



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Youth & Education Committee Minutes
September 30, 2025, 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Asher Kennedy, Committee Chair
Wendy Novak, Committee Vice Chair
Joan Bryan

Members Not Present:

Sarah Stern
Brandon Russell
Ex-Officio: Lee Blinder

Staff Present:

Director: Jeremy Browning
Special Assistant: Taylor Harer

- I. Committee Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:05pm
- II. Committee Chair Kennedy acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Kennedy.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Agenda item VIII was added to the agenda. There were no additional comments or changes and the agenda was approved by unanimous consent.
- V. Approval of 8.20.2025 Minutes: There were no additions or changes and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.
- VI. Discussion: Review and Finalize Updates to Recommendations for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students - Director Browning provided updates and led the discussion. The Committee reviewed the suggested edits and the group reviewed and approved them together. There was an open floor discussion and the Committee shared comments and suggestions, and the text was edited accordingly to reflect the feedback.

- VII. Discussion: Freedom to Read Act Enforcement - Director Browning noted that he had hoped to have more information available but did not at this time. The discussion focused on identifying gaps in enforcing the Freedom to Read Act.
- VIII. Discussion: Local Issues - The Committee held an open floor discussion on local issues. Commissioner Novak reported that anti-LGBTQIA+ groups are attempting to establish chapters in schools, while GSAs are being restricted and replaced with vaguely named clubs. Additionally, it was noted that PFLAG is not permitted in schools because it is considered political.
- IX. Meeting adjourned by Committee Vice Chair Novak at 8:14pm.

Minutes submitted by: Special Assistant, Taylor Harer