



Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (MePCSW) Governance Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2025

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

MePCSW Committee Members in Attendance: Anne Gass, Samantha Lott Hale, Keita Whitten Foster, Jill Barkley Roy, Kate Elmes

MePCSW Committee Members Absent: none

Staff and Guests: Elinor Higgins (MePCSW ED)

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Facilitator: Anne Gass, MePCSW Chair

Welcome
Old Business and Public Comment <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Debrief first strategic planning conversation during February 10th MePCSW meeting and review timeline for strategic planning process<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Positive feedback on facilitator and first draft2. Any members of the public may introduce themselves and speak for 3 minutes
New Business and MePCSW Governance <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Strategic Planning<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Review draft goals for 2025-2030 strategic plan<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. Members shared feedback – interest in developing core values and goals for the Commission rather than focusing too intently on political landscapeii. Want to ensure that each goal/action step has metrics to measure success – tie these to ED performance review process if possibleiii. Interest in building stronger relationships with legislators – set up a tracker for this (Kate volunteered to start this)<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Suggestion to build shared bank of materials for having conversations with legislators (pre-drafted questions etc.)2. Position the MePCSW as an entity that can hear from – and convey to – legislators about the concerns of their constituents

- b. Reviewed next steps in the review process and commitment to driving toward a June end date for strategic planning process
 - c. Elinor will circulate draft survey questions for March MePCSW survey to get feedback
- 2. Maine ERA for All coalition
 - a. Reviewed discussion from February 10th MePCSW meeting
 - b. Talked about next steps in supporting the initiative. Opportunities include:
 - i. Testimony on LD 260 – the public hearing will be March 4th. Elinor will circulate draft testimony for Commission review
 - ii. Other options for supporting the work of the coalition:
 - 1. Lunch and learn for MePCSW members – brief discussion about making this open to the public
 - 2. Holding joint educational event with the Coalition
- 3. Other
 - a. Discussed opportunities to connect with community members, local organizations, and other leaders in the state. Listening sessions, possibly “office hours”