



WASHINGTON STATE
LGBTQ
COMMISSION

Public Meeting

March 15th 2024, 10:00AM-5:00PM

Everett, Snohomish County

March 15th, 2024

- Welcome, technology troubleshooting, and check-ins
- Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Kelly-Barroga at 10:02 a.m.
- Co-Chair asked for roll call
 - Commissioners present:
 - Commissioner Ebo Barton, King County
 - Commissioner Dustin Best, Okanogan County
 - Commissioner Lars Erickson, King County
 - Commissioner Alvaro Figueroa, Spokane County
 - Commissioner Tobi Hill-Meyer, Thurston County
 - Commissioner M. Kelly-Barroga, Grays Harbor County
 - Commissioner Mathew Landers, King County
 - Commissioner Everett Maroon, Walla Walla County
 - Commissioner Ranulfo Molina, King County
 - Commissioner Leiyomi Preciado, Kitsap County
 - Commissioner Steven Sawyer, King County
 - Commissioner Jason Victor Serinus, Jefferson County
 - Senator Claire Wilson, at-large (joined later)
 - Commissioners Excused:
 - Commissioner Alicia Sojourner, Cowlitz County
 - Commissioner Abigayle Coleman, King County
 - Representative Nicole Macri, at-large
 - Unexcused Absences:
 - Staff
 - Sheri Sawyer, Interim Executive Director
 - Sawyer Tuttle, Executive Assistant
 - Sam Fennell, Program Manager
- Land acknowledgement, housekeeping, grounding & icebreaker
- **Introduction of Interim Executive Director, Sheri Sawyer**
 - Simultaneously serving in Governor Inslee's office during the interim period
 - Search for a permanent director - 32 applicants passed HR screening, now in screening process to narrow down to 6, interview mid-April, 2-3 finalists, Kelly Wicker will recommend top candidate to Governor Inslee, appointment in May
 - Interview panel includes Executive Director, staff member, Commissioner/s, members of the community, Governor staff

- Senator Wilson requests that Legislative Advisors take part to maintain intent of Commission, as well as urging a public and transparent process for appointment
 - Next Governor's prerogative to keep a sitting Executive Director or appoint someone else
- Adoption of Agenda for January Meeting and Minutes from November meeting
 - Commissioner Figueroa presents a motion to adopt the agenda for the March meeting and Minutes from January meeting.
 - Commissioner Serinus seconds the motion.
 - Passes unanimously
- Motion to approve the minutes from January as amended
 - Commissioner Figueroa presents a motion to adopt the minutes from January as amended
 - Commissioner Erickson seconds
 - Passes unanimously, with 2 abstention
- Reports:
 - **Staff Report:** in printed packet; presented by Sawyer Tuttle and Sam Fennell
 - Will have intern for the summer from University of Puget Sound
 - Planning collaboration with Maryland LGBTQ Commission (including on surveys), other WA community commissions
 - Survey recap - in testing phases, creating advisory panels for oversight. Still on track to launch in June for Pride Month.
 - Youth Advisory Council: (see attached report) application is open! The Commission is overseeing the process, rather than Boards & Commissions staff. Working on application parties. Have held 2 town halls already. Starting with 12 members, building to 20. Inaugural members will build out a strategic plan and structure.
 - **Executive Committee:** met in February and March
 - Introduction to Interim Executive Director
 - Survey follow up
 - LCB
 - **Legislative Advisors & Visitors / Legislative Update:**
 - Senator Wilson - Parents Bill of Rights initiative; passed by the Legislature
 - 90% of what the initiative considered to be already in law
 - Staying vigilant for a few areas of uncertainty, but view that current rights are maintained
 - Offer to get involved in next round of SB 5237 discussions
 - Senator Liias - co-chair of WA LGBTQ Legislative Caucus, along with Rep. Macri
 - Requested two measures to be passed alongside initiative (inclusive curriculum bill, prohibiting book bans on the base of protected classes) to show support for LGBTQ youth
 - Trying to get more resources for OSPI compliance audits

