

Virginia LGBTQ+ Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, 8 June 2022, 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

East Reading Room, Patrick Henry Building, 1111 E. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia

Agenda

12:43 p.m. Meeting called to order by Ms. Turner

- Meeting Overview
- Comments from Governor Youngkin
 - Governor Youngkin, First Lady Youngkin, and Secretary James stopped by at the beginning of the meeting. Governor Youngkin began and ended his remarks by strongly condemning hate speech and racist symbols. He also expressed his appreciation for the Board's work and said he looked forward to receiving the Board's Report.
- Meeting Minutes Approval and Adoption of Agenda
 - 13 April Meeting Minutes approved with no changes.
 - Agenda adopted with no changes.
- All-Board Discussion of Recent Developments and Path Forward
 - Ms. Turner and Mr. Thorne-Begland led a discussion about recent events, such as the harassment at a recent meeting of the Education & Workforce Committee, the Administration declining to reappoint the Members whose terms were up at the end of June and transparency or lack thereof in communications with the Administration. They hoped to elicit opinions on how best to move forward and continue serving the LGBTQ+ community regardless of support or lack thereof from the Administration.
 - Many Members expressed disappointment in the challenges, both internal and external, the Board had faced since its inception one year ago. They spoke to the difficulty of building trust with the Administration, with the community, and with each other. Several expressed ambivalence about remaining on the Board and expressed regret over what they felt was a lack of efficacy. Several expressed that they felt the best path forward was to rise above any administrative obstacles and continue to stay engaged because of the importance of the work.
 - The Board identified lack of communication as a major stumbling block, both between Members and between the Board and the Administration. It would be vital to change the collegial environment for the better to build a solid foundation for the Board to move forward.

- Committee Breakouts
 - Board members broke out into committees. Three committees met in person with virtual participants calling in to individual meetings while the Health Committee used the virtual platform.
 - *Education & Workforce*: Dr. Banfield reported that the committee had discussed their recommendations for inclusion in the Annual Report and come up with a list. They would continue to refine them at the committee meeting scheduled for the next day, 9 June, with the aim of having a complete draft of their section of the Report by 30 June.
 - *Housing & Infrastructure*: Mx. McKeller Crosby reported that the committee had discussed the enormous need for affordable housing, potential grants available for small businesses and job training, and the problem of transportation in rural communities. Their next meeting would be held on 16 June.
 - *Safety*: Ms. Merlo reported that the committee discussed security at the Board's meetings. They identified several potential areas for action going forward, including regional safety town halls, working with police DEI liaisons and improving police training, requesting a security briefing about the Capitol grounds, encouraging more LGBTQ+ people to enter careers in public safety, and examining domestic violence complaints are handled by the police, especially when involving trans victims.
 - *Health*: Dr. Motley reported that the committee had kept up with its plan to meet twice a month since April and in that time had developed a framework using a Comprehensive Participatory Planning and Evaluation (CPPE) approach. Through their CPPE process, they had developed visual maps of key issues and how they interact with each other to show the complexity of the problems and their underlying causes. Their plan for their upcoming meetings are in June to select their priorities and in July to invite speakers. They also would like to support the translation of the report into Spanish and at least one other language.
- Executive Officer Elections
 - Due to all three Officer's terms expiring at the end of June, the Board invited nominations for and held an election to choose new officers. The elections were not postponed until the August meeting due to the fact that the Annual Report must be approved at the August meeting.
 - The Board discussed the fact that Member's terms are in line with the fiscal year but the Officers' terms in line with the calendar year. Especially because this would be the third election in three meetings, it was proposed that the newly elected officers serve 18 months (until December 2023), but there was no second for the Motion. Instead, the Board voted to amend its election procedures document to align Officer's terms to the fiscal year.

- **Q: Is it possible for officers to serve for 18 months?**

A: Under statute, the Board must hold an election for officers every calendar year. Since the Board has held one (soon to be two) in 2022, it would be possible to push the next election into 2023, but it would have to occur no later than December 2023 to comply with the law.

- The newly elected Executive Officers are:

- Board Chair: Joanna Keller
- Vice Chair: Stephanie Merlo

There were no nominees for Secretary.

- Discussion of Pride Reception

- In light of announcements by several major LGBTQ+ organizations announcing they would be boycotting the Pride Reception held at the Capitol Rotunda that evening, Ms. Turner invited discussion of Members' attendance and if the Board felt it appropriate to take any action as a unit. The Board declined to do so.

- Members discussed the nature of their appointment to the Board, who they were there representing, and what were appropriate strategies for doing so.

