



Maine Permanent Commission on **THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (MePCSW)

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025

12:00 – 1:30 P.M.

MePCSW Members in Attendance: Chris Hastedt, Keita Whitten Foster, Jill Barkley Roy, Karen Keim, Sue Mackey Andrews, Darylen Cote, Kate Easter, Khadija El Barkaoui, Jennifer Wilkey, Anne Gass, Rebecca Austin, Eva White, Fatuma Hussein

MePCSW Members Absent: Dania Bowie, Kate Elmes, Eisha Khan, Maulian Bryant, Julie Mallett

Staff and Guests: Elinor Higgins (MePCSW ED), Leeann Sullivan (PCRITP Research Specialist), Christine Rudalevige (USM Data Fellow)

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Facilitators: Sue Mackey Andrews (Community Outreach Committee Chair, filling in for Samantha Lott Hale)

Old Business and Public Comment

1. Review, discuss, and approve August meeting minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: Keita
 - b. Second: Darylen
 - c. Vote: Unanimous vote to approve
2. Any members of the public may introduce themselves and speak for 3 minutes
 - a. No members of the public present

MePCSW Member Updates

1. Commissioners may share any brief updates relevant to MePCSW work
 - a. Commissioners shared concerns about the Question 1 ballot initiative, particularly as it relates to absentee voting access.

New Business and Guest Presentation

1. Updates on recent MePCSW work from Executive Director and MePCSW Committees
 - a. Highlighted recent news coverage of the PRAMS issue brief
 - b. Gender parity on corporate boards report is live on the MePCSW website and the Corporations website

- c. Women in Construction project – Elinor and Commissioner Chris Hastedt working with Maine Department of Labor and Maine Human Rights Commission on issues around workplace sexual harassment reporting processes.
 - d. Budget and legislation update
 - i. Budget request has been submitted
 - ii. LD522 is being recalled to update the report submission date
 - iii. Legislation proposed to create a commission on sex and human trafficking
 - e. Preview of community outreach plans for 2025-26
 - i. Gathering information about Commissioner connections and affiliations to start outreach through these avenues
 - ii. Working on materials for consistent messaging and plans for outreach across the state
 - f. Planning for 2026 report and data dashboard
 - i. Christine is working with Elinor and the Research and Reporting committee to develop a framework for a MePCSW data dashboard
2. Guest Presentation: Data Justice
- a. Leeann Sullivan, Research Specialist at the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations
 - i. Presentation highlighted the PCRITP report on data justice, discussing the creation of racial categories and challenges with data privacy, community trust, and potential negative impacts of data collection
3. Elinor will circulate slides about the draft MePCSW member handbook