



WASHINGTON STATE  
**LGBTQ**  
COMMISSION

## **Executive Director's Report**

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

By J. Manny Santiago

Commission Meeting  
Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, WA

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**The Washington State LGBTQ Commission envisions a state where every lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, and intersex Washingtonian of any age feels safe, supported, and empowered.**

## Executive Director's Report

July 21<sup>st</sup>,2023

Below is a summary of the activities of the Commission staff from mid-May through mid-July 2023, including legislative advocacy and community outreach.

### 1. STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES

**Staff:** In the last few months, the staff has been working on implementing some of the Strategic Plan programs. Recently, we met with IT to consult on how to add a page to our website where people can submit reports on hate incidents. We cleared the technical issues. The next step is to consult with our Assistant Attorney General to go over safety and privacy issues. Once we clear the legal questions, we'll be working with IT to create the page and start collecting information on hate incidents and reporting on our website. It is important to point out that this reporting is not with the intention of pursuing legal action, but to have a centralized system of collecting and distribute information to keep our communities safe.

With the start of the new fiscal year, the Commission received the funding to establish a new staff position. This new position will be an Executive Assistant, that will provide administrative support to the Director and the agency in general. Currently, OFM's human resources office is receiving applications for this position, and they will be reviewing the applications starting the week of July 24<sup>th</sup>. I expect to have a new staff member in late August or early September.

The recent spat of anti-LGBTQ actions – such as pride flag stealing, SCOTUS decision, etc. – have gathered some media attention in the state. I have talked with a couple of media outlets about these issues and what WA is doing to keep our communities protected. I expect more media coverage in the months to come. I also issued an official statement in response to the SCOTUS decision to condone discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the delivery of good and services by privately owned businesses throughout the USA and its colonies.

Finally, I am also part of an advisory committee working with the Washington Historical Society to establish a statewide collection of LGBTQ history. This collection will be part of the permanent collection of the agency and serve as a

repository of the rich history of our community in the state. Members of the advisory committee represent different fields and regions of the state, including experts in LGBTQ history.

### **Outreach:**

- **Pride Flag Raising on Capitol Campus:** the Commission, RAIN, and the Office of the Governor hosted the annual Pride Flag Raising ceremony on the Capitol Campus on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> to mark the beginning of LGBTQ Pride Month.
- **LGBTQ Commission & Women's Commission Lunch:** the Commissions hosted a lunch with LBQT women in King County on Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> to hear their concerns and offer feedback to the Women's Commission on how to best integrate LBQT women in their work.

Pride season, community and official events attended, meetings, and relationship building with grassroots groups:

- **Coordinated Healthcare:** met with staff of the agency to discuss outreach strategies for LGBTQ people to access affordable healthcare plans.
- **Trans Protections Coalition:** I regularly attend meetings with a new coalition formed during legislative session where we discuss the needs of the trans community in specific and the LGBTQ community in general, and strategize on how to best address those needs. This is not a standing meeting, but rather a loose coalition convened by QLaw that meets as needed.
- **Saying It Out Loud Conference:** attended the SIOL Conference held in Spokane this year and had the chance to connect with many of our community members on the east side of the state.
- **Public Sector Network:** participated as a panelist at the Government Innovation Conference in WA on June 8<sup>th</sup>. I was also part of the coordinating committee for this event.
- **The Black Trans Comedy Showcase:** attended the fundraiser and Pride Month comedy show to support Lavender Rights Project on June 10<sup>th</sup> in Seattle.

- **Maryland LGBTQ Commission:** met with Director Brown to discuss strategies, share legislative successes, and plan for next year's legislative priorities for our respective commissions.
- **SOMOS Seattle:** spoke at the Annual Latinx Pride Reception on June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Seattle.
- **REACH Center:** was the keynote speaker at the REACH Center's Resiliency of Pride event on June 30<sup>th</sup>. The REACH Center serves youth facing housing insecurity.
- **Lewis County Pride:** on June 30<sup>th</sup>, Tracey joined a group of LGBTQ community residents from Lewis County in repainting a pride mural that was vandalized.
- **Capital City Pride:** Tracey attended this pride festival and volunteered with RAIN at their display table on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Tacoma Pride Awards:** served on the selection committee and participated of the Pride Awards and Flag Raising Ceremony for the City of Tacoma on July 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Tacoma Pride Festival:** both Tracey and I attended Tacoma Pride on July 8<sup>th</sup> and shared with community members and state agencies that had tables at the event.
- **Queerly Funny Comedy Show:** attended the comedy show and fundraiser for Rainbow Center on July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **PCAF:** met with new Executive Director Ace Robinson to discuss strategies to reach out to LGBTQ Latina/o/x/e communities.

