



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO LGBTQ COMMISSION

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) Commission

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement, Group Agreements		Our <u>Group Agreements</u> include Share the air; step up, step back; Listen for understanding; Lift as you climb; Be present & engaged; Let the facilitator guide the process; Technology on silent.
2. Roll Call		<p>Present: Krystle Cansino, Rebecca Carabez, Marilyn Hollinger, Bismay Mishra, Jana Rickerson, Christopher Sturken, Craig Wiesner, Evaine Young, Valeria Chavez, (Youth Commissioner), Ava Chan (Youth Commissioner)</p> <p><u>Non-Commissioners:</u> Tanya Beat, Alex Golding</p> <p><u>Members of the Public:</u> Dana Johnson, Joy Zou</p> <p>Absent: Aaron Adriano</p>
3. Public Comment		
4. Action to Set Agenda & Approve Consent Agenda Items	<i>Action</i>	Craig Wiesner motions to approve the Agenda and Consent Agenda. Jana Rickerson seconds. Approved.
CONSENT AGENDA		
5. Approval of October Meeting Minutes		
REGULAR AGENDA		
6. Reports: 1. Pride Center 2. Pride Initiative & CoastPride 3. Director’s Report 4. Youth Commission Update	<i>Update</i>	<p>Pride Center: update by Alex Golding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing updates • Upcoming programs • CAB Pride Resolutions Project • Overview of Quarterly Report and Successes <p>Pride Initiative & CoastPride Report: Please refer to updates via written reports; Everyone is invited to join the Pride Planning group.</p> <p>Director’s Report: update by Tanya Beat - Please refer to Director’s Report in Meeting Materials. Please be prepared to vote on Commission meetings for 2024 at January meeting.</p> <p>Youth Commission: Valeria Chavez & Ava Chan - Verbal update</p>
7. Commission Discussion		<p>Commissioners are invited to submit a proposal based on an issue/idea that they have shared previously or in today’s discussion. Idea -> goal -> education -> how everyone is involved -> steps on achieving goal.</p> <p>Ideas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate beds at Navigation Center to LGBTQIA+ people; suggest to change/eliminate the “residency” requirement to enter the shelter (applies to other services in RWC as well)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the LGBTQIA+ Commission Mission • Create a LGBTQIA+ History Exhibit in SMC • Engage with the community more • Social Media Campaign: Everyday Queers Connected to year-round visibility and features LGBTQIA+ residents of the County in their everyday lives • Going to schools and talking with teachers, staff and students and assessing what they need specific to LGBTQIA+ community; • Increase visibility around Pride, specific to cities: proclamations, flag raisings, celebrations, events, workshops <p>Goal is to present proposals at January meeting and vote on what they want to work on.</p>
8.	Announcements	
9.	Adjournment	



[San Mateo County Pride Center](#) (click for website)

January 2024 Updates

Pride Center Updates!

- To read the Pride Center's January newsletter in its entirety, please click this link:
 - [January 2024 Newsletter](#)
- **Pride Center Hours of Operation:**

Come visit us! In addition to information, services, and events, we have a **public computer lab, an LGBTQ+ lending library, a food pantry, and a selection of clothes and gender affirming garments.** We are here for YOU.

- Tuesday - Thursday, **11:30 am – 6:30 pm**, except Tuesdays between 1 pm - 3 pm will be closed for our team meetings.
 - For anyone who needs to drop by the center outside of these hours, **please connect with us directly** as we strive our best to remain accessible to our community.
- Our programs and services will remain virtual all 5 days/week 11 am - 7 pm or as scheduled with your clinician.
- The Pride Center is located at 1021 S. El Camino Real San Mateo, 94402. Our building is located at 11th and El Camino.
- For accessibility information about the Pride Center, please click this link: <https://sanmateopride.org/faq-2/>

Notice about Special Hours for the Pride Center:

