

Meeting minutes from Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging 12/04/2024

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

2:00pm-3:30pm

Via WebEx

Members in Attendance

Mary Killough, Glenda Corbett, Donald M. Bell, Billy Rogers, Charles Koehler, Michael Maginn, Taylor Tefft, Britta Larson, Jennifer Epstein, Daisy Feidt, Stefanie Clark, Dulce Quintero, Aneesha Gandhi, Angela Simmons, Phyllis Johnson, Jeff Berry, Keith Green, Sarah Myerscough-Mueller.

Members Absent

Christian Castro, Caprice Carthans, Kim Mank, Dary Mein, Kim Hunt, Channyn Parker, Kathleen Robbins.

Guest in Attendance

Michael Stone, 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. **Approval of 06/05/2024** – Motion to approve 09/04/2024 meeting minutes; motion carried.
 3. **IDoA Director** – Acting Director for IDoA congratulated everyone on the great job done to receive an extension for the Commission.
 4. **Commission Extension** – Commissioner Bell shared the news that the Commission will be extended for a year. The Commission will be running until March of 2026. The Commission initially requested a three-year extension but was informed that all Commissions and Advisory Boards received a one-year extension. The Commission will keep working on producing an outstanding Final Report to be submitted by March 2026 to the Governor and General Assembly.
 5. **Mandatory Trainings** – These trainings need to be completed by the end of the year. The system to access OneNet has changed and if any issues arise, accounts need to be reactivated please reach out to Pamela to start this process; this takes 3-5 days. 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 did the OutSafe Training for Southeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Egyptian Area Agency on Aging, and Shawnee Alliance and Adult Protective Services. He also did a presentation with Southern Illinois Pride Coalition focused on the barriers that the Aging LGBTQ community face entering long-term care. Lastly, Commissioner Rogers reported that he has been in contact with Stephen Maxwell, Ombudsman Training Coordinator from IDoA to discuss the problems to identify individuals in long-term care who identify as part of the LGBTQ community. Donald M. Bell, Commission Co-Chair: Commissioner Bell shared that there has been a movement from several organizations across the country to urge Congress to preserve HIV funding. As part of the Commission's mission is Long-Term HIV Survival. Commissioner Bell motioned to join the organizations across the country on this movement, motion carried.
7. **Commission Extension** – The Commission received an extension of one year. One of the first changes is that in addition to a Chair of the Commission, the Commission will elect a Vice-Chair. This allows for IDoA's Director to serve as Ex-Officio to the Commission. The March 2025 meeting will entail an election for both positions: Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioner will be contacted individually to see what plans they have for this additional year. The Commission was approved to be part of the Intergenerational Advisory Board.
8. **Commission Work: Subcommittees Reports** –
- a. **Older Adults Living with HIV/AIDS and Long-Term Survivors** (Mike M. and Jeff B.). The subcommittee met on November 14 and discussed the importance of prevention and education for older adults and the changing dynamics as individuals age. Commissioner Berry will be at the White House Quality of Life Summit virtually. He was part of a meeting in Amsterdam with advocates where he presented on mental health and HIV and the necessity to have person centered and holistic care. The group is also looking into how training modules can be more inclusive and created to include sexual orientation and gender identification as well as addressing the trans community. The subcommittee also reviewed the Glasgow Manifesto to incorporate as a guiding tool to move forward in a more inclusive manner.
 - b. **Housing Subcommittee** (Britta L. and Danie M.). The subcommittee did not have their usual meeting this quarter, but Commissioner Larson attended a two-day conference by Pride Action Tank in Chicago that ties every of the topics

discussed by the Commission. The group is thinking about long-term care and the Ombudsman Office initiative to start thinking about LGBTQ training and inclusive initiatives.

- c. **Training and Outreach/Community Engagement Subcommittee** (Kim H. and Aneesha G.). The subcommittee keeps meeting monthly and discussed the initial topics. The group is also looking into receiving guidance on what the Commissions next steps would be with this new year and what they should be focusing on as a subcommittee.
 - d. **Healthcare Subcommittee** (Angela S.). Kristin Hartsaw stepped down from her position due to extra responsibilities in her job and Sarah Myerscough-Mueller stepped in from HFS. The subcommittee is focusing on transgender care, gender affirming care and reproductive health needs as well as behavioral health and HIV long-term care survivor health needs.
9. **Meeting was opened for Public Discussion and Questions**
 10. **Next meeting was announced for Wednesday, March 5, 2025 @ 2pm via WebEx.**
 11. **Meeting Adjourned.**