

State of Maryland Commission on Civil Rights
Commission Meeting
July 14, 2024 – 10 am
Meeting held virtually via Google Meet
MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Stephanie Suerth, Chair; Janssen E. Evelyn, Esq, Vice Chair; Angela Scott, Esq; Eileen Levitt, Noah Metheny, Esq.

Management Present: Cleveland L. Horton II, Acting Executive Director; Nicolette Young, Assistant Director; Glendora Hughes, General Counsel

Staff Present: Gerald T. Ford, Executive Associate; Candice Gray, Education & Outreach Associate; Alesha Bell, Employment Unit Supervisor; Cecelia Assam, Housing Unit Supervisor

Members of the Public: Deborah Morris

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Chairperson’s Report

The Commission has forwarded their recommendations for the Executive Director position to the Governor.

The Chair reminded everyone that the Gala is approaching, and Commissioners should be active and responsive towards requests made for the Gala.

The Chair introduced the new Commissioner, Noah Metheny, Esq.

Acting Executive Director’s Report

The Acting Executive Director began by thanking staff for their diligent work amid MCCR’s state of transition.

In June, MCCR held its first Fair Housing Task Force meeting where all the fair house organizations throughout the state meet to discuss issues impacting fair housing. This recent meeting’s topic was the issue of source of income. There was a presentation by the Equal Rights Center’s Susan McClanahan to review what source of income is and, from an enforcement perspective, how to enforce source of income discrimination.

The Acting Executive Director has been asked to participate in the Fair Housing Enforcement Work Group for the 2025 Baltimore Regional Fair Housing Analysis.

The Maryland Association of Human Rights Agencies (MAHRA) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) is hosting a Civil/Human Rights Conference. The purpose of this conference is to bring together all respective staff and Commissioners to engage in a day of training. A venue is currently being selected.

The Acting Executive Director reviewed the Case Processing report. Some things that were highlighted:

- The housing unit closed 179 cases, surpassing last year's closure number.
- MCCR is on pace to satisfy its EEOC contract.

General Counsel's Report

The General Counsel highlighted a few points from the Unit's written report.

The Office of the General Counsel will bring onboard another Assistant General Counsel I to the team.

The Office of the General Counsel will be conducting Investigation Techniques and Legal Theories Training for Statewide EEO Office on July 17 & 18, 2024.

The General Counsel will serve as a panel moderator for MCCR Cannabis Symposium.

Education and Outreach

E&O participated in the following events:

- Hate Bias Forum Day 1 (Law Enforcement); 45 people were in attendance
- Hate Bias Forum Day 2 (Community Members & Law Enforcement); 20 people in attendance
- Maryland Commission on LGBTQIA + Affairs; 57 in attendance
- Severn Senior Center an Anne Arundel County; 30 surveys completed

E&O completed the following trainings:

- Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Training (for the MD Military Department)
- Sexual Harassment Prevention Training (for the City of College Park)
- Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Training (MD Military Department)

Upcoming trainings for E&O are as follows:

- Cannabis Symposium; Thursday, July 25th
- St. Mary's County Listening Session; Monday, July 29th
- 60th Civil Rights Anniversary Luncheon rescheduled to October 22nd.

Upcoming Listening Sessions

- Southern MD: Monday, July 29th
- Howard County: Tuesday, September 10th

New Initiatives

The E&O team will work with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County to facilitate a training as well as work on a group Civil Rights Project for participants to present at the end our summer session. Every Wednesday during their summer hours of operation Junior Staff (18-24 years of age)

New Business

The Commissioners will schedule a planning summit over the summer to discuss the development of Commissioner priorities and MCCR's legislative priorities. MCCR will poll the Commissioners to establish a date and time.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.