- **Staff Holiday – MLK Day Monday, January 15**

- **Welcome April, Ishani and Phoenix to the Pride Center Team!**
 - April Qian (she/her) LGBTQ+ Mental Health Front Desk Specialist
 - Ishani Dugar (they/xe) - Lead Trainer and Peer Group Coordinator
 - Phoenix Georgiades (they/them) - LGBTQ+ Case Manager
- **Congratulations to Low, Alex, and Elana on their new roles!**
 - Alex (he/him) Center Manager
 - Low (she/they) Community Engagement and Volunteer Specialist
 - Elana (she/they) Lead Event and Outreach Coordinator

Openings for Mental Health Services at the Pride Center

- **We have therapy openings for self-pay clients.** Sliding scale is available (with income verification). Services are available hybrid, onsite or exclusively virtual.
- Services are available to clients located in California. Priority is given to LGBTQ+ community members based in San Mateo County. If you are interested in receiving mental health services, please fill out our online Clinical Services Request Form at <https://sanmateopride.org/mental-health-services-2>.
- **Can You Support the Pride Center? We Need Volunteers to help us with:**
 - NEW Volunteer Interest Form: <https://sanmateopride.org/get-involved/volunteer/>
 - [Special events](#) – help bring our community together to decrease isolation & have fun!
 - [Peer Groups](#) – can you help support our Gay Men’s or Queer Women’s Group?
 - [Social media](#) – got graphic skills? Help promote our clinical services and amazing programs!
 - [CAB](#) (Community Advisory Board) Members – for folks with a broad range of interests to support with special projects, this role is for you!
 - Contact Elana Ron (she/they) at elana.ron@sanmateopride.org or 650-465-2407 to connect about volunteering
- **Special Events:**
 - [CORA](#)
 - **Vision Board Community Event**
 - Wednesday, **January 17th from 6:30 - 7:30 pm** at San Mateo County Pride Center
 - **Register using this link:** <https://bit.ly/coravb23>
 - What is important to you? What brings you joy and comfort in life? What are your values? Join us for this **free** Vision Board Building event where we will come together to identify and visualize our Dreams, Goals and Intentions for 2024 and beyond. This art event is specifically for any LGBTQ+ identifying community members to design their own vision boards.
 - **QT Healthy Relationships**
 - Weekly on Wednesdays from 5-6:30 PM- onsite at the Pride Center starting on Wednesday, January 24
 - A free, in-person weekly workshop series co-hosted by CORA and the San Mateo County Pride Center. This is a rare opportunity to participate in a free workshop specifically

tailored for LGBTQ+ Community members and our unique experiences. This group is for folks 18+.

It's important to note that "relationships" doesn't exclusively mean "romantic relationships". What you can take away from these workshops can be applied to interpersonal relationships of all types: friendships, work, community building, family and more.

- Please register: tinyurl.com/QTskillsClass
- Questions? [Elliana Wolnisty](mailto:EllianaW@CoraSupport.org) (they/them/she) at EllianaW@CoraSupport.org or (650)-935-1129 [Katrina Maple](mailto:Katrina.Maple@SanMateoPride.org) (she/her) at Katrina.Maple@SanMateoPride.org

○ **FriGay Flicks on Friday, February 9**

- Paris is Burning
 - Doors open at 5:30pm
 - Movie runs from 6pm-8pm
 - Film is rated R

○ **The 2nd Annual Pride Prom will be held Friday, February 23, 2024 at the College of San Mateo.**

- Once again this year we will provide an inclusive, safe, welcoming, night to remember for our youth in San Mateo County. This event will celebrate and uplift LGBTQIA+ young people and advocate for the sustained and continued efforts in our County to build places where youth are seen and supported in environments free from hate and discrimination.
- More information will be posted soon, including RSVP information.
- If you have questions or would like to sponsor or volunteer at this event to support the success of this event, please contact Holly Wade, hawade@smuhsd.org.

○ **March Parks Event**

- Hike the Night Away Friday, March 1st from 6-8pm
- San Pedro Valley Guided Nature & History walk
- Spring into a new season by joining us for an evening hike, history, and animal nightlife! Flashlights are recommended but NOT required.
- Spaces are limited. RSVP using following link
 - <http://tinyurl.com/hikethenightaway>
- Questions? E-mail Elana Ron at Elana.ron@sanmateopride.org

- Community members can access flyers for all the special events and programs at the following link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZbCgtbB42LFZPGDzAuL9FsMijdjoZYxD?usp=sharing>

- **Stanford is looking for Standardized Patients**

The Stanford School of Medicine is working to expand their LGBTQ+ curriculum. One way that they're hoping to do this is by recruiting Trans*- identified actors to portray patients for student evaluations. Please share widely. This is an important opportunity to create visibility in the medical field.

