



The Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth

Monthly Newsletter

September 2018

[Commission Calendar](#)

- October Executive Committee Meeting: **Monday, October 22, 6:00-8:00pm**, at JRI Health, 75 Amory Street (rear entrance), Boston.
- Winter Full Commission Meeting: **Tuesday, December 18, 5:30-7:30pm** at DPH 2nd Floor, 250 Washington Street, Boston.

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meetings, but must RSVP to commission@ma-lgbtq.org at least 24 hours before the event to be added to the security list.

[Commission News](#)

Membership Applications Open

We are pleased to announce the opening of our [annual membership application](#). The Commission is comprised of 50 members, which include 27 appointed by community partners and 23 elected from the general public. This year, we have approximately 17 elected positions available, and we are looking for individuals from all over the state to apply. Diversity of race, ethnicity, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, ability, and more is all highly desired - anyone with knowledge of the issues facing LGBTQ youth and a desire to help in our work is encouraged to apply. Please [see the application](#) for more information and email commission@ma-lgbtq.org with any questions. Applications due by Monday, October 29th.

Our Suicide Prevention Work Profiled

The Commission's work on preventing suicide among LGBTQ youth was profiled on

WCVB's [Chronicle news program](#). Our Director, Corey Prachniak-Rincón, and an Executive Committee member, Grace Sterling Stowell, were interviewed for the program, which was released on September 13th to mark National Suicide Prevention Week. They discussed the high rate of suicidal thought and attempt faced by LGBTQ youth, and what is being done in the Commonwealth to prevent it - such as the Commission's [Safe Schools Program](#) and many [community resources](#), such as BAGLY, for which Sterling Stowell serves as executive director.

If you or someone you know needs immediate assistance, the [Trevor Project's](#) hotline is open 24 hours a day: 1-866-488-7386.

Model MOU Launched

The Attorney General's Office [published](#) a model memorandum of understanding (MOU) to help schools enter into written agreements with respect to school resource officers (SROs). This model document aims to help schools meet new requirements under criminal justice reform to have rules for who serves as SROs and what role they play. The Commission is grateful to the Attorney General's Office for being given the opportunity to weigh in on the document along with our colleagues at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Reforming SRO policies and reducing bias against LGBTQ students, particularly those of color, has been one of the priorities of the Commission as identified in our [annual recommendations](#).

Commission Seeking Consultants

In case you missed it last month, the Commission is still seeking consultants to serve as trainers for our Safe Schools Program, as well as to provide expert assistance in the areas of racial justice and in strategic planning / leadership development. Please find the full descriptions of each position and read how to apply [here](#).

[Community Events & Announcements](#)

Bi Visibility Day: *September 23rd* will mark Bi Visibility Day, which is designed to shed light on an often ignored part of the LGBTQ community. The official [website](#) for the day includes resources and a space to submit local events that you might be involved in and want to share.

Trauma-informed Care and Pregnancy: Our colleagues at the Department of Public Health share this *October 15th* conference at Newton-Wellesley Hospital: "This conference will explore the experiences and challenges of survivors of childhood sexual assault during pregnancy, birth and post partum... We will also be discussing some additional topics, including the needs of transgender and gender non-conforming parents during labor & delivery, and the ways in which provider actions can aggravate or heal prior histories of transphobic trauma." Register to attend [here](#).

White Privilege Symposium: This conference will take place *October 19th-20th* at North Shore Community College in Lynn. "Symposium participants will learn about the history of privilege in this country and explore ways to advance equity. With the help of outstanding keynote speakers and dynamic workshops, we will explore issues such as income inequality, disparities in the justice system, and barriers to education and employment, as impediments to progress." Learn more [here](#).

Audre Lorde Cancer Awareness Brunch: On *October 20th* at 10:00am, join Fenway's Women's Health Team for the 20th Annual Audre Lorde Cancer Awareness Brunch, a celebration of women of color and their supporters whose lives have been affected by cancer. The event will take place at the NonProfit Center, 2nd Floor, 89 South Street, Boston, MA 02111. RSVP [here](#) or by contacting Tanekwah Hinds at thinds@fenwayhealth.org or (617) 927-6199.

GLSEN Fall Conference: Registration is now open for GLSEN's Fall Conference, which will occur on Saturday, *November 3rd* in Amherst. GLSEN is also accepting conference proposals. Learn more and register [here](#).

GSA Day at Bridgewater State: "The GLBTA Pride Center invites all high school Gay and Straight Alliances (GSA) to visit BSU! Learn how to choose an LGBTQ-friendly college and successfully navigate higher education from current LGBTQ college students." Registration is due October 1st for this *November 28th* event. Learn more [here](#).

Fenway Insight Study: Former Commission fellow Rory Moore shares: "Fenway Health is seeking gay and bisexual men, or other men who have sex with men (MSM), living with HIV to participate in an online survey. We want to learn more about living with HIV, substance use, and self-care. Participants are compensated \$40 for completing the survey." Find out more [here](#).

Increasing ID Access: The MA Coalition for the Homeless is continuing its push to see access to state identification increased for people experiencing homelessness. The Commission named this effort as one of its core [recommendations](#) to the government for the new fiscal year that began on July 1, because of the critical role it plays for many LGBTQ youth to safely access services. Read more about the Coalition's effort and how you can help [here](#).

[Commission Comprehension](#)

What We're Reading...

"Despite recent setbacks, LGBT people have never experienced as much

acceptance under the law and in society as they have today. For that, we can thank the LGBT pioneers who contributed to this significant culture change. Those pioneers are today's LGBT older adults now seeking senior housing, personal care at home or nursing home care. At the very least, we should ensure that when providers say 'we treat everyone the same,' it means that they give all the people they serve the support needed to live safely and authentically."

~ [Boston Globe](#) op-ed on the new law requiring LGBTQ competency training for older adult service providers



[Photo Finish](#)

Commission Executive Committee member Grace is [interviewed](#) for WCVB's Chronicle program, which also featured the Commission's director.

Image credit: WCVB.



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