



WASHINGTON STATE  
**LGBTQ**  
COMMISSION

## **Executive Director's Report**

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

By J. Manny Santiago

Commission Meeting  
Olympia, Thurston 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

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

### 1. STAFF AND COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES

**Staff:** In August, the staff of the Commission grew as we welcomed Sawyer Tuttle (they/them) as Executive Assistant. Sawyer comes to us after completing an internship with the WA State Legislature, where they worked with the office of Senator Marko Liias. We have clarified the roles and responsibilities of all members of the staff, and we now have a more balanced division of roles and responsibilities.

In August, Tracey and I met with our Assistant Attorney General to go over some of the legal matters related to the implementation of a web page to collect and share information on hate incidents in the state. This is part of the project to implement a section of the Commission's strategic plan. We are waiting for the AAG to send us her assessment to move forward with the project.

The staff also met with staff from the Contracts unit within OFM to finalize the process of requests for proposals to conduct a comprehensive survey of the LGBTQ community in Washington. The first part of the process is completed. The staff of both agencies held a pre-bid conference with prospective bidders, which was attended by close to a dozen interested parties. The Commission will be selecting two representatives to the selection committee during the September meeting.

Finally, the LGBTQ Youth Advisory Board Taskforce met in early September to discuss next steps for this work.

#### **Outreach:**

- **Puyallup Tribe of Indians Pride Celebration:** I was a speaker at the Pride celebration hosted by the Puyallup Tribe of Indians on July 22<sup>nd</sup> on tribal lands.

Community and official events attended, meetings, and relationship building with grassroots groups:

- **Trans Protections Coalition:** In addition to the regular meeting, I met with the convener and individual members of the coalition to discuss strategies for next year's legislative session. I also have a scheduled meeting with the convener of the group to go over ideas and strategies for advocacy.
- **Public Sector Network Global Advisory Board:** attended the first meeting of the advisory board for this global, government innovation agency.
- **GSBA:** have met and kept in communication with staff at GSBA to go over details to advance the LGBTQ certification process.
- **University of Puget Sound:** attended a reception for civic leaders in Pierce County hosted by the President and Board of Trustees of the university.
- **Kitsap Black Student Union:** met with the founder and executive director of the BSU to discuss possible partnerships for LGBTQ Youth Advisory Board.
- **Asia Pacific Cultural Center:** attended their annual Pacific Island Luau and celebration.
- **Metropolitan Development Council:** met with the new executive director of MDC in Pierce County, who is interested in expanding and strengthening their services to the LGBTQ community.
- **PCAF:** have worked with this agency to understand current situation related to funding from DOH. I have also been in communication with their Community Advisory Board who are seeking support for clients of the agency affected by internal conflict and by DOH refusal to reimburse payment for contracts.

## 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:

- **City of Gig Harbor – City Council:** met with a council member to discuss the city’s policies regarding pride flag display and challenges to pass ordinances and orders to raise the flag on city property.
- **Office of Financial Management:** I have met with staff of OFM for different things such as:
  - **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 evaluations, recruitment and onboarding of new staff, and address other personnel matters.
- **Governor’s Interagency Council on Health Disparities:** continued to provide feedback for new charter.
- **Department of Commerce:** met with director of the Office of Youth Homelessness to discuss challenges in implementation of SB5599 and other concerns related to LGBTQ youth in the state. I also met with staff from the Planning and Pre-design Capital Equity Program to discuss implementation and outreach efforts.
- **Washington State Women’s Commission:** have met regularly with staff to offer support and to exchange ideas related to inclusion of trans woman and people assigned female at birth in the work of the Commission.
- **Language Access Work Group:** have participated of biweekly meetings of this work group to provide feedback on LGBTQ-affirming language for medical interpreters.
- **Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises:** have continued to meet with staff of the agency to finalize decision package related to expanding LGBTQ certification for small businesses.
- **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:** continue to regularly meet with policy advisor to discuss policy matters related to book bans, access to gender-affirming care for young people, and other policy issues.

- **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 Equity:** have met individually and with other Commissions to discuss the DEI initiatives of the state and how to best coordinate our collective work. I also participated of the Office of Equity's strategic vision planning as they seek input on how to best implement their statute.
- **Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee:** continue receiving draft legislation and budget proposals 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.
- **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.

*Other – Policy and Budget Update*

- a) LGBTQ Comprehensive Survey: request for proposals was published, pre-bid conference held, and now waiting to receive proposals for the survey.
- b) LGBTQ Youth Advisory Council: the taskforce met in early September to go over the work ahead.
- c) Book bans: still in conversation with policy office and leadership from regional libraries to discuss possible legislation regarding book bans in public libraries.
- d) LGBTQ Business Certification: decision packaged submitted on behalf of OMWBE to request funding to complete this work within the next fiscal year.

### 3. BUDGET REPORT (AS OF JULY 2023)

LGBTQ Commission

Program Index: 00016

Expenditure Summary as of Jul 2022

Expenditures by:	Jul FM13	YTD Actuals	YTD Allotments	Variance	Comments
<b>Expenditure Authority</b>					
001-1: 012 - Salaries and Expenses - FY2	32,634	32,634	24,586	(8,048)	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>32,634</b>	<b>32,634</b>	<b>24,586</b>	<b>(8,048)</b>	
<b>Object</b>					
A / Salaries and Wages	15,338	15,338	14,104	(1,234)	
B / Employee Benefits	5,056	5,056	4,786	(270)	
C / Professional Service Contracts	0	0	357	357	
*EA / Supplies and Materials	307	307	300	(7)	
*EB / Communications/Telecommunications	90	90	67	(23)	
*EF / Printing and Reproduction	0	0	13	13	
*EG / Employee Prof Dev & Training	0	0	917	917	
*EK / Facilities and Services	0	0	650	650	
*EL / Data Processing Services (Interagency)	0	0	1,167	1,167	
*EN / Personnel Services	0	0	13	13	
*EP / Insurance	0	0	83	83	
*ER / Other Contractual Services	0	0	816	816	
*EY / Software Licenses and Maintenance	0	0	63	63	
*EZ / Other Goods and Services	11,590	11,590	0	(11,590)	Re: DAHP IAA (K343)
G / Travel	254	254	1,250	996	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>32,634</b>	<b>32,634</b>	<b>24,586</b>	<b>(8,048)</b>	
Reimbursement due from DAHP for IAA				11,590	
<b>Total Expenses</b>				<b>3,542</b>	

<b>FTEs</b>					
001-1: 012 - Salaries and Expenses - FY2	2.	2.	2.	.	
<b>Total FTEs</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>.</b>	

Prepared by Fiscal and Operations Office of  
Financial Management

### 4. COMMISSION EVENTS CALENDAR

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

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