This is a paid opportunity! To learn more about this opportunity, visit this link:

<https://sp.stanford.edu/>

- Questions? Please contact Dr. Laniakea (they/them) at laniakea@stanford.edu or call 650-591-0133
- Outlet is looking for members for Youth Advisory Board (YAB)
*Application Deadline Extended to **January 17th, 2024***

What does a Youth Advisory Board Member do?

As a member of the Youth Advisory Board with Outlet and the San Mateo County Pride Center you will help plan, organize and publicize youth programming in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. You will provide input on services and resources for youth between the ages of 14 to 25. Youth Advisory Board members help the LGBTQ+ community by getting their friends and peers involved, sharing information about upcoming events with friends, peers and teachers at school, as well as bringing input and suggestions from community members to help shape the direction of the Youth Program!

We highly encourage youth ages 14-25 to apply (tinyurl.com/OutletYABApp) by January 17th! Questions? contact outletprogram@acs-teens.org or call 650-424-0842 ext. 107.

If folks need a little encouragement to apply by knowing this year's YAB plans, we will be finalizing our own children's book and discussing plans for the second half of the year!

- Additional Events with our partner organizations!
 - Pride Prom: Friday, Feb 23 from 6:30-10 PM
 - San Mateo County Pride 2024: Love More in 2024

- **Peer Support Groups:**

- **Peer Support Groups**- Upcoming meeting dates

- **We are currently seeking volunteer co-facilitators for our Gay Men's Group & Trans* Group. These are all virtual opportunities for community members 18+. For more information, contact Elana.Ron@sanmateopride.org or 650-465-2407**
 - **Please note: Most groups are meeting on Zoom, stay tuned for updates**
 - LGBTQ Parent Group- next meeting in on February 6 on the 1st Tuesday from 7:30-8:30 PM PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-parentsgroup>
 - LGBTQ Book Club (18+) - Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 4:30- 6pm PST
 - Hybrid option for in-person group participation at the Pride Center is now available!
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-bookclub>
 - To access a list of books we're reading click [this link](#).
 - Upcoming meeting dates- Feb 7 (The Deep by Rivers Solomon)
 - Polyamory Peer Power (18+)- Monthly on the 1st Wednesday from 7- 8:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-polyampower>
 - Upcoming topic: NA
 - Upcoming dates: January 3, February 7
 - Trans* Group (18+)- Monthly on the 1st Thursday from 6-7:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/smcpc-transgroup1>
 - Upcoming meeting dates: January 4, February 8
 - Gay Men's Group (18+)- Monthly on the 4th Tuesday from 6-7pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/SMCPC-gaymensgroup>
 - Upcoming dates: January 23
 - Queer Women's Social Group (18+)- Monthly on the 4th Friday from 6-7:30pm PST
 - Pre-registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/smcpc-queerwomensgroup>
 - Upcoming dates: Jan 26



San Mateo County PRIDE Initiative Report

**From: Dana Johnson (they/ them/ theirs)- PRIDE Initiative co-chair
LGBTQ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

- ❖ **About the PRIDE Initiative:** The PRIDE Initiative is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive environments grounded in equality and parity for LGBTQ+ community members living and working in San Mateo County. By adopting an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach to collaborating, the PRIDE Initiative looks to partner with individuals, organizations, and providers that work to ensure that services are sensitive and respectful of LGBTQ+ issues.
 - **Join us at the next Pride Initiative meetings (via virtual) on.**
 - **Wednesday, January 10, 2024 from 4:30-6pm
 - **Wednesday, February 14, 2024 from 4:30-6pm.
 - February PRIDE Initiative meeting scheduled for:
 - Wednesday February 14, 2024 from 4:30-6pm
 - PRIDE Initiative and local LGBTQIA+ updates
 - **SAVE THE DATE!** SMC Pride Celebration *Saturday June 8, 2024 from 11am-5pm* at San Mateo Central Park
- **JOIN ME at the SMC Pride 2024 Planning Meetings-**
 - Friday January 12, 2024 from 12 noon- 1pm
 - Thursday January 25, 2024 from 12 noon-1pm
 - *Reach out to Dana for SMC Pride Planning zoom meeting links*
 - *SMC Pride 2024 Theme: "Love at our Core, Pride in 2024"*

