



Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) 2024 Report Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 29, 2024

12:00 – 1:30 P.M.

MePCSW Committee Members in Attendance: Anne Gass (left early due to a conflict), Sue Mackey Andrews, Dania Bowie, Jennifer Wilkey, Eisha Khan (arrived late due to a conflict)

MePCSW Committee Members Absent: Darylen Cote

Staff and Guests: Elinor Higgins (MePCSW ED)

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Facilitator: Dania Bowie, Report Committee Chair

Welcome and Introductions

1. Welcome 2024 Report Committee
2. Icebreaker

Old Business and Public Comment

1. Brief overview of July meeting discussion – unanimous vote to approve July meeting minutes
2. Public comment: N/A – no members of the public present

Committee Operations

1. Reviewed report workplan and selected September 26th as the next meeting date

Discuss and Review Current Report Draft

1. MePCSW ED walked through current draft of report and discussed goal of having sharable draft completed by end of September/early October
2. Talked through a proposed visual looking at various economic interruptions and setbacks/opportunities across the lifespan. Opted to revisit this as an interactive graphic or tool in the future, perhaps with branching options to reflect varied lived experiences of Maine women
3. Discussed the following report assignments:
 - a. Building out a text box of recent wins in Maine related to child care investment, paid family medical leave, etc (Sue)
 - b. Help build out some of the visual components of the report (Jenn)
 - c. Do a scan of the supports Maine has in place for family caregivers (Sue)
 - d. Review and add to the section describing Commission work over the past two years (Anne)

- e. Think of questions we might want to suggest that legislators take to their districts (Anne)
- 4. Discussion of current draft:
 - a. Participants emphasized interest in identifying actions steps and recommendations in addition to questions
 - b. Concerns about making sure data and information is following best practices for data literacy
 - c. Want to emphasize the shortcomings of workplace discrimination data (not all discrimination instances are captured in that information)
 - d. Need to think through the audience for the report – thinking about the legislative audience as well as allied organizations
 - e. Working to identify some concrete examples to populate the sections of the report – Sue will work on this with an individual she knows through her work
 - f. Talked about how to address shortcomings in data sources – where can we use proxy data sources, how to frame disclaimers about data use
 - g. Start thinking about future reports and potential topics

Next Steps/Next Meeting Date/Wrap-up

1. Hold the morning of December 12th for a report launch in the Hall of Flags
2. Next meeting on September 26th
3. Elinor will follow up on report assignments