

## **Commission General Discussion**

- Commission sign-on to letter supporting the establishment of a statewide commission on the status of transgender people
  - Motion to sign on made by Sean Cahill & seconded by Barry Callis
  - Unanimously approved by Commission
  - AARP, EOHLC, and AGE abstained from vote
- DEI presentation to Commission planned for March quarterly meeting
- January listening session - Salem Council on Aging
- May listening session - Northampton

## **Open Meeting**

- BSAS annual conference call for proposals
- LGBTQ Senior Housing - welcome to use community space
- HUD lawsuit by MA Attorney General -  
<https://www.mass.gov/news/ag-campbell-sues-trump-administration-over-hud-policy-that-would-put-more-people-into-homelessness>

## **Wrap-up and Closing**

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, March 10 - virtual quarterly meeting