➤ **Join the PRIDE Initiative Zoom Meeting on 1-10-2024 & 2-14-24 at 4:30pm.
Join using the link below**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81510844451>

Meeting ID: 815 1084 4451

Passcode: PRIDEBHRS **(PLEASE NOTE: Password is now required to join)**



CoastPride Report

LGBTQ Commission Meeting- Tuesday, January 16, 2024

From CoastPride Board Member: Dana “TherActivist” Johnson (they/ them/ he), MSW

❖ **Our Vision**

A welcoming and safe Coastsides where all LGBTQ and gender-expansive individuals, their families, and allies thrive.

❖ **Our Mission**

Creating a Coastsides that supports and celebrates people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

- CoastPride Events/ Trainings:
- *For events and to learn about what’s going on at CoastPride see the CoastPride newsletter.*
- **Center Hours:**
 - Drop-in—all are welcome
 - Mondays, 10am–2pm (ring the black doorbell when you arrive. (**Closed on federal holidays)
 - Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2–6 pm
 - 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 12–2pm
- **CoastPride Groups**
 - New Pacifica Teen Group and Trans* Adults Group both starting on January 17th
 - More details regarding the groups please reach out to CoastPride Operations Director, Cameron Zeller cameron@coastpride.org

❖ **Upcoming Events**

- CoastPride is supporting with SMC Pride Prom on February 23, 2024
- **SAVE THE DATE! Pacifica Pride on Saturday June 1, 2024**
 - More details coming soon
- **SAVE THE DATE! Half Moon Bay Pride on Sunday June 9, 2024**
 - More details coming soon
- For more details regarding LGBTQIA+ events on the Coast, please reach out to CoastPride board member Dana “TherActivist” Johnson (they/ he)

To: San Mateo County LGBTQIA+ Commission

From: LGBTQ+ Youth Commissioners

Date: January 10, 2024

Subject: Commissioner Updates

Update:

- Immigrant Youth Sub-Committee
 - Our individual projects involve writing a letter to the Board of Education to review required readings for classes - ensuring that the standard for literature is equitable from a cultural, racial, and sexual minority standpoint. As we're in the process of crafting our letter, we would love support from the LGBTQ+ Commission on resources to inform our letter.
 - Immigrant Youth Committee met
- Civic Engagement Subcommittee
 - Our projects include hosting voter registration drives, creating educational pamphlets, and planning a youth leadership summit for April (exact date TBD)
 - We would greatly appreciate suggestions for in-person events where we can host registration drives and individuals/organizations we can reach out to for speakers/tablers at our summit (we'd love to have commissioners as well!)
- Educational Equity Subcommittee:
- Educational continues to work on our three main projects including our
- 1. diverse children's literacy project
- 2. Mentorship Project in North County
- 3. Letter of support on behalf of Ethnic Studies
- This month we also had a speaker come to discuss with the commission about educational equity through the lens of school principal Amina Guillame!

Rebecca Carabez
January 8, 2024

1. **Proposal:** Inquiry on the status of care for LGBTQ youth in foster care in Child Welfare Services in San Mateo County
 - a. It is estimated that 19% of the youth (age 12-21 years) in the US foster care system identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender (LGBT).
 - b. LGBT youth are disproportionately represented in foster care approximately 1.5 to 2 times as many LGBT youth living in foster care as LGBT youth estimated to be living outside of foster care
 - c. While in foster care, they may also experience discrimination, intimidation and bullying.
 - d. LGBTQ youth are more likely to be hospitalized for emotional (depression, mood disorders and suicidality)
 - e. What role can the LGBTQ Commission play in advocating for LGBTQ kids in foster care? What could the LGBTQ Commission do to support foster care providers?

