



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

MePCSW Research and Reporting Committee (RRC)

Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2026

12:00-1:00 P.M.

MePCSW Committee Members in Attendance: Anne Gass, Julie Mallet, Eva White, Khadija El Barkaoui

MePCSW Committee Members Absent: Eisha Khan

Staff and Guests: Elinor Higgins (MePCSW ED)

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Facilitator: Elinor Higgins, in place of Eisha Khan, RRC Chair

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
2. Review, discuss, and approve November minutes
 - a. Tabled to vote on at next Committee Meeting

New Business

1. Planning for 2026 report and data dashboard
 - a. Review timeline and workplan
 - i. Presented each quarter with key tasks to be completed during each three-month time frame.
 - b. Discuss theme and framing for the 2026 report
 - i. Reviewed strategies utilized in the 2024 report, discussed creating a standardized format for 2026 report and future biennial reports to ensure a standard reliable format for MePCSW reporting.
 - ii. Goal of improving predictability for products
 - c. Motion to recommend that the 2026 report be a broad "status of women and girls report" with an introduction and framing grounded in current events
 - i. Motion: Anne
 - ii. Second: Julie
 - iii. Vote: unanimous vote to approve
2. Discuss Semiquincentennial

- a. Suggestion to highlight an overview of women's rights history in the introduction of the MePCSW biennial report
- b. Intention to highlight the semi quincentennial with other timely issues, such as federal budgeting.
- 3. Data dashboard update: Education and Opportunity metrics
 - a. Overview of identifying data and metrics for the education section of the data dashboard
 - b. Highlighted questions about how to select key topics without neglecting other issues
 - c. Discussion of how we have integrated feedback on past reports – process has been informal. May need a better path for gathering input

Wrap-Up and Next Steps

- 1. Identify a recurring time for bi-monthly RRC meetings
 - a. Elinor plan to send a poll to committee members to find a consistent meeting time for this committee