



DRAFT Minutes for Meeting, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

- Meeting opened by Co-Chair Botzer at 10:03 a.m.
- Welcome Check ins, Land acknowledgement, welcome to Legislative Advisors, Housekeeping
  - Staff explained guidelines to virtual Commission meeting
  - Land acknowledgement
- Director Santiago turned meeting over to Co-Chair Botzer and Co-Chair Viena
- Co-Chair introductions and roll call
  - Commissioners present:
    - Commissioner Everett Maroon, Walla Wall County
    - Commissioner Jeffrey Robinson, Franklin County
    - Commissioner Lars Erickson, King County
    - Commissioner Alvaro Figueroa, Spokane County
    - Commissioner Marsha Botzer, Jefferson County
    - Commissioner Josette Ross, Pierce County
    - Commissioner M. Kelly-Barroga, Pierce County
    - Commissioner Agaiotupu Viena, King County
  - Commissioners excused:
    - Commissioner Jac Archer, Spokane County
    - Commissioner Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, Island County
    - Commissioner Tobi Hill-Meyer, Thurston County
    - Commissioner Maeve Griffith, Spokane County
    - Commissioner Matthew Landers, King County
    - Commissioner Steven Sawyer, King County
    - Commissioner Beto Yarce, Snohomish County
    - Senator Claire Wilson, at-large
    - Representative Nicole Macri, at-large
    - Representative Skyler Rude, at-large
  - Staff:
    - Director J. Manny Santiago
    - Executive Assistant Omar Santana
    - Commission Intern Katie Kulus
    - Commission Intern Mira Farrow
- Acceptance of Minutes from January meeting
  - Commissioner Robinson presents a motion to accept the Minutes from the March meeting as presented.
  - Commissioner Erickson seconds the motion.



- The Commission receives the Minutes from the March meeting without changes by consent and without discussion.
- Executive Director's report, presented by Executive Director Manny Santiago and [available here](#). Some highlights from the report are:
  - Commission hosted a very successful panel with expert on COVID-19 in April. Feedback was positive with health care professionals, DOC is going to be using it for staff and inmates.
  - Director Santiago is increasing his outreach with partner organizations, especially newer, like Spectrum in Spokane.
  - Director Santiago attended several legislative events recently regarding the 2020-2021 session.
  - Thurston County Courts are looking to engage in gender upgrades in the courts
  - DCYF & DOC have been working with the Commission on specific issues related to members of the LGBTQ community.
  - Working with other agencies: Results Washington, Governors Workgroup on Reducing Poverty. The Workgroup on Reducing Poverty is looking to engage the Commission and have a Commissioner represent the interests of our agency.
  - Questions and concerns:
    - Commissioner Viena shared concerns about DOC's interaction with transgender people.
- **Communications and Outreach Committee:**
  - Commissioner Robison provided update. Committee will be approving its one year operating plan within next two months. Newsletter is in circulation, doing well. If you have been asked to write an article, please do so. Committee is looking at theme months. Katie, intern/staff, will have her last day this coming Friday May 14th.
- **Children, Youth, and Families Committee:**
  - Commissioner Maroon provided update. Committee has done a lot of work on two way education of foster relationships; folks who want to foster LGBTQ folks but aren't themselves in that community. Looking at what foster system can do to meet the needs of LGBTQ youth.
- **Health and Wellness Committee:**
  - Commissioner Maroon provided update. Committee concerned with issues regarding access to HIV medication.
  - Director Santiago updated the Commissioners on a budget proviso that will entrust in the Commission the responsibility to engage stakeholders (HCA, DOH, HIV service organizations, and long-term HIV/AIDS survivors) in finding a solution



and provide recommendations on how to improve access to HIV medication through federally funded insurance programs.

- **BIPOC Committee:**
  - Commissioner Ross provided update. Committee is having difficulties for meeting regularly. They have discussed creating a mission statement for the committee. Also talking about doing a virtual youth event.
- **Vulnerable Communities Committee:**
  - Director Santiago provided update. The committee has met a few times. Pleased to report request for 1M request for Seattle housing made it to the budget. Expecting Governor to not veto this. Commissioners are encouraged to send letters of support for this project directly to the Governor's office.

