



Illinois Department on Aging

Paula A. Basta, Director - 555 W. Monroe, Suite 1500-S Chicago, IL 60661

March 30, 2023

Honorable Members of the General Assembly and Governor:

Public Act 102-0885 as codified in 20 ILCS 105/3, formed the Illinois Commission on LGBTQ Aging effective May 16, 2022. By statute, the Commission will examine the impact of State and local laws, policies, and regulations on LGBTQ older adults and make recommendations to ensure equitable access, treatment, care and benefits, and overall quality of life; examine strategies to increase provider awareness of the needs of LGBTQ older adults and their caregivers and to improve the competence of and access to treatment, services, and ongoing care, including preventive care; and carry out other duties.

Background:

The Commission was created to investigate, analyze, and study the health, housing, financial, psychosocial, home-and-community-based services, assisted living, and long-term care needs of LGBTQ older adults and their caregivers. The Commission is charged to make recommendations to improve access to benefits, services, and supports for LGBTQ older adults and their caregivers. The Commission, in formulating its recommendations, shall consider the best policies and practices in other states and jurisdictions.

Current:

In compliance with the Illinois Compiled Statute 20 ILCS 105/7.01, the Commission on LGBTQ Aging reports that the following members have been appointed to the Commission as of today March 30, 2023:

Paula A. Basta Chair	Donald M. Bell Co-Chair	Billy Rogers – LGBTQ Advocate	Christian Castro	Kim L. Hunt	Taylor Tefft	Phyllis Johnson
Dr. Virginia Quinonez	Aneesha Gandhi	Dr. Keith Green	Dary Mien	Daisy Feidt	Charles Koehler	Caprice Carthans
Dr. Kathleen Robbins	Stefanie Clark	Jeff Berry	Danie Muriello	Alexis Martinez	Michael Maginn	Kim Mank
Britta Larson						

The body held its first quarterly meeting on January 18, 2023 to discuss the purpose of the Commission and operational matters (future meeting dates, required trainings, etc.) in furtherance of its statutory mandate to propose recommendations to improve access to benefits, services, and supports for LGBTQ older adults and their caregivers, the Commission has created the following sub-committees to ensure intentionality in their work:



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Training and Outreach/Community Engagement – The Training and Outreach Subcommittee seeks to develop statewide training curricula to improve provider competency in delivery of health, housing, and long-term support services to the LGBTQ+ aging community. In addition, we plan to create an outreach plan to identify training needs within and outside of the LGBTQ+ aging community and address apprehension within the LGBTQ+ aging community in utilizing mainstream providers.

HealthCare - The Healthcare Subcommittee seeks to enhance healthcare access for LGBTQ Illinoisians who are aging. We will assure that health care is delivered in a safe and welcoming manner by increasing provider competency, assuring that patients know their options and rights. We hope to increase healthcare utilization among the LGBTQ Aging Population by examining how our patients utilize healthcare and the overall patient experience.

Older Adults Living with HIV/AIDS and Long-Term Survivors – The Older Adults Living with HIV/AIDS and Long-term Survivors subcommittee seeks to address the isolation paradox among long-term survivors of HIV. We plan to identify and or create ways for people to connect socially, which can assist with finding those that are isolated which has proven to be extremely challenging. We will identify culturally sensitive and appropriate training for healthcare and social service providers who care for those living with HIV.

Housing – The Housing Subcommittee seeks to identify and address challenges and concerns with the provision and availability of LGBTQ+ affirming housing, home care and long-term care. This will be accomplished through a comprehensive review of data, analysis of existing resources and provision of testimony which will inform recommendations for policies, procedures, and best practices to address this issue.

The Commission will meet at a regular quarterly cadence to study, develop, and finalize recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula A. Basta".

Paula A. Basta
Director
Illinois Department on Aging