



**Maryland Commission
on LGBTQIA+ Affairs**

Youth & Education Committee Minutes
October 28, 2025, 7:00pm - 8:30pm
Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Asher Kennedy, Committee Chair
Wendy Novak, Committee Vice Chair
Joan Bryan
Brandon Russell
Sarah Stern

Members Not Present:

Ex-Officio: Lee Blinder

Staff Present:

Director: Jeremy Browning
Special Assistant: Taylor Harer

- I. Committee Chair Kennedy called the meeting to order at 7:04pm
- II. Committee Chair Kennedy acknowledged housekeeping and meeting guidelines.
- III. Roll call was conducted by Committee Chair Kennedy.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: There were no additions or corrections and the agenda was approved via unanimous consent.
- V. Approval of 9.30.2025 Minutes: The minutes were presented for review. Commissioner Bryan made the motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Novak seconded. The minutes were approved with all in favor.
- VI. Discussion: Updates to the Recommendations for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students - Director Browning presented the updated *Recommendations for Supporting LGBTQIA+ Students* working document and reviewed recent changes, which the Committee approved after discussion. Revisions included adding a link to the Howard County policy, clarifying guidance on name and pronoun usage, and recommending procedures to

ensure accurate student records. The Committee also discussed addressing the rise of Turning Point chapters, creating a “toolbox” for parents, families, and caregivers, and a suggestion to partner with MSDE on a youth community needs assessment.

- 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 floor was opened to the Committee to discuss local issues. There were no additional issues for comments for discussion.
- IX. Meeting adjourned by Committee Chair Kennedy at 8:21pm.

Minutes submitted by: Special Assistant, Taylor Harer