- **Q: Who is authorized to represent the Board to the press?**

A: No one is automatically authorized to represent the views of the Board to the press; there must be a vote on any public statements before they are made on behalf of the Board. Members may make public statements about any issue already decided by the Board (e.g., any member could tell a reporter that the Board supports the repeal of the Marshall-Newman Amendment, because that was voted on) and on their personal views (e.g., "I intend to introduce a Motion at the next meeting to do xyz," or "If there were a Motion about xyz, I would support it.")

- **Q: Are Members attending virtually allowed to vote?**

A: Yes. Virtual participation is governed by the policy passed at the beginning of the 13 April meeting, which includes a right to vote. Additionally, any Member at any time may request a raised-hand or roll-call vote on any Motion if they feel the voice vote was ambiguous or that additional clarity is needed on the result.

- Annual Report and Next Steps

- The Annual Report is due at the end of August, so Committees should begin drafting their recommendations and submit them to Mx. Goehring to be formatted and added to the master document.

- Public Comment

- Roland Winston submitted comments in writing, which will be distributed to the Board for their perusal after the meeting.

- Closing Remarks

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Action Items

1. Continue committee for and begin preparing Annual Report
2. Consider nominations for Secretary

Next Meeting Agenda

Will include approval of Annual Report and election of Secretary. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for 10 August.

Attendees

Board Members:

- Matt Banfield (he/him)
- Michael Berlucchi (he/him)
- Amanda Goehring (ze/hir)
- Rob Keeling (he/him)
- Joanna Keller (she/her)
- Kyle Mason (they/them)
- N. McKeller Crosby (they/them)
- Stephanie Merlo (she/her)
- Bryan Price (he/him)
- Patty Smith (she/her)
- Michael Thorne-Begland (he/him)*
- Lisa Turner (she/her)

By telephone:

- Charley Burton (he/him)
- Kevin Han (he/him)*
- Monica Motley (she/her or they/them)
- Jes Simmons (she/her)

Ex-officio members:

- Kay Coles James (she/her), Secretary of the Commonwealth*

Not in attendance:

- Demas Boudreaux (he/him)
- Evelyn BruMar (she/her)
- Jonathan Dromgoole (he/him)
- Aurora Higgs (she/her or they/them)
- Tracy Monegain (she/her)

Speakers:

- (None)

Administration Members:

- Rosa Atkins (she/her), Acting Chief Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Officer
- Justin Bell (he/him), Assistant Attorney General and Board Counsel
- Suzanne Holland (she/her), Director of Advisory Board Administration
- Michael Perez (he/him), Special Assistant for Diversity, Opportunity, and Inclusion
- C.J. Sailor (he/him), Deputy Director of Constituent Outreach*
- Olivia Saunders (she/her), Governor's Fellow
- Nikki Thacker (she/her), Chief Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth
- Glenn Youngkin (he/him), Governor of Virginia*
- Suzanne Youngkin (she/her), First Lady of Virginia*

Guests:

- R. Crice
- Jahd Khalil
- C. Matthews
- Donna Price

* Indicates Partial Attendance

Motions

Motion to Approve Minutes		
Moved: N. McKeller Crosby	Seconded: Kyle Mason	
Yeas: 14	Nays: 0	Abstentions: 1

Motion to Approve Agenda		
Moved: N. McKeller Crosby	Seconded: Kyle Mason	
Yeas: 15	Nays: 0	Abstentions: 0

Motion to Temporarily Extend Term of Next Officers until December 2023		
Moved: <i>N. McKeller Crosby</i>	Seconded: --	
Yeas: --	Nays: --	Abstentions: --

Motion to Amend Officer Terms to Run from 1 July to 30 June		
Moved: <i>Michael Berlucchi</i>	Seconded: <i>Joanna Keller</i>	
Yeas: 13	Nays: 1	Abstentions: 0

Motion to Adjourn		
Moved: <i>Matt Banfield</i>	Seconded: <i>Patty Smith</i>	
Yeas: 15	Nays: 0	Abstentions: 0

Election Results

Nominees for the role of Board Chair:

- **Joanna Keller** (8)
Banfield, Berlucchi, Goehring, Keller, McKeller Crosby, Motley, Smith, Turner
- **N. McKeller Crosby** (4)
Keeling, Merlo, Price, Thorne-Begland

Nominees for the role of Board Vice Chair:

- **N. McKeller Crosby** (4)
Keeling, Keller, Price, Turner
- **Stephanie Merlo** (10)
Banfield, Berlucchi, Goehring, Keeling, Mason, McKeller Crosby, Merlo, Motley, Simmons, Thorne-Begland

Nominees for the role of Secretary:

- (None)

Written Public Comment

Good afternoon members of the Virginia Governor's LGBTQ+ Advisory Board. 6-8-22

I have attended some committee meetings and am concerned about two statements I heard. One was made by a committee chair. 'There is no reason to rush, we have four years'. While that person was appointed to a four year term, everyone was not and we have no idea whether this governor will reappoint those who request it. The second was 'we need to make a report that the administration will be receptive to'.

