



Maine's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

MePCSW Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2018 - 9:00 am-11:00 am

Nash School Building, Augusta

In Attendance: Jill Randall, Amy Gallant, Cara Courchesne

Participating Remotely: Samantha Lott Hale, Marianne Moore, Holly Stover, Ruth Kermish-Allen, Meredith Strang-Burgess, Kelley Bentley, Fatuma Hussein

Absent: Regina Rooney

Approval of minutes from 4/11/18 and 6/13/18 meetings

Motion to approve minutes from April 11, 2018 meeting by Jill, Marianne second, all in favor

Motion to approve minutes from June 13, 2018 meeting by Sam, Jill second, all in favor

PCSW Binders

- Put together by Amy. She will mail. Not included- comparison of PCSW with other women's groups done at June meeting.
- Ruth – Maine Calling caller asked about the PCSW. Speaker Gideon responded. What is the process for providing legislative feedback?
- Amy –1975 commission took a much more active role in legislation. Statute allows us to do so now.
- Agreement for those who wish to speak with their organizations regarding policy to do so by the end of the week, if possible. Reach out to leadership to ask if there are bills they would like the commission to consider. Deadline just after the first of the year. It is not a commitment. Commission will discuss potential bills at the February meeting to determine if they wish to pursue and if so, what is the most successful thing that they can do this session. Due to capacity of commission, consider focusing on education in addition to looking at bills.
- Amy will resend a rubric used in considering bill support and an email about the plan to start reaching out to legislative leadership to make sure that everyone is comfortable with it.
- The commission will also do some 2-year planning for goal setting around the report, NEWPI conference, legislative processing, filling vacancies, etc.

NEWPI Conference Review and Feedback

- Amy and Marianne attended. Holly scheduled to attend, but hung up at House orientation.
- Marianne reviewed her experience at the conference, noting the energy and excitement of the young attendees, organized agenda, well-attended breakouts, and meaningful keynote address. It was helpful to share data with other states. Worth the time to attend.
- Amy noted that it was the best NEWPI conference thus far. A lot of small group discussion that felt broad. Attending the dinner the evening before the conference was helpful. The Maine commission did not have a breakout session this year. Nice to be there as planners/participants instead.

- Amy asked who would like to help with planning for the next conference. She may assist. Need to consider how to get more commissioners, colleagues, and legislators to attend. Marrienne and Holly encouraged participation in the planning process.

Commissioner transitions to legislators

- Congratulations to Marianne Moore and Holly Stover!
- Marianne – Proud and honored to be a part of the commission. Look forward to taking that with me in Augusta. We have similar roles, regardless of party.
- Holly – Involved with taking time to carefully produce a report. Enjoyed the mission of the commission. Seen progress. Feel good that we have advocated.

2019 Report

- Amy discussed the history of the three reports produced by the commission thus far. The 2012 report was qualitative. 2015 looked at areas underrepresented in 2012. Both the 2012 and 2015 reports used excerpts from direct quotes from grass-roots surveys. The 2017 report consists of one-pagers highlighting areas from the longer report and was presented at the Hall of Flags along with previous reports. Legislators picked up all three.
- Consider forming a 2019 report committee.
Determine plan: possible grass-roots survey again, update the one-pagers, utilize left-over NEWPI funds, Kelly’s Infant Mortality report.
- Discussed a hybrid of past reports: updating one-pagers on key focus areas and including the Infant Mortality study. Potentially producing surveys on the specific focus areas.
- Amy asked the group to review all of the reports and to consider whether or not they would like to use an intern to assist with the report as was done in 2012 and 2015. She will speak with Kelly regarding utilizing her study provided to the New England Women’s Policy Center. Review at next meeting. Asked if anyone was interested in being the lead for the 2019 report. Meredith happy to lay out the final product.

Set dates for 2019 meetings

To best accommodate many schedules, 90-minute meetings will rotate between Wednesdays and Thursdays in 2019.

1. Wed Feb 13 9:00 am -10:30 am
2. Thurs April 11 9:00 am -10:30 am
3. Wed June 12 9:00 am -10:30 am
4. Thurs Oct 10 9:00 am -10:30 am
5. Wed Dec 11 9:00 am -10:30 am

Ruth – send invites to rkurmishallen@mmsa.org

Conclude - 10:36 am