

Women's Commission August 2025 Meeting Minutes

(Provide via AI)

Quick recap

The Women's Commission meeting covered various initiatives including potential partnerships with schools, updates from the Maryland Association of Counties Conference, and upcoming Civil Rights Week events. The group discussed legislative priorities and federal funding impacts, with a focus on developing a comprehensive legislative agenda and community engagement strategies. The conversation ended with plans for an upcoming event at Oregon State University, followed by scheduling discussions for future meetings and a mandatory strategic planning session in November.

Next steps

- Women's Commission: Schedule a date for the strategic planning retreat to identify three key priorities for the coming year.
- Kionne: Reach out to Monica to set up a meeting to understand the needs of Baltimore's all-girls schools and how the Women's Commission can help.
- Women's Commission: Explore partnership opportunities with Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women and other all-girls schools.
- Women's Commission: Identify ways to help fill funding gaps for the all-girls schools affected by federal funding cuts.
- Commissioners: Respond to Jill if interested in attending the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women Conference on November 1, 2025.
- Commissioners: RSVP directly to Jill for the Civil Rights breakfast on the 17th to be added to the comp list.
- Women's Commission: Prepare for their "State of the Womb" event on October 21st at Morgan State University.
- Jill: Reach out to the Compliance Monitor regarding juvenile justice funding issues for potential legislative agenda item.
- Jill: Follow up with Kris regarding cannabis reparations funding opportunities.
- Women's Commission: Consider developing advocacy or programming around caregivers' housing issues.
- Women's Commission: Consider educational programming about drafting wills and property inheritance.
- Women's Commission: Consider hosting an instructional webinar on women's mental health resources.
- Kionne: Coordinate potential partnerships between CREW and the all-girls schools.

- Women's Commission: Consider education engagement as part of their legislative agenda and strategic planning retreat in October.
- Commissioners: Review the director's report shared by Jill.
- Commissioners: Help amplify Civil Rights Week events once materials are shared by OECR staff.
- Commissioners: Submit nominations for the Gender Justice and Equity Impact Award once nomination forms are distributed.
- Jill: Coordinate with commissioners who are interested in staffing the Women's Commission table at Civil Rights Week events.

Summary

Women's Commission Education and Funding Initiatives

The Women's Commission discussed potential partnerships with Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women and other all-girls schools, with Kionne exploring opportunities for professional development and civic work. Jill shared updates from the Maryland Association of Counties Conference, including insights on cannabis reparations funding, women's mental health resources, and Maryland's non-compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which could result in a loss of over \$2 million in funding for youth rehabilitation programs. The Commission also considered engaging in education initiatives to address funding cuts in Title I programs, with Rachel highlighting a 10% reduction in funding for the current fiscal year.

Women's Commission Strategic Initiatives Update

The Women's Commission discussed several key initiatives, including educational programs for seniors and caregivers regarding housing issues, and the need for strategic planning with a focus on top priorities. Jill announced upcoming Civil Rights Week events from October 17-25, with the Women's Commission breakfast on the 21st, and shared updates about the "Informed Women, Transformed Lives" campaign featuring subway banners and radio ads. The Commission also learned about the office's strategic planning process, which is still in early stages, and Director Green mentioned the addition of a new HBCU fellow, Tamera Trimuel, from Morgan State University.

Baltimore Civil Rights Week Events

The meeting covered Civil Rights Week events in Baltimore, with Jumel outlining a schedule including a breakfast, community day, veterans' event, and various other activities from October 17-25. The Women's Commission will receive individual free tickets to the main breakfast event and have their own dedicated table, with nominations being accepted for the Gender Justice and Equity Impact Award. The conversation ended with the approval of meeting minutes for May, June, and July.

Baltimore's Legislative and Funding Priorities

The meeting focused on the legislative agenda and potential federal funding impacts on Baltimore. Kionne raised concerns about federal funding and the city's response, which Kristerfer addressed by explaining that the commission is codified in Baltimore City code and staff are preparing protocols for

potential federal takeovers. Jill expressed confidence in the city's leadership and resistance to any attempts to hinder the commission's work. Chris presented legislative priorities, including the Maryland Women's Health Equity Act, the Maryland Social Program Stability Act, and various police accountability bills. He also discussed the cannabis reparations project, which will allocate funds to impacted communities for housing, youth programs, and mental health initiatives.

Women's Commission Legislative Agenda Development

The meeting focused on developing a legislative agenda for the Women's Commission. Kristerfer shared information about a Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund, and Monica Haines introduced an alternative framework called FAIR for DEI efforts. Rachel provided an update on the legislative agenda development process, highlighting the need for a survey lead and community engagement strategies. The group discussed potential collaboration with Morgan State University for student volunteers to assist with survey development. They also identified resource needs and immediate next steps, including developing a survey and community engagement strategy.

Immigrant Student Resource Planning

Rachel shared a follow-up email with additional information and planned individual outreach to schedule brainstorming sessions for dissemination of their work. Jill discussed creating a resource database for immigrant students, noting the need for legislative solutions and potential collaboration with the Maryland Human Trafficking Collaborative. Miriam suggested exploring Youth Works for immigrant students and proposed sending a letter to prepare for next summer. Rachel also reached out to the Career Bound team about including immigrant students in their programs, sharing their response with the group. Ana provided an update on a training about applying for power of attorney for parents with immigration concerns.

Maternal Health Event Planning Meeting

The meeting discussed plans for an upcoming event at Oregon State University, focusing on maternal health issues. Ana reported that space has been confirmed for both the main event and youth activation areas. She outlined the need for table hosts and note-takers to lead discussions on various topics such as intimate partner violence, housing, and mental health. The commission was asked to help promote the event and consider volunteering as note-takers or assistants. Morgan State University has agreed to house an impact art piece, though the exact location is still undecided. Kionne offered to connect with a daycare owner about potentially using staff for the youth activation program.

Women's Commission Strategic Planning Session

The group discussed the next meeting, which will be virtual on the last Wednesday of September, with October and November meetings remaining virtual unless otherwise decided. They agreed to hold a mandatory strategic planning session for the Women's Commission on one of the first three Sundays in November (2nd, 9th, or 16th), with the session likely running from 10 AM to 2 or 3 PM. Kionne emphasized the importance of advance notice and attendance for this planning session, which will focus on setting the 2026 calendar and securing full commission buy-in.