## 2. ADVOCACY AND LEGISLATION

### *Government Agencies*

The Commission has the mandate to engage government agencies and offer support and feedback on issues related to LGBTQ inclusion. Currently, I have met or being involved in work with the following agencies to discuss matters related to LGBTQ inclusion:

- **Office of Financial Management:** I have met with staff of OFM for different things such as:
  - **State HR:** continued the conversation on expanding the definition of family for family leave. The work is pretty much moving

forward at a great pace, and we might have some concrete plans on how to implement this next year.

- **Budget Office:** continue meeting regularly with state CFO and staff to discuss operating budget for the Commission
- **OFM Human Resources:** continued meetings with HR consultant to discuss personnel compensation changes and staff evaluations as well as the creation of the new position for the agency.
- **Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** I recently received new language for the Council's charter to offer feedback and ensure that the needs of the LGBTQ community are included in the foundational documents of the Council.
- **Department of Health:** met with the Director of Public Affairs to discuss strategies related to MPox vaccination and prevention during Pride month.
- **Department of Social and Health Services:** spoke at the Division of Program Integrity monthly DEI community of practice meeting.
- **Department of Children, Youth, and Families:** conversations with this agency continue, including coordination of a series of town halls to address these issues throughout the state. I am also working with their DEI executive leadership to include LGBTQ children and youth needs in their approach to managing foster care systems.
- **Office of Financial Management:** we are currently drafting language for a Request for Proposals for the comprehensive survey funded by the Legislature.
- **Washington State Women's Commission:** met with their new Director, Grace Woo. Director Woo is committed to including queer women's voices, in particular, trans women's voices as well as the voices of nonbinary folk who were assigned female at birth. As a result, our agencies cohosted a luncheon with queer women in King County that Tracey attended representing the Commission.
- **WA Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation:** the agency is currently applying for funding to conduct a comprehensive assessment of historical sites related to LGBTQ advocacy in the state. I submitted a letter of support for the grant application, and we are confident that this project will be funded.

- **Governor's Subcabinet on Business Diversity:** the subcabinet will host its first meeting in mid-August and the LGBTQ Commission will have an official seat at the table as voting members.
- **Policy Office – Office of the Governor:** due to the recent decision by the US Supreme Court, I've engaged the policy office in conversations about the state's response to the recent SCOTUS decision regarding condoning discrimination against LGBTQ people by private businesses. The policy office is seeking an official legal opinion from the General Counsel of the Office of the Governor.
- **Poverty Reduction Workgroup:** I continue taking part of the meetings and conversations about implementing the poverty reduction plan.
- **Commission on Hispanic Affairs:** I continue the regular check-in meetings with Director Sigüenza.
- **Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises:** recently we met with OMWBE and the **Department of Enterprise Services** to strategize on next steps to expand certification to LGBTQ-owned businesses. The staff at OMWBE is currently working on draft legislation to authorize the agency to expand their certifications to LGBTQ-owned businesses and we are expecting to present legislation in the next legislative session.
- **Office of Equity:** as the office goes through internal transition, I have met with staff and Acting Director Megan Matthews to provide support and guidance.
- **Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee:** received draft legislation to review and offer input on LGBTQ equity.
- **Health and Human Services Sex and Gender Coalition:** an interagency workgroup to address the need to update forms, applications, and systems to best record and get information on people's gender identity in way that would both provide them options to self-identify and get services that only recognize the gender binary. I participate of meeting with the Coalition every other week.
- **Commission on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs:** met with Director Hasegawa and Director Woo (Women's Commission) to discuss ways in which we can support their work with community groups regarding transgender identity, discrimination, and culture.
- **Rainbow Alliance and Inclusion Network (RAIN):** as their Executive Sponsor, I meet with the leadership team monthly for three hours to go over plans, offer support, listen to concerns, help develop programs,

and serve as an advocate for the group with the Governor’s Office and OFM.

- **Governor’s Policy Office:** continue meeting with representatives from the policy office to strategize on policy ideas to support LGBTQ people around the state. Meet regularly with our policy advisor, Dontae Payne. Currently discussing next steps to propose policy action regarding book bans as well as anti-LGBTQ policies in school districts.

