



WASHINGTON STATE
LGBTQ
COMMISSION

Staff Report

May 11, 2026

Overview

Events and Community Partnerships:

- Director Keating, Sawyer, Nathan Bays and David Kim, from the Governor's office, the Trevor Project, and NCLR to discuss the SCOTUS ruling on Chiles v. Salazar on April 10th.
- Director Keating attended the Utopia WA Miss Island Goddess event with Co-Chair Preciado on April 11th.
- Director Keating met with the Executive Director of the Tacoma Rainbow Center about Tacoma Pride on April 16th.
- Director Keating and Sam met with Play Equity to learn about their work, share the work of the commission, and explore opportunities to collaborate on April 16th.
- Director Keating visited a WCCW class on civic engagement led by the Office of the Secretary of State on April 21st.
- Director Keating met with Wenatchee Pride and OutNCW to discuss challenges they are navigating and to discuss Wenatchee Pride on April 23rd.
- Sam was on a panel for Evergreen MPA Captone students with Megan Matthews, the Director for the Office of Equity on April 23rd.
- Director Keating and Sawyer met with the other state LGBTQIA+ commissions, the Trevor Project, and NCLR to discuss the impacts of the Chiles v. Salazar ruling from SCOTUS on April 27th.
- Director Keating tabled at the second annual Whatcom County GSA Summit on April 25th.
- Director Keating and Sam met with the Seattle Storm to discuss partnership opportunities for their Pride Night on April 27th.
- Director Keating attended the Governor's Subcabinet on Business Diversity quarterly meeting on April 29th.
- Director Keating and Commission Bullock-Clayton spent the day meeting with Triple Point, Trans, Securing Trans Futures, Queer Youth Resource Center, and Vancouver City Council Member Ty Strober on May 1st.
- Sam and Commissioner Hwang attended WADEP on May 1st.
- Director Keating visited GenPride for a roundtable discussion with 2SLGBTQIA+ senior residents on May 7th.
- Director Keating will be attended the Immigrant Subcabinet meeting on May 11th.

Upcoming Events:

- Director Keating will be attending the DOH Health Disparities Council meeting and community dinner at the Asian Pacific Cultural Center on May 12th and 13th.
- Annual Pride Flag Raising event on Wednesday June 3rd at noon.

Tracking and countering hate:

- Directing resources and support to community members.
- Strengthening agency partnerships and collaborating to educate and advocate on the needs of the 2SLGBTQIA+ population.
- Working with the Executive Committee and individual commissioners to address and assess incident responses and needs.

Communications Update: Numbers since last public meeting

- Newsletter: 3,713 Subscribers (up from 3,634 in March 2026 staff report, increase of 2.17%)
- Facebook: 2,926 followers (up from 2,860 in March 2026 staff report, increase of 2.3%), 16.2K content views, 629 content interactions
- Instagram: 2,944 followers (up from 2,812 in March 2026 staff report, increase of 4.7%), 15.5K content views, 747 content interactions
- Threads: 403 followers (up from 384 in March 2026 staff report, increase of 4.9%)
- Bluesky: 1,950 followers (up from 1,934 in March 2026 staff report, increase of 0.8%)
- LinkedIn: 206 followers (up from 191 in March 2026 staff report, increase of 7.9%), 318 content impressions

The Washington State LGBTQ Commission remains committed to advancing the goals outlined in our strategic plan, focusing on equity, community engagement, policy advocacy, and youth leadership. Over the few months, our work has focused on expanding access to resources, strengthening partnerships, following legislation, and monitoring and responding to state and federal policies.

The staff report aligns with [our strategic plan](#), outlining the progress made toward key priorities. Staff will provide updates on the Commission activities that align with each strategic plan priority and facilitate a discussion on additional actions we can take to further advance each priority.

Please note that this document is **long**, as for each sub-priority it lists:

- How we have met that priority in the past two months

- Upcoming work already in progress that addresses that priority
- Ways Commissioners can engage with priority
- What Commissioners have done in the past two months to achieve priorities
 - o There will be a chance to share your additions to this point during the meeting
- What more can we do to achieve this goal
 - o This will also be a discussion as we go through this report during the public meeting

Please Note: Using the arrows to the left-hand side of the headers of this document will make it easier to navigate and collapse/expand different sections.

