



DRAFT Minutes for Regular Public Meeting, March 18th, 2022¹

- Meeting opened by Co-Chair Botzer at 10:02 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 Dustin Best, Okanogan County
 - Commissioner Lars Erickson, King County
 - Commissioner Tobi Hill-Meyer, Thurston County
 - Commissioner Matthew Landers, King County
 - Commissioner Ranulfo Molina, Skagit County
 - Commissioner Josette Ross, Pierce County
 - Commissioner Alicia Sojourner, Clark County
 - Commissioner Steven Sawyer, King County
 - Commissioner Agaiotupu Viena, King County
 - Senator Claire Wilson, at-large
 - Commissioners excused:
 - Commissioner Jac Archer, Spokane County
 - Commissioner Everett Maroon, Walla Walla County
 - Commissioner Alvaro Figueroa, Spokane County
 - Representative Nicole Macri, at-large
 - Representative Skyler Rude, at-large
 - Staff:
 - J. Manny Santiago, Executive Director
 - Tracey Carlos, Program Manager
- Acceptance of Minutes from January meeting
 - Commissioner Landers notes that Commissioner Best's name was misspelled in the rollcall.
 - Commissioner Best presents a motion to accept the Minutes from the January meeting with noted changes.
 - Commissioner Sawyer seconds the motion.

¹ Notes by Commissioner Landers and Program Manager Tracey Carlos acting as notetakers.



- The Commission receives the Minutes from the January meeting in a unanimous vote.
- **Executive Director's report**, presented by Executive Director Manny Santiago and [available here](#). Some highlights from the report are:
 - First in-person town hall in Vancouver, Clark County with support from Commissioner Sojourner and Jessica Cole, president of the local PFLAG chapter. Will have longer time to listen more in future town halls
 - Commissioner Sojourner shared that it was a success for people to connect and share. Major theme of bridging between generations of LGBTQ people.
 - Queer Women Town Hall, moderated by Tracey Carlos.
 - Tracey offers thanks to Commissioner Dawn Rains and Valerie Koo from WA Women's Commission. The town hall had four speakers, Bre Johnson from The Trevor Project, Jaelynn Scott from Lavender Rights Project, Pat McIntyre from Tacoma Older LGBT
 - Meeting with community members about schools banning books with LGBTQ content, which are not necessarily seen by the wider public. Talking with the Office of Education Ombuds and Association of Librarians to address issues in a more public manner to raise awareness, offer tools to librarians and teachers to prevent it from happening again. Event possible in Aug/Sep.
 - Legislative session ended last week.
 - Successes:
 - Proviso on study on including fertility treatments in insurance coverage was passed and waiting for Governor's signature.
 - Law protecting rights of people in WA to seek and receive abortion care was signed by the Governor. The language of the bill includes anyone who can get pregnant, regardless of gender.
 - Proviso to support the open access to HIV medication through Medicaid/Medicare (monitoring until signed).
 - Proviso on study on decriminalization of sex work was removed from budget on advice of community; strategy discussions will continue with community.
 - Meeting with University of Puget Sound students about internships. There are four students interested in starting internships with the Commission during the summer.
 - Both staff members have been working on professional DEI certifications through Cornell University online school.
 - Governor Inslee and Dr. J., Director of Office of Equity, will be hosting a roundtable panel discussion with leaders about JEDI strategic plan for the state. Will share hopes and concerns with the Governor.



- **Executive Committee:**
 - Co-Chair Botzer presented; committee met regularly.
 - Discussed template for identifying needs from Commissioners to feel supported in their role and work on committees.
 - Reviewed newsletter.
 - Discussed upcoming Pride events and how to support the community at large.
 - Reviewing Restructuring Committee and sharing information with the members of the committee to develop strategies.
- **Business & Economic Development Committee:**
 - Commissioner Landers presented.
 - This past Wednesday the Committee held a listening session with rural LGBTQ business owners to learn more about their needs and how the Commission can help support them.
 - Participants in the listening session joined from Jefferson, Pierce, Snohomish, and Yakima counties.
 - Participants mentioned that fragmented systems made it difficult for them to find information and how to access resources.
 - Issues with access to resources in general, especially internet and cell coverage.
 - Health insurance as the largest cost, difficult to offer necessary and quality coverage (WA Health Benefits Exchange was present to offer assistance)
 - The participants brought up concerns with school board situations, particularly draw into anti-LGBTQ and especially anti-LGBTQ campaigns at the moment. This makes those communities unattractive to remain in, and it is difficult for these businesses to hold on to employees who are having difficulty feeling safe in their communities.
- **Vulnerable Communities Committee:**
 - Commissioner Hill-Meyer presented.
 - Pulled back budget proviso after meeting with DecrimWA and concerns around rush to proceed. Concerns around make up of task force and perceived oppositional framework. Working to connect with existing work with DecrimWA.
 - Co-Chair Viena also represents DecrimWA. Spoke to need for “moving at the speed of trust” and that decisions are well considered for future generations.
- **Restructuring Committee:**
 - Commissioner Botzer presented
 - Survey and brainstorm of Commissioners.
 - Staff will compile and draft recommendations from the Committee for Commissioners to review.
- **Legislative Advisors:**
 - Sen. Claire Wilson presented
 - School boards and young people dealing with trauma from pandemic but also from attacks within school systems.



