



Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (MePCSW)

Meeting Minutes

December 19, 2024

9:30-11:00 A.M.

MePCSW Commission Members in Attendance: Anne Gass, Ellen McKenzie, Samantha Lott Hale, Keita Whitten Foster, Darylen Cote, Sue Mackey Andrews, Dania Bowie, Jill Barkley Roy, Fatuma Hussein

MePCSW Commission Members Absent: Maulian Bryant, Jennifer Wilkey, Kate Elmes, Eisha Khan, Jill Randall, Rebecca Austin

Staff and Guests:

- Elinor Higgins, MePCSW Executive Director

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Facilitator: Anne Gass, MePCSW Chair

Welcome and Icebreaker <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome2. Icebreaker – discussed personal and professional highlights of the year
Old Business and Public Comment <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Deferred approval of the October meeting minutes because they were not re-circulated in advance of the call2. Celebrated the report launch and shared photos from the event3. Any members of the public may introduce themselves and speak for 3 minutes<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. No members of the public in attendance
Executive Director's End-of-Year Update <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ED shared slides with overview of activities and achievements from the year, including major highlights like hiring first ED since 1991 and releasing the 2024 report
Commission Operations and New Business <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Update on proposed bill that would provide Commission member per diem for meetings and travel/expense reimbursement – it has been submitted2. High level discussion about an upcoming process for developing 5-year strategic plan in 2025<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Considerations raised about potential facilitation strategies and tools, including a buffer in the timeline, the language used to describe the Commission's work, thoughts on revising "parking lot" items from the June in-

person meeting. Shared a heads up about a member survey to gather thoughts and input.

MePCSW Member Sharing and Other Business

1. Brief update on the proposed Maine ERA
2. Movie suggestion: *Ratified* – includes lessons about intersectional work at the state and federal level
3. News about Secretary Bellows' re-election
4. Discussion about how to create space for everyone in the work, ensure that new members feel their voices are included and heard

Next Meeting Date and Wrap-Up

1. Planning for the timing and cadence of meetings in 2025 – staff will poll for a recurring time that works in 2025.