



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

Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (MePCSW)

**Meeting Minutes**

**February 9, 2026**

**12:00 – 1:30 P.M.**

**MePCSW Members in Attendance:** Anne Gass, Keita Whitten Foster, Julie Mallett, Dania Bowie, Sue Mackey Andrews, Fatuma Hussein, Rebecca Austin, Eva White

**MePCSW Members Absent:** Sam Lott Hale, Khadija El Barkaoui, Darylen Cote, Eisha Khan, Chris Hastedt, Kate Easter, Maulian Bryant, Jennifer Wilkey, Jill Barkley Roy

**Staff and Guests:** Elinor Higgins (MePCSW ED) and Mia Noon (USM Intern)

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**Facilitators:** Dania Bowie (Policy and Legislation Committee Chair filling in for MePCSW Chair)

## **Old Business and Public Comment**

1. Introductions – welcome to Mia Noon, MePCSW intern
2. Note: Meeting lacked a quorum by one, so votes were deferred,
3. Any members of the public may introduce themselves and speak for 3 minutes
  - a. No members of the public present

## **New Business**

1. Planning for MePCSW 2026 report and dashboard
  - a. Research and Reporting Committee recommendation for report format and topic – proposed moving to a broader “status of women and girls report” rather than topic-specific
    - i. Discussed goal of providing consistent and predictable resources for MePCSW audiences and lawmakers
    - ii. Plan to include introductory framing around some of the federal changes and initiatives that are impacting Maine women and residents
  - b. Update on MePCSW data dashboard
    - i. Elinor provided overview of work toward a MePCSW data dashboard
      1. Proposed broad categories:
        - a. Education and Opportunity
        - b. Work and Economic Security
        - c. Safety from Violence and Abuse
        - d. Health and Environment
        - e. Leadership, Civic Engagement, Community Connection

2. Overview of feedback on the data and information that has been highlighted as important by MePCSW partners and audiences
    3. Shared progress on creating a library of data sources on education outcomes and experiences in Maine
  - ii. Discussion of data equity – who is included and excluded by data sources in Maine
    1. How to contextualize the information and combine with other sources of information in MePCSW reports to tell more complete story
    2. Thinking about how to ensure that data is not left without context – how do we envision the data and information being used? Make that explicit
2. Legislative and Budget Update
  - a. MePCSW materials were sent to legislative committee chairs
  - b. Update on LD 522 – MePCSW legislative study bill on workforce issues and trends across gender-segregated industries
    - i. Passed the house with updated completion date in 2027
  - c. Testified on child care bills (LD 1414 and LD 2066)
  - d. Mia, MePCSW intern, tracking some priority bills of interest weekly
  - e. Capacity constraints – revisiting some of the challenges to conducting legislative advocacy due to capacity issues
3. Reminder for outreach to community partners and legislators