Priority 1: Intersectional connections

1A: Be better known by and connected to LGBTQ Communities in WA.

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

- **Communications Update:** Numbers since last public meeting
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Youth Advisory Council:

- Council members regularly contribute to the monthly newsletter and social media content.
- YAC Summit is scheduled for August 3rd through 6th.
- Staff are still seeking requests for commissioners to submit workshop proposals.
- Interviews are continuing to happen to fill the remaining vacancies.

Upcoming Commission work that aligns with this priority:

- Director Keating met a community member who runs a transgender intergenerational support group through GenPride. She will connect this individual with the chairs of the Intergenerational Committee to explore possible opportunities to collaborate.

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Representing the Commission at community events.
- Suggest experts and organizations to present at public meetings, committees, or events.
- Introduce yourself and the Commission to organizations and individuals in your area.
- Host listening sessions and/or town halls with community members and organizations in your area.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

- Commissioners Maroon, Romero, and Eliatamby-O'Brien participated in a panel discussion focused on the multiple identities they each hold and why understanding intersectionality is critical to working with and better understanding the 2SLGBTQIA+ population.
- Commissioner Bullock-Clayton and Director Keating spend a day meeting with community organizations, groups, and elected leaders in her area to build and strengthen community connections.
- Co-Chair Preciado met with community leaders to listen and learn about concerns and work that is happening in the Kitsap County area.

What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Commissioners connecting staff to issues, incidents, or areas of concern to help identify potential steps, needs, and resources.

1B Increase education of Commissioners about WA LGBTQ communities.

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Suggest experts and organizations to present at public meetings, committees, or events
- Share information about what is happening in your community for staff to include in Friday Reports
 - News about the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in your area – including but not limited to local government and school board actions, hate crimes or discrimination taking place
 - Examples of positive 2SLGBTQIA+ actions like pride or other events and more
- Attend panels and listening sessions that the Commission hosts

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

- Commissioner Lozano attended a panel event hosted by the Seattle Housing Authority.
- Commissioner Preciado attended a City of Seattle event for the Department of Neighborhoods.

What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Staff continue to seek and/or create opportunities for the commission and commissioners to engage with community stakeholders and state agencies.

1C: Work with other community commissions.

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

- Monthly collaboration meetings led by the Office of Equity.
 - CHA, CAAA, CAPAA, GOIA, Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Employment, DVA.
- Director Keating attended the DOH Health Disparities Council meeting on February 23, 2026.
- Director Keating collaborated on a letter of support to the legislature, led by CAPAA, in support of immigration legislation.

- Director Keating regularly participates in the Immigration Subcabinet work and facilitates the LGBTQ+ Subcommittee which met on January 20th and February 10th that include a report out to the Immigration Subcabinet and newsletter.
- At the invitation of the Women’s Commission, Director Keating played the role of a legislator for dozens of Girl Scout troupes earning badges for the Girls on the Hill event.

Upcoming Commission work that aligns with this priority:

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Work with staff to schedule meetings with other state’s LGBTQ Commissions.
- Attend other WA community commissions/agencies public events.
 - WA Women’s Commission, Commission on African American Affairs, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Gov’s Committee on Disability and Employment, Gov’s Office of Indian Affairs, WA Dept on Veterans Affairs, Office of Equity.
- Invite other Commission’s commissioners to public events and committee meetings.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

- Commissioners Valerdi, Romero, and Lozano have engaged with the Immigration Subcabinet LGBTQ+ Subcommittee.

What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Commissioners connecting staff to issues, incidents, or areas of concern to help identify potential steps, needs, and resources.

Priority 2: Stewardship

- The priority of stewardship is a value reflected in each pillar. This priority was, in part, institute to help guide the work of commissioners. The role of staff is to collaborate with and support commissioners to succeed in their individual roles and for the commission as a whole.

2A: Increase Accountability

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Arriving prepared to all meetings ready to discuss action items, coming with ideas for the meeting.

