

Meeting Minutes
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
July 25, 2012, 1 pm – 3pm
Nash School, Augusta

In Attendance

Eloise Vitelli, Chair, Romy Spitz, Jennifer Burke, Denis Culley, Julia Colpitts, Karen Keim, Kate Power
Participating via conference call: Sarah Bigney, Megan Williams, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Brenda Commander,
Donna Yellen

Not in attendance: Fatuma Hussein, Kimm Collins, Odelle Bowman, Karen Raye, Ruth Summers, Cheryl
Timberlake

Welcome and Introductions

Brenda introduced herself to the Commission.

Review and approve minutes from 6/7/12

Motion to approve – Jen Burke, second – Romy, all in favor

Committee Reports

Research and Data Collection

Update from Eloise:

The summary of the report is ready. We have printed copies to share. Electronic copies are also fine to share. It is ready to be posted online.

Kate is finalizing the full report. Kate and Eloise met with Louisa DePrez at USM who suggested that the Commission needs a summary of what needs to happen to support our findings. The time frame for finishing full report has been extended. Meredith is on hold for publishing the final version.

Update from Kate: The introduction was easier to draft. The conclusion is a first draft now. Summary findings and recommendation section are for there for the Commission to review. It is just a starting point. Please send thoughts and ideas to Kate and cc Eloise by mid-August. The Report Committee will meet again to review a final version of the report.

Jen – Ensure the Power Point is revised. It is available on the Google site for your use as an educational tool.

Romy - may be able to get the survey translated for ASL by Deaf Women United.

Karen – Sent survey to Girl Scouts of ME. 4000 adults and 12000 girls

Outreach and Public Education

Update from Jen:

The survey is complete. Thanks to the Committee and Kate. Our goal is to have the surveys returned by 8/10/12 to have time to process data. You should have received survey monkey version (housed on mcedv survey monkey), pdf version, and a draft introduction letter. We are hoping to get a minimum of 500 surveys returned. We have wide contacts amongst us. 67 surveys returned today. On the 10th we'll have to do a review to see what we need, if we have broad demographics covered. Check the Google doc site. Kate is keeping track of who we have heard from.

Louisa DePrez suggests we present the report with language that recognizes that our survey is not scientific. She also put Kate in touch with Sandy Butler, a professor at UMO who does data collection/analysis. She suggested crossing data with income and counties.

Julia suggested adding age and considering putting signs up at libraries suggesting patrons complete survey.

Denis can bring to long-term care ombudsmen to bring to long-term care facilities. He also suggested Grange meetings as a way to reach the elderly. Letters are read at each meeting. Often they are surveys. He will help with Augusta.

Brenda will bring to an event tomorrow.

Julia will send to Maine Women's Lobby (Eliza Townsend) and Maine Women's Fund. She also suggested Maine Development Foundation.

Karen sent to Women's employment issues committee.

Jen will contact the Chamber.

17 surveys were returned from the Washington County event.

Any paper copies will need to be entered on survey monkey. Kate is willing to do the data entry. Keep track of who you send it to and let Kate know. It will be helpful in intro. You can update the list on Google docs/timeline-organizations and put your name beside it. Kate and others will know who has already been contacted.

Romy may be able to pick up data collection duties when Kate leaves the Commission.

You will have to print the paper survey. Contact Kate if you have any questions.

Discussion on creating a press release/bringing to media. Consensus to wait until data gathered.

Governance and Operations

Kimm, Eloise, Elizabeth worked on draft by-laws for initial review. They were put together so the full committee could see the direction the sub-committee is going in. Please review and send suggestions to Eloise, Kimm and Kate. Committee would like to have bylaws to consider in October or possibly later.

There are two significant additions from enabling legislation: 1. The Committee would appoint a Chair with the Governor approving the selection; and 2. The Committee would be allowed to accept funds.

Old Business

Many committee appointments are past due. We will continue to operate under the provision that we are to maintain our seats until we are replaced.

New Business

Megan – There is a forum for US Senate Candidates held by Women's Policy Center on issues affecting Women and Girls on October 4, 2012 at USM Hannaford Hall. We could provide the survey at the event. Megan will forward the event flier to the Commission. We can submit questions in to forum. She will find out the due date.

Denis suggests submitting a question about the wage-gender gap.

Eloise - We will not meet again before this forum. Submit questions individually.

Romy suggested at least submitting one question to get the name of the commission out.

Brenda/Eloise – There is no guarantee that a submitted question will be chosen to be posed.

Jen – Would we prefer to choose a question on the survey?

Kate – 74 responses to survey currently on survey monkey.

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, October 17, 2012, 1-3:00pm

Wednesday December 12, 2012, 1-3:00 pm

There will be some Commission activity before then: Look for initial survey results from Kate. The final version of report will go to full commission for approval. We'll need to determine if we submit a question on behalf of the full commission for October 4th. Send any ideas/thoughts to Kate.