

**Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour**  
**Prince George's County**  
Prince George's Community College – Largo, Maryland  
October 27, 2016, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

In partnership with the Prince George's County Commission for Women, the Maryland Commission for Women brought the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour to Prince George's Community College, where an articulate and dedicated group of more than 60 participated.

The evening began with welcoming remarks by Jennifer Jones, Chair of the Prince George's County Commission for Women, and concluded with a call to action by PGCFW Commissioner Tami Watkins.

The attendees at the forum included elected and appointed officials, individuals and representatives of women's and community advocacy organizations. They identified a wide range of issues and challenges for the women of Prince George's County, selected those they thought were most important, and discussed possible remedies.

The attendees listed a total of 31 challenges facing the women of Prince George's County. Each participant was given five "votes" to place beside the issues they thought were most important. From that process, the five issues were identified as top priorities.

The group then identified actions that could be taken to address those top five issues:

- 1. Need for Affordable and Accessible Quality Child Care – both after school and pre-kindergarten**
  - a. More women in elected office
  - b. Increase funding for subsidies to reduce burden on parents
  - c. Increase subsidy payments for licensed providers: raise pay, make additional resources and training available for both center-based and in home child care providers
  - d. Establish a dedicated 5% tax on casino revenues to support these increases
  - e. Simplify in-home certification process
  - f. Establish incentives for provision of overnight child care
  
- 2. Domestic Violence including Intimate Partner Violence, Teen Dating Violence, Elder Abuse and Abuse of Children with Special Needs**
  - a. Provide financial literacy education
  - b. Provide affordable transitional housing for victims
  - c. Ensure cultural competency for service providers
  - d. Teach healthy relationships and conflict resolution in schools
  - e. Provide training, support and respite care for family care givers with elders and special needs children
  - f. Provide more shelters and support more choice to victims, including the choice to leave the area.

- g. Provide more therapeutic support for stressed families, including how to deal with the children
- h. Strengthen laws

**3. Need for Affordable Housing, especially for low income women**

- a. Increase incentives for developers to build affordable housing
- b. Require that a percentage of all new homes include transitional and/or affordable housing
- c. Provide mortgage subsidies to enable low income individuals to purchase homes
- d. Fund the Maryland Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- e. Support non-profit housing organizations

**4. Health Care Disparities, especially for women of color**

- a. Expedite Medicaid enrolment for pregnant women
- b. Eliminate stigma
- c. Make mammography and follow-up services accessible and affordable for low income women
- d. Make reproductive health services more affordable and accessible
- e. Educate the public and health care providers about integrating behavioral health care and physical health care
- f. Create an online portal for all medical resources in the state
- g. Encourage young women to prepare for careers in medicine and science
- h. Train first responders in appropriate handling of behavioral health issues

**5. The Invisibility of Incarcerated Women**

- a. Identify existing services for incarcerated women and encourage providers to coordinate and partner in service delivery
- b. Increase awareness of the challenges facing incarcerated women
- c. Provide better links to existing services for reentry and family reunification
- d. Develop pools of trained volunteers and mentors to assist incarcerated women transitioning back into their communities and families
- e. Pass legislation prohibiting employers from asking job applicants about history of incarceration
- f. Provide the same quality of services and facilities to incarcerated women as incarcerated men experience
- g. Provide programs that strengthen and support family bonds – including allowing physical contact when visiting with children.

The chart below lists all the issues that were identified during the course of the public forum and shows the number of votes each one received from those in attendance as they considered the priority level of each issue in comparison to the others.

<b>Number of Votes</b>	<b>Issue</b>
26	Need for Affordable and Accessible Quality Child Care – both after school and pre-kindergarten
21	Domestic Violence including Intimate Partner Violence, Teen Dating Violence, Elder Abuse and Abuse of Children with Special Needs
19	Need for Affordable Housing, especially for low income women
13	Health Care Disparities, especially for women of color
12	The Invisibility of Incarcerated Women
9	Human Trafficking
8	Teen Pregnancy & Parenthood – need for prevention and services
8	Paid Sick and Safe Leave
8	Need for conflict resolution and healthy relationship education in elementary and middle school curriculum
7	Women’s Mental and Physical Wellness – recognizing the need to care for ourselves as well as others
5	Pay Equity and Equal Pay
4	Requirement of Vaccinations for School Enrollment
4	Child Sex Abuse, Need to Increase Awareness
4	Recognizing women’s impact on Maryland’s history
4	Need for supportive services for divorcing families
4	Inadequate funding for public schools
3	Affordable Health Insurance, including reproductive health
2	Financial Literacy
2	Parental Rights of Rapists
2	Dementia
2	Immigrant Women – Need for cultural competence for service providers
1	HIV/AIDS and STDs
1	Women Entrepreneurs – access to funding for start up businesses
1	Getting men to care about women’s issues
1	Teachers’ need for more independence in curriculum development
1	Women supporting women
1	Caring for the elderly
0	Gender Equity in the Schools, Title IX Expansion
0	Medicaid enrollment for women
0	Single Parents – need support services
0	The Social Determinants of Health : access to healthy food, transportation, health care, etc.
173	31 Issues

October 27, 2016

# Prince George's County: Voices of Maryland Women

Photo Album