2. **6 month Goal:** Inquire on the following information for LGBTQ+ youth in San Mateo County Child Welfare Services
 - a. number of foster youth (12-21 years)- number of LGBTQ+ youth
 - b. Data collected in CWS forms- Does San Mateo County Child Welfare collect SOGI data?
 - c. Housing options available- How can foster care providers be supported?
 - d. Support services available- Are there services tailored for LGBTQ kids in foster care?
 - e. Medical services available

3. **Project Details**
 - a. January 2024: Formal inquiry to Child Welfare Services on a) through e)
 - b. January-March: Data collected from Child Welfare Services
 - c. March-June: Review data collected and discuss inquiries c through e.

Craig Wiesner Proposal

Overall Idea: Get the San Mateo County History Museum to help curate, create, and feature a San Mateo County LGBTQIA+ History Exhibit.

Goal: To gather the stories and artifacts from and make historic figures and events in LGBTQIA+ history visible to visitors to the museum during Pride Month.

Steps:

- Seek information on anyone/orgs that may already have been working on this idea for our county and meet with people/orgs to learn more.
- Meet with Ken Yeager to learn about how he and his team created the San Jose LGBTQ+ History Museum Exhibit
- Meet with museum leaders to discuss the idea and learn if there is interest in the idea and if so establish a series of steps/tasks that need to take place to get the idea moving (this may include the need to find funding sources)
- Enlist volunteers to help accomplish the steps needed
- Establish criteria which would determine when enough has been accomplished to plan a launch date for the exhibit
- Create an event to celebrate the launch

LGBTQIA+ Commission Proposal 2024

From: LGBTQIA+ Commissioner Dana TherActivist Johnson (they/ them/ he)

Date: January 8, 2024

Format

1. Overall idea: Example – Year-round Visibility; Propose social media campaign called “Everyday Queers”
2. Goal: Example – to raise the profile of LGBTQIA+ residents and highlight members in every city in the County.
3. Then you’ll write an outline of HOW the project can be done by the Commission for 2024. It would include a start date, what do you need to begin the project, what the commission does, and what happens in each month of the year along with a completion date.

Proposal

1.) Idea:

Implement SOGIE intake questions in all County involved Housing centers, sites and programs. Identify a number of rooms/ housing spaces allocated for LGBTQIA+ houseless community members in the San Mateo County Housing Navigation Center and various San Mateo County Housing residential sites.

2.) Goal:

- To provide an equitable lens for houseless LGBTQIA+ community members in County ran programs and community resources
- Enhance and Promote a Diversity Equity Inclusion and Belonging protocol when intaking LGBTQIA+ community members into County services and programs
- Promote LGBTQIA+ houseless resources and support on Health County Van

3.) Outline:

Outline TBD

Marilyn Hollinger

I want the county to provide resources to schools to support LGBTQIA+ students. But we can't know what kind of support to offer without knowing what schools provide. So I would like to suggest that we target all high schools and middle schools in the county and send a brief questionnaire to them to get an idea of what is in place at their school, and follow up with a brief interview to get to details that are hard to get in a questionnaire. The result would be recommendations to the Board of Supervisors to support LGBTQIA+ students in our county schools.

Sample questions

Do you have a club or other group for LGBTQIA+ students?

Does it meet regularly?

How many students attend?

Does it have a faculty sponsor?

What kind of content is contained in your sex education classes about LGBTQIA+ people?

What kind of training do your school counselors have regarding LGBTQIA+ youth?

What is contained in your policies around dealing with LGBTQIA+ students?

What is the content of schoolwide events (like a Pride celebration) that explicitly include discussion of or events around LGBTQIA+ people or topics?

What kinds of issues have you had in dealing with the subject of LGBTQIA+ students?

What specific activities or policies or resources do you wish you had to support your LGBTQIA+ students?

Generally people answering questions like this give short answers (hey, we're all busy!), so the follow-up would be to get more information.

8 high schools, need to finalize the list of middle schools from [here](#). We could start with the high schools because of the relatively small number, and see how the project goes.

Some possible types of support that the Board of Supervisors might be able to provide are organizational and financial resources for education material, speakers bureaus, staff training materials.

I hope this is enough to get a discussion going.