



PRESS RELEASE
October 28, 2019

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Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Public Briefing:

Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Addressing the Disparate Discipline of Students of Color, Students with Disabilities, & LGBTQ Students

On November 19 and 21, 2019, public briefings of the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) will examine disparate discipline and the school-to-prison pipeline in Pennsylvania. Both briefings are open to the public.

Committee Chair Patricia Hopson-Shelton stated, "The Committee looks forward to learning about the impacts of disproportionate school discipline on students of color, students with disabilities and LGBTQ youth."

WHAT: Pennsylvania Advisory Committee Public Briefing:

Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Addressing the Disparate Discipline of Students of Color, Students with Disabilities, & LGBTQ Students

WHEN: Tuesday, November 19, 2019 & Thursday, November 21, 2019

**WHERE: November 19, 2019 - via conference call (see below)
November 21, 2019 - via conference call & in-person at:**

**Temple University Center City
1515 Market Street, Room 222
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

Invited expert witnesses are indicated on the attached briefing agendas. They will share their knowledge about this topic and respond to questions from the Committee members.

Those attending the briefings via conference call:

On both dates, individuals attending the briefing via conference call may hear the briefing calling in to: 800-353-6461 - call ID # 6813288; and will be in a listen-only capacity for the duration of the panel presentations.

- Persons with Hearing Impairments: Individuals with hearing impairments may also

follow the discussion by first calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-888-364-3109 and providing the operator with the above toll-free conference call-in and ID numbers.

- Toll-free Number: Callers can expect to incur charges for calls initiated over wireless lines, and the Commission will not refund any incurred charges. Callers will incur no charge for calls initiated over landlines.

Those attending the November 21, 2019 Briefing in-person:

Persons requiring accommodations must contact Corrine Sanders – 15 business days before the briefing date – at 202-276-7533 or csanders@usccr.gov.

Open Public Comments Session

At 4:00 pm at the November 21, 2019 briefing, there will be an open comment session. Members of the public will be invited to make brief statements sharing their experiences and knowledge on this topic; the statements shall not exceed five minutes. Those wishing to speak are asked to arrive early and will be asked to sign-up when they arrive at the briefing site. Those attending via conference call will be recognized by the Chair.

Briefing Record

The briefing record will remain open for 30 days after the hearing date. Written statements and documents – articles, reports, studies that will inform the Committee on this topic – received in the Eastern Regional Office (ERO) of the Commission by 5:00 pm, on Monday, December 23, 2019, will be included in the briefing record. Written statements and documents may be submitted as follows:

Mail: Corrine Sanders, Eastern Regional Office
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 1150
Washington, DC 20415
Email: ero@usccr.gov

Briefing Outcome

Subsequent to the briefing, the Committee will submit a written report to the Commission summarizing the results of its examination, including findings and recommendations. There will also be a written transcript of the briefing at a later date. The written report will be published on the Commission website. Stay abreast of updates at www.usccr.gov.

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The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, established by the Civil Rights Act of 1957, is an independent, bipartisan agency charged with advising the President and Congress on civil rights. It is the only federal department, agency or commission with a network of 51 statutorily-mandated federal advisory committees in each state and the District of Columbia – that study civil rights issues in their states and report the results of their reviews to the Commission. For more information about the Commission, and the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee, please visit www.usccr.gov and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

**Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil
Rights Public Briefing:**

***Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Addressing the Disparate
Discipline of Students of Color, Students with Disabilities, & LGBTQ Students***

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

(Via conference call – see press release above – page 1 - for details)

AGENDA

12:00 pm Welcome and Introductions

12:05 pm Overview Panel of National Experts

**Daniel J. Losen, Director
Center for Civil Rights Remedies
University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)
Los Angeles, CA**

**Kristen Harper, Director for Policy Development
Child Trends
Bethesda, MD**

**Melanie Willingham-Jaggers, Deputy Executive Director
Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
New York, NY**

**Jonathan Butcher, Senior Policy Analyst
The Heritage Foundation
Washington, DC**

**Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil
Rights Public Briefing:**

***Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Addressing the Disparate
Discipline of Students of Color, Students with Disabilities, & LGBTQ Students***

AGENDA

Thursday, November 21, 2019

In-Person:

**Temple University Center City
1515 Market Street, Room 222
Philadelphia, PA 19102**

And via conference call

(See press release above – page 1 - for details)

9:00 am – 9:15 am **Welcome from the Chair and Introductions of
Committee Members**

9:15 am – 10:45 am **Panel 1: Disparate and Punitive Impact of
Exclusionary Practices**

Panelists:

**Harold Jordan, Senior Policy Advocate
ACLU-Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA**

**Paul Morgan, Professor of Education and
Demography
Department of Education Policy Studies,
Population Research Institute
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA**

**Erica Smith, M.Ed.
Sexuality Educator
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA**

**The Hon. John C. Uhler (Ret.)
Court of Common Pleas, 19th Judicial District
York County, PA**

10:45 am – 12:15 pm **Panel 2: Obstacles to Success: What Perpetuates the Use of Exclusionary Discipline and Its Disparate Impact**

Panelists:

**PA Department of Education Official
(Invited)**

**Abigail Gray, Deputy Chief
School Climate and Safety
School District of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA**

**Kelly Welch, Associate Professor
Department of Sociology and Criminology
Villanova University
Villanova, PA**

**Student
(Invited)**

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch Break**

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm **Panel 3: Pathways to Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline**

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm **Panel 4: Pathways to Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline**

The order of the panelists' presentations for Panels 3 and 4 is still to be determined. For now, the panelists are listed alphabetically:

Panelists:

**Kevin Bethel, Fellow
Stoneleigh Foundation
Philadelphia, PA**

**Reynelle Brown-Staley, Policy Director
Education Law Center-PA
Philadelphia, PA**

**Derek Cohen, Ph.D., Director
Right on Crime
Texas Policy Foundation
Austin, TX**

**Edwin Desamour, Dean
Stetson Charter School
Philadelphia, PA**

**James Huguley, Professor of Social Work
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA**

**Monica McHale-Small, Associate Professor
School Psychology
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA**

**Dr. Damaris Rau, Superintendent
School District of Lancaster
Lancaster, PA
(Invited)**

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Open Public Comments