

Meeting minutes from Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging 03/06/2024

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

2:00pm-3:30pm

Via WebEx

Members in Attendance

Selma D'Souza (Interim Director), Charles Koehler, Donald M. Bell, Britta Larson, Christian Castro, Daisy Feidt, Taylor Tefft, Phylis Johnson, Virginia Quinonez, Aneesha Gandhi, Keith R. Green, Charles Koehler, Billy Rogers, Kathleen Robbins, Stefanie Clark, Danie Muriello, Michael Maginn, Dulce Quintero, Jennifer Epstein, Angela Simmons, Kristin Hartsaw.

Members Absent

Dairy Mein, Kim Hunt (Medical Leave), Caprice Carthans, Kim Mank.

Guest in Attendance

Mike Bayless, David Hubbell, Iris Schweier, Carrie Maxwell, Jim Harvey, Lisa Krinsky, Katie Fasullo, Caronina Grimble, Channyn Lynne Parker, Joli Angel Robinson.

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.
 - a. **Listserv** – A new listserv was announced for the Commission to better help with communication within the Commission. For any questions about the listserv reach out to Pamela via email at Pamela.MartinezRuiz@illinois.gov.
 2. **Approval of 12/6/2023 Meeting Minutes** – Motion to approve 12/6/2023 meeting minutes; motion carried.
 3. **Mandatory Trainings** – Clarifications regarding the trainings were made. These trainings are annual and need to be completed for all the years the Commission is active. Differently from last year, this year IDoA's Human Resources department will be in charge of the trainings. Log ins should be the same as last year for all Commission Members. 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.
4. **Updates** – Billy Rogers, LGBTQ Older Adult Advocate: Billy has established dialogue with five of the thirteen Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) throughout the State. Three of the thirteen organizations work directly with organizations that represent the LGBTQ+ community. Donald and Billy have been working with Carolyn Austin from AgeLinc on Aging LGBTQ Violence Prevention training. If you need anything, Billy is always here to help, reach out to him and will be happy to support and assist as much as possible.
5. **Guest Speakers**
- a. **Lisa Krinsky, Director of the LGBTQIA+ Aging Project:** Joining from Massachusetts to share with the Commission about the LGBT Aging Commission in that state. The Commission in Massachusetts offers state-wide listening sessions and opportunity for written testimonies. Lisa shared that the overarching themes/issues they found are data collection and needs assessment; training and evaluation; outreach and access; service delivery; and complaint resolution. The Commission created and published a report to legislature in 2015 with the information collected from the work the Commission did in years prior. The following recommendations in the report were Housing (LGBT friendly housing initiatives, comprehensive needs assessment and curriculum for culture competency module); Senior Center and Community Engagement (develop of community based programs, make all senior center welcoming for everyone, establish “hubs” of LGBT program in Senior centers); Long Term Services and Support (state agencies and providers/facility networks should have regular and recurring training, state assessment and program evaluation should include sexual orientation and gender identity as something critical); and Legal Consideration (legislate equal access to public accommodations, increase explicit legal protections, and ensure that transgender individuals have their accurate gender reflected on their death certificate).
 - b. **Joli Angel Robinson, CEO Center On Halsted:** Joli shared about herself and work in the Center. Joli started as the CEO on Center on Halsted on January 8th, 2024. She moved from Dallas, Texas to Chicago to be able to serve in this position. Before her work on the Center, she was the CEO of a non-profit on Dallas that served the homeless community from youth to seniors. She then moved to Habitat for Humanity where she focused on building home for people who needed them. Her passion grew in the housing sector, Joli got involved in advocacy and policy on housing. Other of her focuses are inclusive and affirming communities, racial healing, and transformation, racial equity, and community engagement.

6. Subcommittees Update –

- a. **Older Adults Living with HIV/AIDS and Long-Term Survivors** (Mike M. and Jeff B.). The subcommittee created a purpose statement to identify services resources and gaps for aging people living with HIV and long-term survivors in the state of Illinois. The subcommittee meets on the second Thursday of each month at noon.
 - b. **Housing Subcommittee** (Britta L. and Danie M.). The subcommittee shared about the interview process they are working on to gather information regarding innovative housing models in Illinois and the country to include in the report.
 - c. **Training and Outreach/Community Engagement Subcommittee** (Kim H. and Aneesha G.). The subcommittee meets every month on the third Tuesday of the month at noon. The subcommittee is working on understanding feasibility of training and outreach protocols statewide and in IDoA. Building provider awareness and examining access to funding to training.
 - d. **Healthcare Subcommittee** (Kristin H. and Angela S.). The subcommittee meets on Friday mornings on the last Friday of the month. The subcommittee is interested in increasing provided awareness and surveying older adults and caregivers, examining policies and procedures to prevent premature admission to long-term care settings.
7. **Meeting was opened for Public Discussion and Questions** – Jim Harvey shared about the One Roof Chicago initiative.
8. **Next meeting was announced for June 5th, 2024 @ 2pm hybrid at Springfield, IL.**
9. **Meeting Adjourned.**