

## Meeting Minutes from Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging 12/06/23

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

2:00pm-3:30pm

Via WebEx

### Members in Attendance

Paula Basta, Donald M. Bell, Billy Rogers, Britta Larson, Kim L. Hunt, Daisy Feidt, Taylor Tefft, Virginia Quinonez, Keith Green, Charles Koehler, Kathleen Robbins, Stefanie Clark, Jeff Berry, Danie Muriello, Michael Maginn, Dulce Quintero, Angela Simmons, Kristin Hartsaw.

### Members Absent

Christian Castro, Phyllis Johnson, Aneesha Gandhi, Dairy Mien, Caprice Carthans, Kim Mank, Jennifer Epstein.

### Guests in Attendance

Becky Dragoo, Selma D'Souza, Iris Schweier, Jim Harvey, Mary Anderson, Mike Ziri, George Theotokatos, Amy Brennan, Pamela Calvert, Douglas Curtis, Aaron Tax, JT Williams, Josh Dubensky, Iana, David Alfini, Michael Stone, Alex Armira, Jackie Thaney, Maliyah Arnold, Nina Orlowski, Serena Worthington, Lauren Beach, Jaycee, David Rex James.

### 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 and Roll Call** – Donald M. Bell and Pamela Martinez Ruiz
  2. **Approval of 09/06/2023 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve 09/06/2023 meeting minutes, motion carried.
  3. **Mandatory Training** – Pamela Martinez Ruiz updated the Commission Members on the progress made to completing the Mandatory Trainings. If Commission Members are still having issues log in into OneNet, reach out via email to Pamela to work out the issues and make sure you can access the trainings. All trainings are due by the end of December.
  4. **Leadership Team Updates** – Chairperson, Donald M. Bell: Commissioner Bell has been out in the community representing the Commission in spaces like RRF Foundation on Aging, AIDS Day Memorial, etc. People in Illinois are becoming more aware of the Commission and the work that is doing. Advocate, Billy Rogers: “I will fight for you

because I am you” – Harvey Milk. Commissioner Rogers sat on the Caregiving with IDoA on Southern Illinois, Ageism and Ableism Panel with the Illinois Pioneer Coalition. Connected and dialogue with four AAAs in the state and plans to connect with the rest of the AAAs. Liaison, Glenda Corbett: Has helped connecting the Commission with different structures in the State bureaucracy to explain the Commission’s existence and why some of the request may seem different. Special Assistant, Pamela Martinez Ruiz: A list serve has been created and with this, the Commission will have an email address that then can send any emails needed to all Commission Members without having to type every single email.

5. **Subcommittees Updates –**

**Housing Subcommittee** (Britta L. and Danie M.) shared that the Housing Subcommittee has had fantastic meetings. Their meeting last month had a special report a student who did a survey assessment of the housing need for the Center on Addison. Additionally, a survey with staff and local senior living communities was done.

**Training and Outreach/Community Engagement Subcommittee** (Kim H. and Virginia Q) shared that they did a deep dive into SAGE’s training website to see what they are doing in other states. After that, someone from SAGE’s training department was invited to one of the subcommittee meetings and they spoke to the subcommittee about the different trainings they do. The subcommittee will also do a deep dive into the three big reports from other states that have been shared with the Commission Members before to see what information regarding training can be found.

**Healthcare Subcommittee** (Kristin H. and Angela S.) shared that they looked at the Massachusetts report for one of the subcommittees meetings. The subcommittee is in the information gathering phase and that has been the focus during meetings. Becky Drago and Gabrielle Moroney attended the last subcommittee meeting to talk about admission to long-term care settings, preadmission screening resources and referral process.

**Older Adults Living with HIV/Long-Term Survivors** (Mike M. and Jeff B.) Shared that the subcommittee has been working on creating specific goals for the group and investigate other report already available to see what path they can follow. The subcommittee has also been doing a deep dive into information that is present in other plans.

6. **Guest Speakers –**

**Michael “Mike” Ziri, Equality IL; Legislative Process Review:** Mike talked about the legislative process, and the Bill that created the Commission. Mike highlighted the history of Illinois and its leadership on advancing LGBTQ+ equality and inclusion. A new law in Illinois passed that requires schools to teach students contributions of LGBTQ+ people. Healthcare providers in the State of Illinois are required to take cultural competency education as part of their

continuing medical education. Senate Bill 3490 (now Public Act 102-0885), three components; 1) creating the IL Commission on LGBTQ+ Aging, 2) requiring ongoing LGBTQ+ cultural competency training for staff and vendors that receive funding from IDoA; 3) requiring the IDoA to designate an LGBTQ+ Older Adult Advocate on staff (first in the nation to implement this).

**George Theotokatos, Koya Partners; Director Search:** George shared with the Commission Members the process the Koya Partners is doing while doing the search for the next Director for IDoA. George explained that the process starts with an assessment, the Firm meets with various stakeholders and leaders to better understand all the needs and expectations for the role. The second phase is the candidate development phase, where the Firm is speaking with candidates and work with leaders to source potential leaders. The third phase is the interview process, where candidates are brought to the Governor and the Deputy Governor's Office. The final phase is the offer phase, where candidates are invited, and the offer letter is signed. During this process, an acting or interim director will be named, this person cannot be a candidate in the current search and will serve until the new full time Director is named.

7. **Resolutions Honoring Partners of the Illinois Commission on LGBTQ+ Aging –**

**Resolution – Honor Equality Illinois and AFS/Pride Action Tank:** The Illinois Commission on LGBTQ+ Aging acknowledged and commended Equality Illinois and AFC/Pride Action Tank for their Advocacy in the interest of the LGBTQ+ Aging Community of Illinois that supported the Legislative Processes establishing the Commission.

**Resolution – Honor AARP Illinois and SAGE:** The Illinois Commission on LGBTQ+ Aging acknowledged and commended AARP Illinois and SAGE for the research resulting in “Disrupting Disparities” that supported the Legislative Processes establishing the Commission.

**Resolution – Job Description and Position Announcement:** The Illinois Commission on LGBTQ+ Aging reviewed and decided that the Job Description and Position Announcement for the Director of the Illinois Department on Aging meets LGBTQ+ cultural competency standards.

**Resolution – Honor Director Paula Basta:** The Illinois Commission on LGBTQ+ Aging acknowledged and commended Paula Basta, Founding Commissioner and Director of the Illinois Department on Aging for her advocacy in the interest of the LGBTQ+ Aging Community and the People of Illinois, guiding and supporting the Legislative Process establishing the Commission and outstanding Leadership for the Department.

8. **Meeting was opened for Public Discussion and Questions –** No public comments or questions were made.

9. **Next meeting was announced, Wednesday, March 6, 2024 @ 2:00 PM virtually/hybrid.**

10. **Meeting Adjourned.**