I expect a strong factual report that speaks to the needs and concerns of LGBTQ+ residents of Virginia. Governor Youngkin's efforts to replace 'Equity' with Opportunity is telling. Additionally, the Governor is the former COO of the Carlyle Group which plays significantly in Florida's efforts to restrict textbooks.

<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/As-Florida-rejects-dozens-of-math-textbooks-17120003.php>

I again refer you to the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth.

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/annual-recommendations-commission-on-lgbtq-youth#2022->

The Commission is mandated to make recommendations about policies and programs supporting LGBTQ youth to the State government and its agencies, and to ask for adequate funding in the annual State budget for effective programs. The Commission has produced reports for the last five years under a Republican Governor. The current report is 215 pages and is a template that can be valuable to you. The country wide data and any studies can certainly be utilized in a Virginia report and the Massachusetts data guides you on data collection models needed in Virginia.

At the Safety Committee meeting a question was asked about law enforcement **LGBTQ+ Liaisons**. A list of the liaisons that I am aware of is attached. The PD liaisons in the Richmond area are in contact with each other and I would assume this is true in Tidewater as well but they have not formed a collaborative network statewide. It would be beneficial if a group at least proposed a checklist. For instance is it clear on an agency's website that they have a liaison, do they have a policy for trans folks names whether the person is a victim or perpetrator.

Also SSO/SRO issues came up. This information is repeated from my comment at a previous Board meeting. **Safe Schools** are critical for LGBTQ+ students and particularly those students of color and with disabilities. Virginia Council on LGBTQ+ is a member of Dignity in Schools whose work is on Community not Cops <https://dignityinschools.org/?s=community+not+cops> this is part of GLSEN's work as well

<https://www.glsen.org/activity/counseling-not-criminalization-schools-act#:~:text=The%20Counseling%20Not%20Criminalization%20in%20Schools%20Act%20provides%20that%20support,incl,uding%20the%20particu> SB 3 and SB 729 GA session 2020 aimed at solutions. HB 292 GA session 2020 requires MOU's between school divisions and law enforcement be reviewed every two years and subject to public input. While this is a positive step it does not work toward removing SRO's

from schools and is further complicated by a lengthy model MOU produced by the Department of Criminal Justice rather than by Educators and Mental Health providers. (attached). Compare this to a three page model from the Advancement Project
<https://juvjustice.org/sites/default/files/ckfinder/files/Advancement%20Project%20Model%20MOU%20Between%20a%20School%20District%20and>

Additionally, I am again raising up the following

LGBTQ+ Youth in Foster Care aren't protected from religion. HB 1932 GA 2020 aimed to remove protections for religious agencies to continue to deny services to prospective LGBTQ+ parent applicants. The bill was passed by. However, I am not aware of any efforts to protect LGBTQ+ youth from religious agencies placing them with unsupportive families..

Child Sex Trafficking LGBTQ+ Youth are disproportionately impacted by homelessness compared to their cisgender and straight counterparts. While family conflict is the primary cause of LGBTQ+ youth homelessness, several circumstances can lead these youth to experiencing homelessness, including aging out of the foster care system, a lack of LGBTQ+ accepting shelters, and shortages of culturally competent housing programs for LGBTQ+ youth in child welfare. Consequently, LGBTQ+ youth are at greater risk of child sex trafficking victimization. Child welfare providers, law enforcement, and other youth serving professionals needs to be trained about the nuances and complex traumas related to child sex trafficking of LGBTQ+ youth. Other criminal justice involvement often masks trafficking victimization, so adequate training is necessary to serve all youth survivors, and particularly, LGBTQ+ survivors who are overrepresented in this victim population. SB 664 GA session 2022 Provides that a minor engaged in prostitution or keeping, residing in, or frequenting a bawdy place shall not be proceeded upon as delinquent and shall be referred to the local department of social services for an assessment and services. This bill was passed by in the House subcommittee

Further, I have attached several map reports recently released by GLSEN that may be useful to you. <https://maps.glsen.org/>

One of the attachments is the Policy Score Card. Virginia is rated 1/7. It is disappointing that VA has the same rating as FL 1/7, GA 1/7, WV 1/7

For contrast CA 7/7, DC 5/7, MD 4/7, NC 0/7