



DRAFT Minutes for Regular Public Meeting, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022<sup>1</sup>

- Meeting opened by Co-Chair Botzer at 10:01 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
- Co-Chair introductions and roll call
  - Commissioners present:
    - Commissioner Marsha Botzer, Jefferson County
    - Commissioner M. Kelly-Barroga, Pierce County
    - Commissioner Alvaro Figueroa, Spokane County
    - Commissioner Dusting Best, Okanogan County
    - Commissioner Lars Erickson, King County
    - Commissioner Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, Island County
    - Commissioner Tobi Hill-Meyer, Thurston County
    - Commissioner Matthew Landers, King County
    - Commissioner Everett Maroon, Walla Walla County
    - Commissioner Ranulfo Molina, Skagit County
    - Commissioner Josette Ross, Pierce County
    - Commissioner Alicia Sojourner, Clark County
    - Commissioner Steven Sawyer, King County
    - Representative Nicole Macri, at-large
  - Commissioners excused:
    - Commissioner Agaiotupu Viena, King County
    - Commissioner Jac Archer, Spokane County
    - Senator Claire Wilson, at-large
    - Representative Skyler Rude, at-large
  - Staff:
    - Director J. Manny Santiago
    - Tracey Carlos, Program Manager
- Updates on membership
  - Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen shared the news about her upcoming sabbatical and her decision to step down from the Commission as she will not be in the state for most of the year. Co-Chair Botzer, staff, and Commissioners thanked

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<sup>1</sup> Notes by Commissioner Kelly-Barroga and Program Manager Tracey Carlos acting as notetakers.



Commissioner Fredriksen-Goldsen for her contributions to the Commission and her work with the community and wished her well.

- Acceptance of Minutes from November meeting
  - Commissioner Maroon presents a motion to accept the Minutes from the November meeting as presented.
  - Commissioner Sawyer seconds the motion.
  - The Commission receives the Minutes from the November meeting with no changes in a unanimous vote.
  
- **Executive Director's report**, presented by Executive Director Manny Santiago and [available here](#). Some highlights from the report are:
  - The staff – both Director and Program Manager – were able to take time off during the holiday. Director Santiago thanked the Commissioners for recognizing that time off is important, and encouraged Commissioners to take their time to rest, restore, and reflect.
  - The Commission staff also took time to prepare for the Legislative session and follow the bills that affect the LGBTQ community in Washington.
  - The Reception and Celebration hosted by the Commission in mid-January was a success, with around 40 or so participants, including Senator C. Wilson and representatives from other legislators' offices, as well as elected officials from other jurisdictions. Director Santiago thanked Tracey Carlos and the coordinating team for working on putting this virtual celebration together.
  - Director Santiago participated of the statewide gathering of LGBTQ leaders with LGBTQ legislative delegation hosted by the GSBA. The Commission was able to share some of the work ahead and legislative priorities and hear what the LGBTQ Caucus of the Legislature was working on.
  - The Commission continues to work with other agencies. Director Santiago highlighted the work with the Department of Veteran Affairs, which recently completed a training manual for caretakers. This manual takes into consideration the specific needs of LGBTQ veterans, and Director Santiago worked with the editors to provide feedback and updates. The finished work included several important collaborations and showed how the DVA was intentional in bringing specific voices to collaborate and create a culturally relevant curriculum.
  - The Commission is currently working with the Department of the Military through their Emergency Management System, to offer feedback on needs of LGBTQ Washingtonians during emergencies. This is a continued work in which the Commission will have significant impact in helping plan for statewide emergency plans.



- The staff has started to put together a weekly electronic newsletter for the community. The first issue went out on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, but moving forward it'll be sent out every Monday. This new newsletter will contain updates and opportunities for the LGBTQ community across the state to engage with the Commission and to have updates on other important issues related to our community.
- **Executive Committee:**
  - Has met regularly and welcomed Commissioner Kelly-Barroga as Vice-Chair of the committee.
  - The committee had the chance to review the legislation for the current session and offer feedback on strategies and key stakeholders to connect with.
  - The committee worked on a detailed survey to get input from commissioners regarding committee work.
  - Co-chairs Viena and Botzer shared with the larger community during the virtual reception.
- **Business & Economic Development Committee:**
  - Commissioner Landers updated that the committee has met regularly and continue working on a workplan for 2022.
- **Vulnerable Communities Committee:**
  - Commissioner Hill-Meyer updated on the work of the committee, especially around the budget proviso to establish a taskforce to study sex work decriminalization in WA.
  - There will be a community meeting to discuss the proviso with stakeholders.
- **Health and Wellness Committee:**
  - Commissioners Maroon and Sawyer shared the challenges of finding time to meet as a committee.
  - Commissioner Maroon shared that he and others testified on SB5551, which will instruct the HCA to revert to an open access model for HIV medications.
  - Commissioner Sawyer shared about collaborating with a study of the impact of COVID-19 on African American and LGBTQ communities.
- **Children, Youth, and Families Committee:**
  - Although the committee hasn't been able to meet, Director Santiago shared that the Commission is currently collaborating with DCYF on creating materials to recruit more LGBTQ-affirming families to become foster families.
- **Legislative Updates:**
  - Representative Macri shared some updates related to legislation, specifically:
    - HC1961 – Concerning the authority of the courts to waive auditor's fees for filing and recording name change orders. This will positively impact



trans folk who are seeking a name change as it would offer the opportunity to waive the fees.

- HB2059 - Concerning real estate agency law, but only to clarify that the statutory duties of real estate brokers apply to all parties and prohibiting the delivery of buyer unfair practice letters to the seller of residential real estate. This will prevent sellers from rejecting certain families due to the seller's bias against LGBTQ (and other minority) families.
- HB2079 - Concerning medicaid coverage for HIV antiviral drugs. This is the House companion bill to the HIV bill in the Senate.

- **Legislative Priorities for 2022**

- After some words of clarification about the different legislative and executive processes used to implement legislation, rules, and executive orders, the Commission was presented with a list of bills filed and being considered during this legislative session.
- The list of bills presented to the Commission can be [found here](#). They are divided into the following categories:
  - Bills written with LGBTQ Community in mind
  - Bills that impact our community in some ways
  - Bills of great concern - damaging to the community
- Commissioner Hill-Meyer presents a motion to accept the legislative priorities list, add the bills just shared by Rep. Macri, and authorize the staff of the Commission to act on bills according to the purpose of each.
- Commissioner Best seconds. The motion is adopted unanimously.

- **Breakout Discussion and Plenary**

- The Commissioners take time to break into two groups to discuss ideas on how to best move forward with committee work. (Notes available upon request.)
- During the plenary session, Commissioner Sawyer presents a motion to: Give staff leeway Onboarding policy for new commissioners and assigning them to committees and directive on running committees & creating processes. Commissioner Ross seconds.
- Commissioner Maroon offers an amendment to: create a committee that includes staff, executive committee members, and representatives from the commissioners to look into the process and provide a draft to be considered by the Commission during the May meeting. Commissioner Ross seconds. The motion, as amended, passes.

- **Meeting Adjourn**

- Commissioner Best moves that the January meeting of the Commission be adjourned. Commissioner Sojourner seconds.



- With no objections, Co-Chair Botzer adjourns the meeting at 12:22 pm.

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