- Suggest working with state School Board Directors Association as well to address these issues. School Boards are largest body of elected officials in state (294 districts with 5-7 members; nearly 2,000 officials making these policies.)
- Commissioner Best adds that tribal school boards are often under-resourced as well; urges more engagement with Native American schools.
- Appreciative of people working with sex workers as we think about services and support.
- Successful in legislative session - abortion access bill, birth doula, waiving name change fees, public records disclosure exemptions, compensation for lived experience on boards, additional participation of LGBTQ Commission in poverty reduction work group, \$500k for GenPride senior living space, \$19M for HIV retroviral drugs.
- **Legislative Priorities update**
 - Program Manager Tracey Carlos offered a summary of the legislative session and updated on the bills the Commission monitored. Many of these were already mentioned during Sen. Wilson's report.
 - Review of priorities as listed on website
 - Governor signing [1851](#), [1015](#), [1956](#), [1961](#), [2057](#), [5376](#), [5532](#), [5693](#) (budget), [5793](#)
- **Presentation on Governor's Workgroup on Poverty Reduction, Universal Basic Income Pilot Project**
 - Presented by Megan Matthews, Engagement Manager, DSHS
 - Basic Income Feasibility Study Preliminary Findings
 - Last year funding allocated to conduct study on implementing basic income program, directed to DSHS and Poverty Reduction Work Group.
 - The workgroup has worked on gathering literature review, recommendations for pilot design, cost-benefit analysis, operational costs, implementation plan, potential participation impacts (on other benefit programs). The recommendations must be made by June 1, 2022.
 - Shared demographics of project team participants, which reflect diversity in several areas.
 - 3 main points:
 - Research suggests a basic income has strong positive benefits for kids, adults, families.
 - A state-level basic income pilot/program is feasible, but lots to consider to do it well.
 - A successful basic income pilot/program in WA is dependent on strong public-private collaboration and political will.
 - *"Poverty as a policy failure rather than a personal failure"* - everyone makes bad choices, but not everyone is in poverty. Some have access to



resources and others don't - hinges on historical policies that need to be revised and removed.

- There are many pilot programs around the country right now, including in Tacoma and King County. For a state pilot, the group doesn't want to pit communities against each other and want to serve anyone with a need. Targeted universalism.
- Will be partnering with the Office of Equity to develop and implement recommendations.
- Director Santiago - previously expressed need to consider different family models, immigrant communities as well. Very positive response from team so far - one of the most well-thought programs he has witnessed.
- Understanding role and position of government - listen more, understand how to build relationships with communities distrustful of government, not one-size-fits-all.
- Only categories for targeted study were income level or certain transitional events; UW self-sufficiency metrics (lines up roughly with 200% of federal poverty line)
- Considerations for state program: scaling from local examples, hold harmless existing benefits, need sustained commitment, and coordinated services to realize effects.
- Rough draft to be completed soon, distributed for feedback.
Recommendation to Legislature June 2022
- Will share 10-year poverty reduction plan with the Commission, also on [website](#). Task force email is prwg@dshs.wa.gov.
- The Commissioners expressed their desire to invite Megan back to continue conversation.
- New Business
 - Director Santiago asked Commissioners on interest and willingness to have the May meeting be in person.
 - Majority feels comfortable moving forward
 - Will share health protocols, survey to see who needs travel accommodations
- Public comment
 - Request submitted via Zoom chat by Valeria Carrillo (King County):
 - Ms. Carrillo shared information on behalf of Renton LGBTQIA+ Community's leadership who are coordinating a statewide demonstration of support to the communities around the nation who are being targeted by anti-LGBTQ legislation in different state legislatures. The form to gathering interest is located here:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_UoRyUjF2BMR1tTQWBVTmSHxBZAW3XAr3TiRVZQF6OI2_oQ/viewform



- **Announcements:**
 - Upcoming Commission town halls - April 30 in Spokane
 - Coordinating committee planning Pride flag raising ceremony in Olympia (Tracey Carlos, Commissioners Hill-Meyer and Ross)
- **Meeting Adjourn**
 - Commissioner Erickson moves that the March meeting of the Commission be adjourned. Commissioner Sawyer seconds.
 - With no objections, Co-Chair Viena adjourns the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

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