Maine Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (MePCSW) Governance Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2025

10:00 – 11:00 A.M.

MePCSW Committee Members in Attendance: Anne Gass, Samantha Lott Hale, Keita Whitten Foster, Kate Elmes

MePCSW Committee Members Absent: Jill Barkley Roy

Staff and Guests: Elinor Higgins (MePCSW ED)

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Facilitator: Anne Gass, MePCSW Chair

Welcome

Old Business and Public Comment
1. Review February meeting minutes
    a. Motion to approve – Samantha
    b. Second – Kate
    c. Vote – unanimously in favor
2. Any members of the public may introduce themselves and speak for 3 minutes
    a. No members of the public present.

New Business and MePCSW Governance
1. Strategic Planning
    a. Discussed initial feedback on draft strategic goals and overview of proposed updates.
        i. Suggestion to make sure that language in goals is measurable (e.g., what do we mean by "strengthen")
    b. Discussion about role of MePCSW – consideration of partners and avoiding duplication, thinking about how to connect communities with the work of the Commission without overtaxing resources
    c. Opportunities for future surveys – consider including names with survey results to get a better sense of how to engage members and who is not engaged – "people vote with their bodies"
2. Legislative updates:

      a. L.D. 522 "Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State" – divided report
      b. L.D. 135 "An Act to Provide Compensation to Members of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Enhance Equitable Commission Participation from Across the State" – unanimous report with amendment

3. Webinar series with Maine Women's Lobby on the wage gap in Maine – first webinar on April 15th, second one in May
4. Committee member sharing and other new business?
      a. Updates on ERA for All campaign and approach to gathering videos that document the importance of the Maine Human Rights Act