- Checking Commission email **at least** once a week.
- Thoroughly reading Friday Reports and responding to action items in a timely manner.
- Doing work outside of Commission meetings and reporting to staff about your work.
 - Attending Commission committees/workgroups.
 - Speaking engagements.
 - 1:1 meetings with community leaders and members.
 - Organizing roundtables, listening sessions, town halls etc.

2B: Live our Mission

Mission: The Washington State LGBTQ Commission works to improve the state’s interface with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, and intersex community, identify the needs of its members, and ensuring that there is an effective means of advocating for LGBTQ equity in all aspects of state government.

Vision: As public servants committed to advancing equity and fostering liberation for all 2SLGBTQIA+ people, we embrace humility, compassion, diversity, collaboration, respect, and joy in our work. We pledge to honor public involvement, community accessibility, and to listen and proactively center the needs of the most marginalized members of our community.

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Ensure Commission committees, workgroups, and task forces all have clear objectives that align with our mission.
- Notify staff when you hear community concerns about state processes or actions so that we can work to make sure that constituent is supported with the resources they need to effectively advocate in state government.
- Do proactive work around making WA more inclusive for 2SLGBTQIA+ people: research state agencies and processes that could be improved for our community.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

2C: Set Values

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Share your values in committee meetings and in your 1:1s with Director Keating, so that these perspectives inform the Commission’s greater vision as a whole.
- Constantly drive your conversations in your commissioner role around values.

- Consider starting committee meetings or other meetings as a commissioner with a grounding in values.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

Priority 3: LGBTQ Elders

3A: Increase action on elder issues

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

- Director Keating worked with GenPride staff to arrange a roundtable discussion with residents about access to services and community connections on May 7th. Approximately 30 community members participated in a robust discussion about federal impacts and changes, legislative updates, needs and areas of success.

Upcoming Commission work that aligns with this priority:

- The Intergenerational Committee continues to increase engagement in their community connection series.

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Make specific efforts to reach out to 2SLGBTQIA+ elder populations.
- Meet with experts or those with experience with the elderly or issues around aging.
- Participate in or help plan Commission events that focus on 2SLGBTQIA+ elders and their needs.
 - This includes engaging with the Intersectionality Committee.
- Track policy around elder issues.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

- The Intergenerational Committee hosted a community conversation session on May 6th.

What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Staff continue to work to connect and engage with the aging population and providers or organizations serving this population.

3B: Commission diversity and recruitment

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

Upcoming Commission work that aligns with this priority:

- Staff regularly engage with community groups and nonprofits.
- Director Keating has been engaging with and expanding relationships with the staff and community members at GenPride.

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Share commission application information directly with organizations that work with 2SLGBTQIA+ elders.
- Invite 2SLGBTQIA+ elders to attend public meetings, committee meetings, and other commission events.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

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What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- The intent of this section is to collaborate with staff and commissioners on ideas to achieve this goal.

Priority 4: Support Basic Needs

4A: Educate Commission and commissioners on community needs

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

Upcoming Commission work that aligns with this priority:

- Director Keating and staff have been working closely with policy advisors and community stakeholders on identifying policy and legislative recommendations during the interim in preparation for the 2027 legislative session.
- Director Keating is attending the DOH Health Disparities Council quarterly meeting and community dinner on May 12th and 13th.

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Learn about efforts to support basic needs in Washington.
- Invite experts on different basic needs to come talk with Commissioners at meetings or committees.
- Holding listening sessions with community members focused on basic needs.

- Sharing what you have heard from the community on their access to basic needs with Commission staff, legislative advisors and policy advisors.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

- Co-Chair Lozano, Secretary Valerdi, and Commissioner Romero have attended and participated in the Immigration Subcabinet LGBTQ+ Subcommittee.
- Co-Chairs Lozano and Preciado, Commissioner Romero and Maroon participated in the first work session for the development of the new strategic plan.

What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Commissioners connecting staff to issues, incidents, or areas of concern to help identify potential steps, needs, and resources.

4B: Serve on agency work groups related to basic needs.

