**LGBTQI Commission to Study Health and Safety Meeting Minutes**

**When: May 11, 2022**

**Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm**

Members Present:

Mitzi Peterson

Pamela Klein

Atty. Elizabeth Matos

Atty. Jennifer Levi

Michael Cox

David Mills

Members Absent:

Sheriff Patrick Cahillane

Casey Lepisto

Call to Order and Review of April Meeting Minutes:

The meeting was called to order at 11:10am once a quorum of members was established. The meeting minutes were reviewed, Michael Cox motioned to accept the minutes, Pam Klein seconded, the motion carried.

Draft Recommendations:

The commission revisited the Preliminary Report that was compiled in October of 2019. Mitzi and Pam lead the discussion beginning with the review of each item in the Preliminary Report; the group decided if each item in the preliminary report should included in the Drafted Recommendations. The group discussed condom distribution within facilities; Atty. Matos and David Mills do not want to remove this issue from the recommendations as this concerns the heath and safety of all inmates. Pam Klein worries that the topic of condom distribution may negatively affect the document. Atty. Levi recommended the group keep the recommendation of a pilot program to enhance the viability of condom distribution to increase health and safety of all inmates.

David Mills had questions regarding open meeting law and the effects it has on the commissions ability to utilize Harvard Students. Both Pam Klein and Mitzi Peterson discussed the statute related to utilizing the Harvard Students. Michael Cox stated that with the Legal counsel from Atty. Walker and the statute he no longer feels hampered by Open Meeting Law. Pam Klein would like to invite Harvard to the next meeting to provide an update on their work. Atty. Levi would like to add the recommendation: DOC policy aligning with the medical needs of the LGBTQI population. Mitzi Peterson added that *Wellpath* makes the provider decisions and recommendation and then relays that information to the DOC for DOC to follow through. There still seemed to be confusion regarding the GNC and GND Policy regarding Gender Dysphoria. Pam Klein suggested the Atty. Levi can present the PowerPoint to the group to hopefully provide a clear understanding of the policies in place. Additionally, the group included the recommendation of ensuring all medications follow the individual when they leave the DOC, including an orientation manual to include LGBTQI resources, and including LGBTQI affirming resources within the DOC Libraries. The group also discussed culture competency for both health care and within the facilities staff. This would include more trainings for staff and resources for LGBTQI individuals within the facilities. Atty. Levi questions why all inmates don’t have a gender search preference and pronouns listed and can we remove sex designation. Mitzi Peterson stated that she will further investigate why this decision was made and provide an update. Michael Cox noted the importance of having access to certain medications; he noted that when an individual is relocated often the medications do not make it with them. Stating that medications that need to be taken on a schedule should be allowed to stay with the person for example HIV medication. This topic was brought to litigation several years ago and the belief is that this medication is “Keep on person” status. Mitzi added that all “Keep on person” medications must be locked.

David Mills reminds the group the closeted individuals will leave a gap in all reporting as they have not been able to collect data on this group of individuals.

Member Comment:

Michael Cox provided an update to the group on the House in Cambridge as the Grand Opening is set to occur within the next 4-5 months. He states that everyone has a different-entry journey and staff will have ongoing conversations with the occupants when staff feels that the individual is ready to move on from the Cambridge house. Atty. Levi motions to adjourn, Pam Klein seconds, and the meeting is adjourned at 12:45pm.