

Press Release



Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice Highlights Ongoing Challenges, New Initiatives at September Meeting

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice (PCFJ) convened its September quarterly meeting on Friday, September 26, 2025, continuing its mission to advance fairness and accountability across the Commonwealth. Because of the ongoing state budget impasse, the Commission conducted its meeting virtually.

The session featured a powerful presentation from Sheryl Meck and Desiree Chang of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC), who highlighted data underscoring persistent challenges in schools and a concerning proliferation of hate groups throughout Pennsylvania.

“Even amid fiscal uncertainty, the work of this Commission remains urgent,” said Executive Director Maraleen Shields. “The issues raised in this meeting remind us that Pennsylvanians deserve organizations that are willing to listen and advocate for changes that will improve access to justice.”

In addition to the PHRC presentation, the PCFJ:

- Received robust updates from all seven committees, showcasing progress on a range of initiatives, including juror mental health, implicit bias, domestic violence, and trauma informed courts.

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- Explored new opportunities for engagement, including participation in Regional Behavioral Health Summits, a board of pardons presentation, and a juror education pilot developed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- Advanced organizational reforms, continuing its work to modernize bylaws and strengthen infrastructure to sustain the Commission's mission into the future.

"Bringing the Commission to full strength with the addition of Cheryl Sobeski-Reedy, Esquire, ensures that different voices and perspectives are at the table," Shields added. "That is essential to building fairness and trust in our justice system."

The next quarterly meeting of the Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice is scheduled for December 11, 2025.

About the Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice

The Pennsylvania Commission for Fairness & Justice was established in 2005 by the three branches of Pennsylvania government and is dedicated to promoting fairness and justice in the Commonwealth through collaborative policy development, research, advocacy, and community engagement.

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