



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

## MePCSW Governance Committee

### Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2025

9:00 – 10:00 A.M.

**MePCSW Committee Members in Attendance:** Samantha Lott Hale, Keita Whitten Foster, Fatuma Hussein, Eisha Khan, Dania Bowie

**MePCSW Committee Members Absent:** Sue Mackey Andrews

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

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**Facilitator:** Samantha Lott Hale, MePCSW Chair

#### Welcome

#### Old Business and Public Comment

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

#### New Business

1. MePCSW Committees – Review authority and statements of purpose
  - a. Reviewed the descriptions of each committee and talked about the need to balance the ability of each committee to be nimble while also ensuring that each committee informs the others.
  - b. Discussion around the role of each committee in setting the direction of the Commission. Particular focus on the community outreach committee and how to ensure that community voices are central to the work of the MePCSW. Discussed how to involve all commissioners in bringing community connections to the work.
2. Vision and guiding principles for MePCSW committees
  - a. Reviewed the vision and guiding principles developed by the MePCSW Community Outreach Committee and discussed opportunities for adapting them to meet the needs of the full Commission
  - b. Proposal to create an overarching vision and shared guiding principles for the full Commission with individual committees creating purpose statements
3. Tiered Approach to Legislative Engagement

- a. Overview of proposed approach to tiered legislative engagement, with opportunities for voluntary advocacy from individual commissioners in addition to full MePCSW approaches
  - b. Introduced the idea of empowering the Policy and Legislation committee to make time-sensitive decisions if needed
4. Community Outreach Planning and Approach
  - a. Reviewed plan to connect with partner organizations and to lean on Commissioner connections, host a state wide webinar, and to pilot a variety of regional approaches for outreach