- Updates rules around establishments serving alcohol - dancers, bar raids
- Growing movement of community organizers looking to increase support for LGBTQ youth in/around Snohomish County
- Potential for annual check-ins between Commission and Caucus?
- Where are there other areas of the WAC where the Commission can help advance equity in state government? The Commission's ongoing, statewide work is a place to do some more intentional work on the issues that didn't get finished in the legislative session (have more than 60 days to do the work).
 - Example of health equity. IVF and assisted reproduction. Collecting stories around the state.
 - Deeper look at what kind of health care the intersex community receives / needs. Overprovision of healthcare for certain youth.
- Opportunity for more visible work with the WA Association of School Board Directors?
- Need ideas for legislation in September/October to get it ready for next session
- **DISCUSSION - Comprehensive LGBTQ Survey**
 - Making progress; in testing/review process, taking feedback
 - Discussion around questions
 - Advisory Panel - had first of 2 introductory meetings
 - Will review survey between March 21-26
 - Setting up Pride events and outreach
- **Break for lunch 12:07 to 1:00**
- **DISCUSSION: Strategic Plan Review**
 - Presented by Commissioner Landers
 - Review of plan for Fiscal years 2024-2025; close to mid-point
 - Overview of goals, strategies, objectives
 - Commissioner Serinus - request for open town hall in Jefferson County during meeting time
 - Commissioner Erickson - rolling off, but happy to be resource in the future
 - Commissioner Maroon - role of committees! Important place to bring energy from community into Commission
 - Senator Wilson - seeing a lack of representation from Development Disability / Intellectual Disability voices
 - Commission Hill-Meyer - disability plays a big role in accessing basic needs as well as track/counter hate
 - Commissioner Serinus - have asked for assistance with outreach
 - Commissioner Maroon - Committee on Generationality? Reaching back and reaching forward. Bringing people together from different eras of our civil rights movement. Being expansive across the lifecycle of living as an LGBTQ person.

Commissioner Serinus interested. Commissioner Sawyer has staff members with expertise.

- Commissioner Hill-Meyer interested in writing op-eds and countering anti-trans narratives
 - ED Sawyer - process is to submit to exec committee to decide. Doesn't require vote of whole Commission.
- **Work Group Update: America 250**
 - Presented by Commissioner Figueroa
 - Have hired staff; gearing up for 250th anniversary; want to know if LGBTQ Commissioners want to get more involved
 - Budget items due before September
- **Work Group Update: Youth Advisory Council Task Force**
 - Presented by Sam Fennell; see attached report
- **Work Group Update: Council on Health Disparities**
 - Presented by Commissioner Hill-Meyer
 - Worked on legislative update, including funding for more than single staff member
- **Work Group Update: Poverty Reduction Workgroup**
 - Commissioner Sawyer - has gone through orientation, but unable to make meetings, no meetings organized this year
- **Commissioner Updates:**
 - Commissioner KB shared updated on Pierce County nonprofits, Pride plans, name change clinic
 - Commissioner Sawyer shared work in King County on homelessness prevention efforts, the Equitable Development Initiative, finished 3 year term on transportation equity group for Seattle, remembering Dr. Stephau Wallace, bringing a biomedical conference to Seattle
 - Commissioner Hill-Meyer - Olympia discrimination report is finished, being released to the public. Found that in 6/10 areas of potential discrimination, that trans folks received the highest levels of discrimination.
 - Commissioner Serinus shared that pride was dissolved in Jefferson County; will be writing a column soon.
- **DISCUSSION: Pride 2024**
 - Calendar of Pride events on website, weekly social media posts with summary of events
 - Commission presence at Pride
 - Commissioners as speakers at events
 - Commissioners attending events as representatives of their own organizations/ boards/ communities.
 - Senator Wilson - Prides in correctional institutions
 - Staff doing outreach to Pride organizations
 - Flag raising at the Capitol - June 13 at noon
 - Potential for reception?
- **Community Group Presentations and Q&A**

- Everett Pride, Bryce Laake
 - Work with collection of all Snohomish County Pride organizations
- Cocoon House, Kaelan Tassi (Youth Engagement Team), Kate Walden (THRIVE Program)
 - Operate shelters in Everett and Monroe
 - Safe Place call line (24/7)
 - Low-barrier, harm-reduction, trauma-informed
- **Next Commission Events:**
 - May 17th - Yakima County
 - July 19-20th - Jefferson County
 - October 18th - Thurston County
- **VOTE to adjourn:**
 - MOTION: to adjourn (Commissioner Preciado; seconded Commissioner Serinus)
 - Adopted unanimously
- **Co-Chair KB adjourned the meeting at 3:58 pm**

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