

COUNCIL ON REFORM

PURPOSE & SCOPE

The Council on Reform was established through Governor Wolf's Executive Order 2019-05 with the purpose of studying best practices related to the health, safety, and welfare of vulnerable populations and to make recommendations to improve the support and protection of vulnerable population. For the council's work, vulnerable populations will be defined children, adults with disabilities, and seniors. Details on these populations and their subpopulations are as follows:

1. **Population** – Children (ages 0-17)
Subpopulations – African Americans, Asian American & Pacific Islanders, Latinos, LGBTQ+ children, young women, children with disabilities, children experiencing mental illness, delinquent children, and dependent children
2. **Population** – Adults with Disabilities (ages 18-59)
Subpopulations – African Americans, Asian American & Pacific Islanders, Latinos, LGBTQ+ adults, veterans, women, adults experiencing mental illness, adults with intellectual disabilities/autism, and adults with physical/sensory disabilities
3. **Population** – Seniors (ages 60+)
Subpopulations – African Americans, Asian American & Pacific Islanders, Latinos, LGBTQ+ seniors, women, veterans, seniors experiencing mental illness, seniors with intellectual disabilities/autism, and seniors with physical/sensory disabilities

As the council approaches its' work, it will consider any specific vulnerabilities unique to each subpopulation.

VALUES

The Council on Reform will integrate the following values to ensure research is comprehensive and recommendations are fully vetted prior to putting them forward.

1. **Cultural Competence** – recognizing and honoring diversity
2. **Person-Centered Approach** – focusing on the individual's best interest
3. **Community Engagement** – hearing from vulnerable populations, families, experts, and stakeholders
4. **Context & Awareness** – understanding current environment and avoiding past failings
5. **Trauma-Informed** – eliminating trauma from systems
6. **Workforce Empowerment** – ensuring the workforce is equipped

APPROACH

The council will:

1. Review recommendations made previously by oversight/advisory bodies
2. Evaluate effectiveness or progress of implemented recommendations
3. Determine if any recommendations that have not yet been implemented are still applicable
4. Meet with partners, ad-hoc committees, and subject matter experts to gain their insight
5. Recommend additional reforms intended to further protect both vulnerable populations and all Pennsylvanians

The council will approach this effort from three perspectives:

Prevention & Diversion: What reforms need to take place so that Pennsylvania can eliminate social isolation sometimes experienced by vulnerable populations and better educate the public on the role everyone plays in preventing abuse?

Protection & Intervention: What reforms need to take place so that Pennsylvania can empower people to come forward when abuse occurs, better protect individuals who are being abused, overcome cultures of intimidation and silence, and eliminate risk of future abuse?

Justice & Support: What reforms need to take place so that Pennsylvania can better hold all abusers accountable, provide necessary support to victims, and eliminate processes that cause victims additional trauma?

TIMELINE

The Council on Reform is comprised of individuals with an expertise in vulnerable populations and a vested interest in promoting systems and policies that protect and promote their health and well-being.

1. **July 31** | Executive Order Signing
2. **July 31** | First Council on Reform Meeting – Establish Charter, Values & Timeline
3. **July 31 to Sept. 18** | Review Existing Recommendations
4. **Aug. 28 to Sept. 18** | Receive Stakeholder/Partner Input (Webform & Meetings)
5. **Sept. 18** | Second Council Meeting – Establish Committees, Begin Review of Recommendations Submitted by Stakeholders/Partners, & Begin Development of New Recommendations
6. **Sept. 18 – Oct. 7** | Continue Review and Development of Recommendations
7. **Oct. 7** | Committees Finalize Recommendations
8. **Oct. 23** | Final Council Meeting – Full Council Reviews and Finalizes List of Recommendations
9. **Nov. 1** | Submit Recommendations to Governor Wolf

COUNCIL MEMBERS | 25 VOTING & 11 NONVOTING MEMBERS

The Council on Reform is comprised of individuals with an expertise in vulnerable populations and a vested interest in promoting systems and policies that protect and promote their health and well-being.

Academic Representatives (2)

1. Academic Researcher – Jennie Noll
2. Academic Researcher – Cindy Christian

County and City Official Representatives (5)

3. City Council Member – Cherelle Parker
4. Court of Common Pleas Judge – Kim Berkeley-Clark
5. County Commissioner Association Deputy Director – Brinda Penyak
6. Local Law Enforcement Member – Anthony (Tony) Minium
7. Juvenile Probation Officer – Susan Claytor

Advocate Representatives (9)

8. Child Advocate – Kari King
9. Senior Advocate – Bill Johnston-Walsh
10. Disability Advocate – Nancy Murray
11. Victim Advocate – Susan Higginbotham
12. LGBTQ Advocate – Todd Snovel
13. African American Advocate – David Dix
14. Asian Pacific American Advocate – Niken Astari Carpenter
15. Latino Advocate – Maria Teresa Donate
16. Women's Advocate – Randi Blackman Teplitz

Provider Representatives (3)

17. Provider Association President/Executive Director – Richard Edley
18. Provider Association President/Executive Director – Diane Barber
19. Provider Association President/Executive Director – Rebecca May-Cole

Medical Representatives (3)

20. Pediatrician – Phil Scribano
21. Geriatrician – Namita Ahuja
22. Psychologist – Stacey Rivenburg

Community Representatives (3)

23. Young Adult – Haundray Muir
24. Veteran Living w/ a Disability – Chris Fidler
25. Senior – Mary Bach

To provide insight and updates, and answer technical or programmatic questions, the council will also include the following non-voting members:

1. The Secretary of Human Services or designee
2. The Secretary of Health or designee
3. The Secretary of Aging or designee
4. The Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs or designee
5. The Secretary of Education or designee
6. The Secretary of Corrections or designee
7. The Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency or designee
8. The Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police or designee
9. The Adjutant General of Pennsylvania or a designee
10. The Victim Advocate or designee
11. The Executive Director of the Juvenile Court Judges Commission or designee

PARTNERS & AD HOC COMMITTEES

To ensure that all voices are heard, council members will work with existing bodies who have been created to advocate on behalf of vulnerable populations. In addition, council members will meet with ad hoc committees, subject matter experts, and constituents to gain insight on what reforms they deem necessary.