*Other – Policy and Budget Update*

- a) LGBTQ Comprehensive Survey: currently drafting language to open a request for proposals to conduct the survey.
- b) 1.0 FTE: currently recruiting for a new staff position, Executive Assistant.
- c) LGBTQ Youth Advisory Council: expect to establish taskforce from within the Commission during next public meeting and start community outreach throughout the state to establish the council.
- d) Book bans: in conversation with policy office and leadership from regional libraries to discuss possible legislation regarding book bans in public libraries.

**3. BUDGET REPORT (AS OF MAY 2023)**

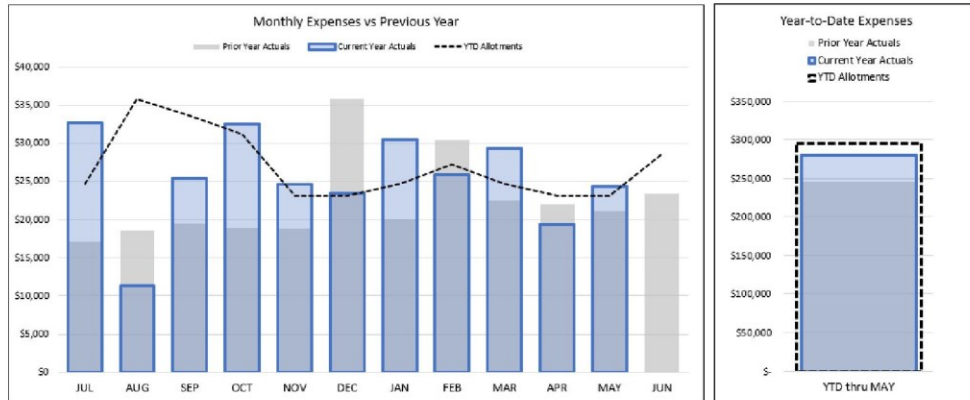
**LGBTQ (016) - Salaries and Expenses**

**Fund 001 General Fund: 011/012**

Expenses	FM13 to FM20 JUL thru FEB	FM21 MAR	FM22 APR	FM23 MAY	YTD Actuals	YTD Allotments	Variance	Total Annual Allotments	Notes
A/ Salaries and Wages	122,860	15,338	15,338	15,338	168,874	168,718	(156)	184,056	
B/ Employee Benefits	40,617	5,079	5,079	5,079	55,852	55,946	94	61,032	
C/ Professional Service Contracts	4,363	-	-	-	4,363	-	(4,363)	-	
EA/ Supplies and Materials	1,956	326	-	255	2,537	3,300	763	3,600	
EB/ Communications/Telecomms	1,147	90	89	89	1,415	1,422	7	1,508	
EC/ Utilities	1,630	175	1,250	416	3,471	1,658	(1,813)	1,658	
ED/ Rentals & Leases - Land & Bldg	7,939	1,087	-	756	9,782	11,957	2,175	13,044	
EF/ Printing & Reproduction	8	57	(57)	-	8	-	(8)	-	
EG/ Employee Prof Dev & Training	611	-	-	293	904	-	(904)	-	
EH/ Rental & Leases - Furn & Equip	2,157	230	(230)	-	2,157	400	(1,757)	400	
EK/ Facilities and Services	-	4,728	(4,728)	-	-	-	-	-	
EM/ Attorney General Services	2,087	220	87	-	2,394	6,000	3,606	7,500	
ER/ Other Contractual Services	47	-	-	93	140	-	(140)	-	
EY/ Software Licenses and Maint	6,510	-	-	-	6,510	6,693	183	6,756	
EZ/ Other Goods and Services	12,498	-	475	-	12,973	17,000	4,027	17,000	
G/ Travel	13,623	2,055	2,059	2,096	19,833	21,750	1,917	27,000	
S/ Interagency Reimbursements	(11,590)	-	-	-	(11,590)	-	11,590	-	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>206,462</b>	<b>29,384</b>	<b>19,363</b>	<b>24,415</b>	<b>279,624</b>	<b>294,844</b>	<b>15,220</b>	<b>323,554</b>	

## LGBTQ (016) - Salaries and Expenses

### Fund 001 General Fund: 011/012



OFM 6/26/2023

4

## 4. COMMISSION EVENTS CALENDAR

### *Outreach Opportunities*

- July Power Connect: Fighting Hate Together
  - Thursday, July 27, 2023 4:30pm - 6:30pm
  - Salesforce Roof Deck at 744 N 34th Street, Seattle 98103

*Public meetings:* The Commission will be meeting on the following dates in 2023:

- Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> – Thurston County
- Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – Skagit County