



**MePCSW Meeting Minutes**  
February 6, 2020 - 9:00 am-11:00 am  
Nash School Building, Augusta

**In Attendance:** Muriel Mosher, Darylen McQuirk Cote

**Participating Remotely:** Kate Elmes, Bonnie Porta, Ruth Kermish-Allen, Samantha Lott Hale, Jennifer Wilkey, Anne Gass, Susan Mackey Andrews, Meredith Strang Burgess

**Absent:** Jill Randall, Rebecca Austin, Fatuma Hussein, Amy Fried

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Approve January 22, 2020 meeting minutes**

Motion to approve minutes by Muriel, seconded by Darylen, all in favor

**Report Updates**

Kate will create a new page for each section where commissioners can plug in resources. Strong and clear recommendations.

**New Maine Women**

- Refugee organizations do not have proprietary data or reports highlighting new Maine women or the unique needs of women. Recommend that there be a study that focuses on their needs, those of tribal women and women of color to use in a future report. Jennifer will reach out to the Wabanaki Women's Coalition and send info to Anne.
- Darylen will reach out to Peaches Bass at DOL's Women's Employment Committee for data and send to Anne. Issues brought to committee: Cannot find employment or transfer credentials from other countries.
- Consider justice issues - Juvenile Justice Advisory Group will release a report to the Legislature soon. Girls are incarcerated, women and girls of color more often, tribal youth.

**Education**

- Ruth will consolidate bullet points, clarify recommendations, and work with Anne to turn into narrative form.
- Sue will put together something about Early Childhood-prenatal to pre-K. Could also be placed in economic development (childcare).
- Adult Ed and the Trades - Micro degrees/badges that certify competence in particular areas are available at community colleges. Might be placed under economic development.
- DOE stats do not differentiate between sexes.
- Health education - There is a comprehensive sex education requirement from the state. Jennifer will send Ruth a bullet point with status, recommendations and resources.

## **Health**

- Kate will create a format for this section. Commissioners fill in by the end of next week. Send a draft to Kelly to review.
- Check CDC for breast and cervical health program info.
- Recommend increased funding for Public Health Nursing due to backlog.
- Include prenatal health.

## **Freedom from Violence**

- Jennifer will reformat.
- Lot of progress last year with laws.
- Consider other populations: disabilities, indigenous, new Mainers, older Mainers. If this section is at capacity, mention in other sections.
- Anne will reach out to Disability Rights Maine & Maine Developmental Disabilities Council.
- Jennifer will reach out to Wabanaki Women's Coalition. Nationally, indigenous women are being trafficked and disappearing more than other populations. Is it the same for Maine?

## **Economic security**

- Darylen will contact Peaches for data.
- Jennifer- research regarding mental load women carry.
- Childcare workers and parity of pay is a barrier for women to get into education or the workforce. Supports to get ready for job.
- Transportation, especially in rural areas.

## **Report opening and closure**

### **Intro**

- Gain access to equal opportunity and list sections within the report
- Executive summary with each section of the report.
- Add a high-level timeline of Maine women's rights. See exhibition at MSL.

### **Conclusion**

- Recommendations benefit all Maine people.
- Jennifer will make notes on what she thinks should be highlighted.
- Disclaimer that holes in data will be covered in the next report.

## **Action**

- Consolidate your section including a *What Maine Can Do* and a *Resources* section.
- Complete report the week of 2/10.
- Darylen will edit, starting 2/17 making voice and tone consistent.
- Jennifer will start designing the week of 2/24.

## **Proposed meeting schedule for 2020 – not discussed**

### **Next meeting date**

- Meet the first week of march to review a draft.
- Kate will send out a Doodle poll. March 2 or 4 from 9:00am – 11:00am.

Adjourn at 10:31