

Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour
Frederick County
Coblentz Hall, Hood College, Frederick, Maryland
May 4, 2017, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Frederick County Commission for Women, the Voices of Maryland Women Listening Tour traveled to the campus of Hood College where 45 women of all ages gathered to talk to the Maryland Commission for Women about the concerns of women and girls in their community.

The evening began with welcoming remarks by Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner and quickly became an open forum on the challenges facing women in this Maryland Capital Region county.

The attendees at the forum included people who came as individuals and those who attended as representatives of women's and community advocacy organizations. They identified a wide range of issues and challenges for the women of Frederick County, selected those they thought were most important, and discussed possible remedies.

The attendees listed a total of 27 challenges facing the women of Frederick County. All participants were given five "votes" to place beside the issues they thought were most important. From that process, five issues were identified as top priorities.

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

- 1. Lack of public knowledge of and access to existing services and resources**
 - a. Institute continuous and comprehensive state-wide and county-based campaigns in multiple languages to raise awareness of existing services
 - b. Active involvement by the Frederick County Commission for Women
 - c. Employ both high- and low-tech strategies to reach vulnerable populations

- 2. Need for more mental health services and greater access to existing services including services for teens, the LGBTQ community, depression and suicide, and addictions**
 - a. Appropriate sufficient state and local funding
 - b. Develop strategies to increase the number of multi-lingual, multi-cultural mental health service providers, including those fluent in American Sign Language
 - c. Expand the base of service providers to include more paraprofessionals

- 3. Lack of culturally sensitive services for victims of domestic violence in the immigrant community**
 - a. Develop strategies for increasing the number of multi-cultural service providers
 - b. Provide cultural sensitivity training for law enforcement and service providers
 - c. Increase funding

- d. Teach healthy relationships in schools
- e. Offer empowerment programs for girls

4. Lack of affordable, quality child care and Head Start programs

- a. Increase state and local funding
- b. Initiate state-wide incentive programs to recruit more child care providers

5. Problems confronting incarcerated women as they re-enter the community

- a. Increase the availability of job training programs inside detention facilities
- b. Offer programs that enable incarcerated women to earn high school diplomas
- c. Institute programs that support and encourage parental relationships

The session was closed by Rosario Campos, Vice President-Elect of the Frederick County Commission for Women, who provided information about the work of the Frederick County Commission and thanked everyone who participated.

The chart on the next page lists all the issues that were identified during the course of this 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.

Number of Votes	Issue
18	Lack of public knowledge of and access to existing services and resources
18	Need for more mental health services and greater access to existing services including services for teens, the LGBTQ community, depression and suicide, and addictions.
14	Lack of culturally sensitive services for victims of domestic violence in the immigrant community
13	Lack of affordable, quality child care and Head Start programs
12	Problems confronting incarcerated women as they re-enter the community
11	Homelessness, including families with children
5	Need for affordable housing, including for seniors and the homeless
5	Need for paid family and medical leave including parental leave
4	Ageism and sexism for senior women
4	Human trafficking, including young girls and girls of color
3	Equal pay for equal work
3	Need to increase minimum wage to a living wage
3	Crisis in birth outcomes in Maryland: need for insurance coverage for maternity and child birth for everyone and lack of provider options
3	Need for HIV AIDS education and prevention, especially for African American women
3	Opioid and heroin addiction (15 deaths and 111 overdoses reported in Frederick County so far this year – 4/15/17)
2	Parental rights of rapists – need to pass Rape Survivors Family Protection Act
2	Underrepresentation of women in positions of power
2	Fair job scheduling
2	Paid sick leave for all workers
2	Need better public transportation especially for low income women
2	Pregnancy discrimination
2	Need for affordable education and job training
1	Agging women – isolation, need for communication
1	Single Parents – need for support
1	Institutional racism, especially in law enforcement & health care
0	Lack of state funding for non-profit organizations
0	Pregnant and parenting teens
136	27 Issues

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Frederick County: Voices of Maryland Women

Photo Album