- **Voting Items**

- The Executive Committee Recommendation:
  - To partner with Results Washington as an “Informed Agency” on all five areas of strategic planning and empower individuals committees to partner at a higher level if the committee feels it more appropriate (please see documents shared from Results Washington, which can also be [accessed here](#))
  - Director Santiago shared more details about the work of Results Washington and how the partnership would work. Results Washington have five areas they focus on, included in slide 18 in the packet. There are three levels of involvement; one is to be a lead agency for that particular issue (work directly on these issues, i.e., education), second level is affiliated or associated agencies (touch a little bit on that particular issue, but don't offer that service directly), and third level is for agencies to be informed (agencies to be willing to receive updates and to be on call to offer feedback on the issues because they have something to say about those issues). The Executive Committee recommends the Commission be an informed agency, and to empower committees to be a consulting agency in one of the five areas that are presented.
    - Discussion:
      - Commissioner Robison posed the question why not become a lead agency, instead of an informed agency. Director Santiago advised to consider being an informed agency due to time constraints, in addition to the Commission not being an agency that provides any direct services.



- Commissioner Maroon advised we lack process as a Commission. Commissioner Maroon agrees we should not just be consulting, and should do more. It would be ideal to be doing this work as leads, not through a third party, but through the Commission.
  - Commissioner Erickson expressed his concerns about the Commission’s resources – including staff time – given that his agency, which is larger than the LGBTQ Commission, has a whole team involved in this work with Results Washington. Commissioner Erickson is concerned we are not there yet to be on that level.
  - Motion: Commissioner Maroon moves that the Executive Committee’s recommendation to partner with Results Washington at an informed agency level and empower committees to make decision on more involvement be approved.
  - Commissioner Erickson seconds.
  - Commissioner Viena expresses her concerns that this is an important work and we do not have the totality of the Commissioners present. Commissioner Viena expresses her concern to vote on this involvement without input from other Commissioners, which will be perceived as not a collective effort of the Commission.
  - After discussion, the Commissioners vote in simple majority to approve the motion as seconded. The motion receives 6 Yays, and 2 Nays. Motion passes.
- **New Business**
    - Commissioner Maroon expresses his concerns with the lack of clear processes for the Commission. Commissioner Maroon’s concerns are centered on the way in which the last elections for Commission officers were conducted. Commissioner Maroon suggests the creation of a “Process Committee” that will work to create a framework for internal Commission processes, including the election of officers.
    - Commissioner Erickson motions that: The WA State LGBTQ Commission establishes an ad-hoc Process Committee that will create internal processes for the Commission and to present the recommendation by the next meeting of the Commission.
    - Commissioner Robinson seconds the motion.
    - No further discussion. The motion is adopted unanimously.



## **Conversation with Office of Equity**

Director Santiago introduces Director Dr. Karen Johnson, from the Office of Equity.

Director Johnson shares with the Commission the goals and purpose of the Office of Equity and explains the process by which the office will get input from stakeholders.

Director Johnson offers the opportunity to publicly share the answers to the questions posed by the Office of Equity on the survey sent out with the meeting packet.

Commissioner Viena asks Director Johnson what are the plans for expanding access to offering input to marginalized communities. Commissioner Viena expresses her concerns that it's been demonstrated that surveys do not work. Commissioner Viena also expresses her concerns that the process as it stands doesn't take into consideration the multifaceted difficulties that the people who have been systemically marginalized experience to engage in these conversations.

Commissioner Robinson expresses his concerns, similar to Commissioner Viena's, that these processes leave many voices out of the conversation. Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Viena both raise the question of how to hold the Office of Equity accountable.

Director Johnson shares more details about the approach and the tools used to gather feedback. Director Johnson also shares her desire that the survey reaches to all community stakeholders and invites the Commission to take this survey back with us to our communities.

The Commissioners who raised concerns with accessibility and equitable processes express their concerns that their original concerns were not addressed.

With no resolution to the concerns around accessibility, accountability, and the use of the survey as the main way to offer input, the time allotted for this conversation runs out. Director Johnson thanks the Commission for having her and her Office as guests and for engaging in the conversation.

The Commissioners engage in more conversations related to this work and how to best reach out to our communities and to hold the Office of Equity as well as other state agencies accountable.

## **Meeting adjourned**

- Commissioner Erickson moves that the May public meeting of the Commission be adjourned.
- Commissioner Maroon seconds.
- With no objections, the motion passes and the meeting is adjourned.