

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2015, 12:00-1:00pm
Nash School, Augusta

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attending in person: Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Amy Gallant, Sarah Ruef-Lindquist, Vera Roberts, Guest – Destie Homan Sprague, Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Attending remotely: Fatuma Hussein, Samantha Lott Hale, Rebekah Smith, Marianne Moore, Lori Parham

Absent: Jessica Maurer, Regina Rooney, Andrea Irwin, Jennifer Burke

II. Committee Updates

Governance -Elizabeth

The Senate President appointed Vera Roberts, Jane Haskell, and Marjorie Crowley. Marianne has been reappointed. Andrea stepped down as chair, but will continue on the commission. In the interim, Sarah has agreed to chair for at least a year.

Motion to recommend that the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women in Maine approve Sarah Ruef-Lindquist as interim chair – Elizabeth, second – Amy, all in favor.

Sarah accepted and had a few remarks.

III. Review and Approve Minutes from 4/8/15 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from 4/8/15 meeting– Elizabeth, second – Amy. Vera abstains, having not been present. All others approve.

Pre-planning for Strategic Planning Day

Explanation of pre-plan outline created by Destie. Doodle poll indicated that a summer meeting was not possible. Hope to schedule early in the fall. Start with outcomes. What do you want to walk away with/key desires?

Sarah – Consider how to continually concentrate/focus attention on the report so we can be intentional about naming a few goals for getting the report to certain groups. Be thoughtful in building a plan around distribution and outreach to make the report a more accessible document in order to support the charge that we have.

Amy – What worked well with first and second reports? Where were the gaps/weaknesses? Where did we have low demographic participation? Find out so that we can expand the communities. Do we want to create benchmarks for the next report? Have a conversation about what’s helpful for distribution. Is it sustainable to have an intern? Should we work with the law school? Talk about our connection with the New England Women’s Commission and their charge of having a biennial conference and for states to have their own conference on the off years (budget challenges).

Elizabeth– A common understanding about what we hope to accomplish with the report aside from our statutory charge, and build on that. A common understanding of what the commission is and what our role is on it. Create an actual work plan for the year or two. Is there some role for this commission to play for women in leadership? Are there other priorities that we are interested in and are they doable?

Lori – Get everyone on the same page, a shared understanding of goals. Do we want to use the report for advocacy or education? The report should inform the next 2-year plan that we work with.

Rebekah – Figure out what our connections and resources are and make a plan to leverage those.

Sarah – This is called a power analysis.

Marianne – The last strategic planning meeting/SWAT analysis was in June 2013. The goals resembled these. What can we do to get additional funding?

Sarah- A work plan will allow us to hold ourselves accountable, or check back in when things aren't going well.

Amy – Small amount of time to learn more about each other.

Elizabeth – Mid-morning start, pot-luck lunch, finish mid-afternoon.

Destie will update the plan outline. Members can give feedback.

IV. Committee Updates

Report/Outreach - Amy

Amy met with Alford and Dill on 4/22/15. Kim Lane met with Fredette and Espling on 4/28/15.

We should consider the timeliness of scheduling meetings during the first year of session. All bills are in and budget is on the table. Sarah will meet with her delegation to discuss report.

The SOS mailed the report to libraries and some municipalities, and delivered to legislators.

Lori continues to work with the producer of Maine Calling to schedule a show.

V. New England Women's Policy Commission Update - Amy

Conference call on 4/13/15 about a half-day or one-day retreat to plan the next New England conference. Need more guidance from this commission on what our priority level is for participation before attending in Boston.

Sarah – Add this question into our planning.

VI. Women's Employment Issues Committee –Amy

Regina and Amy attended and brought copies of the executive summary. Regina did a presentation about the commission. Amy highlighted the education and economic security sections of the report. The Maine Development Fund attended as well. There was a difference in our wage gap numbers. PCSW lists 79 cents, MDF 81 cents. Great discussion about consistency in reporting.

VII. Future/Summer Meeting Schedule

Elizabeth will send out a Doodle poll for possible dates. The commission will not meet again until the strategic planning session.

VIII. Other Business

Amy –Should the commission have some place at the Women's Economic Security Summit on October 16? It is administered by the Maine Women's Policy Center and will be an all-day program in Augusta. More info can be found on the MWPC website.

Rebekah is a board member at MWPC and would welcome participation.

Sarah is already on distribution list for the summit planning group.

Amy – Maybe it would be preferable to go to one meeting to see if it would be appropriate for the commission to have representation at the conference and then take it from there.

IX. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn – Marianne, second – Amy, all in favor.

Next Meeting – Strategic Planning Session, date/time/location TBD