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

Upcoming Commission work that aligns with this priority:

- Director Keating will attend the Health Disparities Council meeting.
- Director Keating will participate in a series of government to government, and community engagement meetings with the Governor’s Office, CHA, and CAAPA on May 20th in Whatcom county.

Commissioner Committee Vacancies -

- Poverty Reduction Workgroup

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Represent the LGBTQ Commission on various state or outside workgroups that focus on basic needs or involve related policies.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

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What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Commissioners connecting staff to issues, incidents, or areas of concern to help identify potential steps, needs, and resources.

Priority 5: Track & Counter Hate

5A: Track

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

- Director Keating responded to a constituent who contacted the commission about an incident where they were targeted because of their queer identity. She shared resources and will stay in communication with this individual as a resource.
- Director Keating has been in regular communication with 2SLGBTQIA+ organizations in Wenatchee as they navigate sudden policy changes to diversity banners and the application process in the city of East Wenatchee.
- Staff responded to the tragic murder of a transgender UW student late Sunday May 11th. Director Keating alerted the Governor's Office and reached out to the Director of the UW Q Center.

Upcoming Commission work that aligns with this priority:

- Staff will continue to monitor the situation at UW and provide any updates they receive.

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Share hostile news reports and attacks against the 2SLGBTQIA+ with staff.
- Serve as a public resource of information on what the Legislature has historically done, what they are looking to do with potential legislation in the future, and how it could impact 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

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What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Commissioners connecting staff to issues, incidents, or areas of concern to help identify potential steps, needs, and resources.

5B: Counter

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

- Commission staff have consistently met with policy advisors and relevant state agency leaders to keep them informed of the impacts the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is experiencing.
- Staff continuously work with state agencies to improve service, access, and resources to the 2SLGBTQIA+ and address barriers and gaps.

Upcoming Commission work that aligns with this priority:

- Working with the federal policy team to prepare for potential impacts to WA laws from upcoming SCOTUS rulings.
- Ongoing work through the Immigration Subcabinet.
- The Friday Report is a tool to keep commissioners, legislative advisors, and policy advisors informed on current events, action items, news, and other relevant information.

Ways that Commissioners can engage with this priority:

- Meet with legislative advisors, other policy makers to educate them on the issues impacting our community.
- Share Commission and other state statements around protecting 2SLGBTQIA+ rights in state government.
- Connect targets of hate with staff and with resources to help.
- Publish an op-ed in local media around countering 2SLGBTQIA+ hate.
- Suggest resources and more to add to our website.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

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What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Commissioners connecting staff to issues, incidents, or areas of concern to help identify potential steps, needs, and resources.

5C: Advocate

Commission work since March 28, 2026:

- Staff have been planning the Annual Pride Flag Raising event that will take place on Wednesday June 3rd at noon at the Capitol steps.
- Sam has been working closely with YAC members planning the upcoming summit. As well as conducting interviews for YAC vacancies.

Education -

- Staff regularly meet with stakeholders to increase awareness about the commission and its work. As well as expanding and strengthening community relationships.
- Staff continue to promote the Rainbow Resource Hub, community feedback, and survey report to help inform agency partners, the Governor's Office, and community stakeholders.

What have Commissioners done in the past two months to achieve these priorities:

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What more can we do to achieve this priority:

- Testify as other and share information on how bills would affect the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.
- When allowed, explicitly support legislation that improves access, safety, or justice specifically for 2SLGBTQIA+ Washingtonians.
- In meetings as a commissioner, seek to improve status quo and advance progress for our community using an antiracist, pro-equity and intersectional framework.

To think about: **What are some ways that would help you as a commissioner feel more involved in this priority?**

Acronyms

- CHA - Commission on Hispanic Affairs
- CAPAA – Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
- CAAA – Commission on African American Affairs
- WSWC – Washington State Women’s Commission
- DOL – Department of Licensing
- DOH – Department of Health
- AWSP – Association of Washington School Principals
- WEA - Washington Education Association

- GOIA – Governor's office of Indian Affairs
- DVA – Department of Veterans Affairs
- WSP – Washington State Patrol
- OMWBE – Office of Minority Women Business Enterprises
- DFI – Department of Financial Institutions
- DCYF – Department of Children, Youth & Families