



MePCSW Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2023, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Online Meeting

In Attendance: Kate Elmes, Jennifer Wilkey, Rebecca Austin, Anne Gass, Dania Bowie, Jill Randall, Fatuma Hussein, Maulian Dana, Samantha Lott Hale, Darylen Cote, Meredith Strang Burgess, Sue Mackey Andrews

Absent: Moriah Geer, Ruth Kermish-Allen, Jill Barkley Roy

Welcome, Kate

Approve Minutes - Motion to approve June 2023 minutes, Darylen – Anne, second – all in favor.

Membership Update, Kate

- Several names sent to Governor's office for consideration for vacant seats 3 & 4.
- If your seat is currently expired, notify Kate if you do not wish to remain on the commission. Kate will reach out to appointing authorities re: reappointments.

Staffing update, Kate

- Spoke with Sec. Bellows last week. ED funding expected in Oct. Job description will be created next week. Kate will share draft and a hiring process timeline.
- ED will report to Sec. Bellows. Input from interested commission members – Anne.
- Discussion of people and communities ED should reach out to.
- Jennifer will develop a form where members can share why they serve on the commission.

Legislative Subcommittee, Dania

- LD 794 - On table & ED position in Governor's change package. Carried over. The two additional commission seats did not pass. Revisiting next session. No fiscal note.
- LD 1412 ERA – Passed House & Senate, failed 2/3rds. MWL Coalition building/planning. Amending constitution goes to people.
- LD 1619 Reproductive Privacy Laws – signed by Governor. Opposition well-resourced.
- LD 2007 Tribal Sovereignty Bill - progress made. Fell short of 2/3rds.
- LD 1964 PFML - Passed. Review highlights. MWL working on implementation & education.
- LD 348 Access to menstrual products - Passed House & Senate but did not get funded again.
- Legislative subcommittee will now focus on white papers.

Program Committee, Anne

- Spotlight on childcare and women in STEM. Issues, recent gains, and remaining gaps.
- Utilize white papers.
- Goal- Complete interviews for papers early Sept. Draft late Sept. Published Oct. Webinar early Nov.

continued

Program Committee continued

- Because of overlap, webinar can include both topics.
- Darylen will contact Maine Resilience re: web hosting once papers completed.
- Sue will assist Anne.
- Next meeting 8/21/23

Announcements & Next Meeting

Next Commission meeting October 19, 9:30-11:00

Adjourned 10:45 a.m.