



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

**MePCSW Community Outreach Committee (COC)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**August 8, 2025**

**3:30-4:30 P.M.**

**MePCSW Committee Members in Attendance:** Fatuma Hussein, Sue Mackey Andrews, Kate Easter, Darylen Cote, Jennifer Wilkey

**MePCSW Committee Members Absent:** Julie Mallett

**Staff and Guests:** Elinor Higgins (MePCSW ED)

--

**Facilitator:** Fatuma Hussein and Sue Mackey Andrews, COC Co-Chairs

## **Welcome**

## **Old Business and Public Comment**

1. Any members of the public may introduce themselves and speak for 3 minutes
  - a. No members of the public present

## **New Business**

1. Discussed the role and purpose of the COC, beginning to define its role as informing folks across the state about the commission's work, engaging with state-wide initiatives, and hearing from community members about their priorities and solutions
  - a. Round robin discussion about members' vision for the committee: interest in representing the full spectrum of Maine women, building relationships through community-driven initiatives, and empowering communities to identify their own needs. Want to keep MePCSW informed while also advocating for needed changes and informing others.
  - b. Elinor to begin a draft of the committee's vision and guiding principles based on the conversation
2. Discussed a structure and approach to relationship building – how to introduce the MePCSW across the state, show up consistently, and advance community-driven priorities
  - a. Talked about potential structures for regional engagement across the state
  - b. A preference for leveraging connections that Commissioners have across the state as a starting place for engagement and connection
  - c. Need to reach out to the full spectrum of women, including across political party lines

- d. Interest in developing consistent talking points to ensure clear and consistent messaging during outreach, preparing for different audiences
- e. Emphasis on letting community needs organically emerge based on what questions or stories people share

3. ED overview of recent outreach efforts

- a. Elinor shared a slide with recent outreach including AAUW presentations, presentation to the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous, and Tribal Populations, and CDC Community Care Partners. Upcoming events include co-facilitating a session at the Maine Inclusion Conference and speaking to the Portland Health Equity Alignment at a fall meeting. Other ongoing relationships include partnerships with the Maine Women's Lobby, the Maine Doula Access leadership team, the Maternal Health Task Force, and those involved with the women in construction executive order.
- b. Raised idea of building out a timeline for outreach and engagement looking out a few years

**Wrap-Up and Next Steps**

- 1. Decided to meet more frequently (every 2-3 weeks) in the short-term to establish committee materials and talking points
- 2. Goals for before the next meeting:
  - a. Draft vision and principles
  - b. Shared space online for collaboration
  - c. Collect current materials to start developing consistent talking points