

## Meeting minutes from Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging 09/04/2024

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

2:00pm-3:30pm

Via WebEx

### Members in Attendance

Mary Killough, Glenda Corbett, Donald M. Bell, Billy Rogers, Angela Simmons, Charles Koehler, Danie Muriello, Dulce M. Quintero, Daisy Feidt, Phyllis Johnson, Jeff Berry, Stefanie Clark, Mike Maginn, Kim L. Hunt, Kathleen Robbins, Keith R. Green, Taylor Tefft, Aneesha Gandhi, Jennifer Epstein, Channyn Lynne Parker, Britta Larson, Kristin Hartsaw, Sarah Myerscough-Mueller.

### Members Absent

Christian Castro, Caprice Carthans, Kim Mank, Dary Mein.

### Guest in Attendance

Becky Dragoo, Timothy Jackson, Michael Stone, Caronina Grimble, Megan Conway, Nina Orłowski, Pamela Martinez Ruiz.

### Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
  2. Updates
  3. Commission Work
  4. Public Comment Period
  5. Closing- Summary and Next Steps
1. **Call to Order & Roll Call** – Donald M. Bell and Pamela Martinez Ruiz.
  2. **New Commissioners** – Welcome to new Commissioners, Mary Killough – IDoA Acting Director, and Channyn Lynn Parker.
  3. **Founding Commissioner Emerita** – Dr. Virginia Quinonez, had to step out of her role as Commissioner due to personal matters. The Commission honors her service and work as one of the Founding Commissioner.
  4. **Approval of 06/05/2024** – Motion to approve 06/05/2024 meeting minutes; motion carried.
  5. **Mandatory Trainings** – These trainings are annual and need to be completed for all the years the Commission is active. If any issues arise, please reach out to Glenda and/or Pamela. List of trainings for this year:
    - a. Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Training 2024.
    - b. Ethics Training Program for State Employees and Appointees 2024.

- c. LGBTQIA+ Equity and Inclusion 2024.
  - d. HIPAA & Privacy Training 2024.
  - e. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Training 2024.
  - f. Security Awareness 2024.
6. **Updates** – Billy Rogers, LGBTQ Older Adult Advocate: Commissioner Rogers shared with the group that he will be presenting with the Southern Illinois Pioneer Coalition. The presentation will be focused on the barriers the aging LGBTQ community faces with long term care. He participated in the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) Executive Directors Meeting which led him to have meetings scheduled with Directors of several AAAs. He did the inaugural OUTSafe training with East Central Illinois APS and has two additional trainings coming up in September. Commissioner Rogers thanked all subcommittees for the amazing work done. Donald M. Bell, Commission Co-Chair: Commissioner Bell attended the State Fair and represented the Commission on AARP's tent, the stakeholder organization that nominated him for the Commission. Commissioner Bell attended the DNC and did a presentation on the OUTSafe Initiative. Attended the National Men and Masculinity Conference in San Antonio for the LGBTQ Domestic Violence Program that was develop with the organization for Men Against Sexism. Commissioner Bell attended the Convention in Springfield with the Illinois Pioneer Coalition.
7. **Commission Work**
- a. **Governor's Multi-Sector Plan for Aging, Acting Director Killough** – The Governor signed the Executive Order to create this plan. The Multi-Sector Plan is in place to create a structure to do planning for the growth and the aging population that us expected. The plan has three major parts, 1) creating the position of a Multi-Sector Planning Chief, who would be housed at IDoA and report to the Governor's Office. They will be tasked with this effort and bringing it to the General Assembly in 2025. 2) The Executive order also creates a task force consisting of several State Agencies, including IDoA, DHS, IDPH, etc. the task force will work with the Chief to get this done. 3) The plan will create the blueprint of how the State should apply resources in the future for the aging population. It is important to have representation of all groups. The Commission will have a spot in this task force, to represent and voice the Commission's perspective and ideas.
  - b. **Establishment and Recertification of the Commission – AIDS Foundation and Equality Illinois, Timothy S. Jackson, and Commissioner Hunt** – A background look into the creation of the Commission and the next steps to have the Commission become permanent as opposed to a three-year Commission. The Commission came to be by the report [Disrupting Disparities](#) that are experience by LGBTQ older adults rooted in discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, racism, and lack of legal and social recognition. The Commission came to be due to the aging programming funded through the Federal Government Older Americans Act signed on 2019 by Governor Pritzker. The

legislation came to be with the support of Equality Illinois, several Senators, and Legislators as well as Former Director Basta which was very intentional in its DEIA efforts. Organization like AARP Illinois, AFC, Pride Action Tank, SAGE, and many others. The Commission was signed May of 2022 and was given three years. In terms of the Commission becoming permanent, one option is to strike the section in the original legislative language in which the Commission is established for three years, taking away the timeline and make the Commission permanent. Another option is to include repeal language in another bill that has to do with Aging or LGBTQ older adults. If the IDoA is advancing legislation for the Spring 2024 legislative session, this could be included there. If the Commission does this as standalone it will be faced with questions; will making this Commission permanent have an impact on State Agencies' budget moving forwards? Will the IDoA be the lead on the legislative change, or it will need to come from the community? In conclusion, a small group of Commissioner will be pulled to meet and discuss these details of how the Commission should move forward, this group will be pull together with on person from each of the sub-committees.

## 8. Subcommittees Reports –

- a. **Older Adults Living with HIV/AIDS and Long-Term Survivors** (Mike M. and Jeff B.). The group created a purpose statement to identify current resources and gaps in services for people Aging with HIV and Long-Term Survivors in the State. The subcommittee did research and found that it was important to reach people in all the counties and not only focus on the Chicagoland area. They also found the importance of person-centered care system. The subcommittee has had the issue of narrowing down the specific focus due to all the issues that have come to play while doing their research.
- b. **Housing Subcommittee** (Britta L. and Danie M.). The subcommittee came with the recommendation to create innovating housing options for LGBTQ older adults. Models like Townhall Apartments and One Roof Chicago can be an example for this. The group touching upon the importance of the partnership with other organizations like the Pioneer Coalition that is doing innovative things for LGBTQ older adults. Training and cultural competency is important when talking about long-term care in housing facilities for example. Highlighting needs that, older adults living with HIV facing in relation to housing opportunities and affordability.
- c. **Training and Outreach/Community Engagement Subcommittee** (Kim H. and Aneesha G.). The subcommittee has a purpose statement that includes developing, implementing, advocating for funding for statewide curricula that improves cultural competency in the delivery of culturally responsive health, housing and long-term support services to the LGBTQ aging community and older adults living with HIV. The group discussed that the Commission could develop a framework for the training rather than the actual training component,

to ensure that there is a baseline information that is included in those trainings that are already in place.

- d. **Healthcare Subcommittee** (Kristin H. and Angela S.). The subcommittee discussed the importance of increasing provider awareness of needs of the aging population and their caregivers. The importance of examining the policies and procedures to prevent premature admission to long-term care settings. The subcommittee also talked about developing a template to examine if healthcare providers take into consideration the needs of LGBTQ aging population and if the Bill of Rights address those needs as well. The group also put together the idea of listening sessions throughout the states and expand beyond the long-term health care needs.

**9. Meeting was opened for Public Discussion and Questions**

**10. Next meeting was announced for Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 2pm via WebEx.**

**11. Meeting Adjourned.**