

**From:** Joanna Steffey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 18, 2024 3:20 PM  
**To:** mara@[REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Janine Taylor  
**Subject:** Re: Public comment for your next meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Good afternoon Mara, and thank you for your email. We will read your message into record during public comment, and appreciate you communicating with us.

All best,  
Joanna Steffey, Co-Chair SDEIC  
Pronouns: she/her/hers ([Why pronouns?](#))

On Mar 18, 2024, at 1:15 PM, Mara Huston <marahuston@[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi,

My name is Mara Huston. My pronouns are she/her. I will not be able to attend your next public meeting so please read this message during your comment period.

The upcoming Sudbury Town Election has brought LGBTQ+ issues to the forefront. The DEI Commission has the opportunity to lead our community in our overall understanding of LGBTQ+ issues.

As a parent of a trans kid, I have been on my own personal journey to understand what trans really is. Sudbury is now on that same journey and the DEI Commission could take a leading role in that journey. Many people believe being LGBTQ+ is a choice - it's not. Many people don't understand LGBTQ+ issues. Straight and LGBTQ+ people all want the same thing - to be happy and healthy and live a life with meaning. According to the Trevor Project, LGBTQ people are not inherently more prone to suicide because they are LGBTQ. Unfortunately, they are more prone to suicide because how they are treated and stigmatized by society. Don't let Sudbury do this to anyone.

Knowledge is the first step to understanding. Creating an opportunity for people to ask questions in a safe place is very important. Your mission statement is directly aligned with this goal. Will you develop a program that could help Sudbury eliminate conscious and unconscious biases related to LGBTQ+ people?

I look forward to hearing back from your commission about how you can do this. You're not alone, there are several people in town who want to help.

Thank you  
Mara Huston  
[REDACTED]