



MePCSW Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Online Meeting

In Attendance: Rebecca Austin, Jill Barkley Roy, Darylen Cote, Kate Elmes, Anne Gass, Moriah Greer, Samantha Lott Hale, Fatuma Hussein, Ruth Kermish-Allen, Susan Mackey Andrews, Kim Moody, Bonnie Porta, Meredith Strang Burgess, Jennifer Wilkey, Secretary Shenna Bellows, Emily Cook, SOS office

Absent: Jill Randall

Welcome and Introductions

Old Business - Kate

Approve May minutes - Motion to approve by Darylen, Ruth second, all approved

Membership Update - For Gov. appointments, please send documents to Missy if not done yet.

Budget Allocation Update - Emily

No action yet. Timeline not certain. Would not hurt to reach out to your delegation.

FYI – Sec. Bellows

LD 1200 An Act To Bring Gender Parity to Corporate Boards

Updates from Committees

Report Committee - Anne

Next report should help the Legislature understand the impact of the pandemic on women in ME. No staff to do the report. MSW and law students could be available to assist. Look at what organizations already have. Work with Catholic Charities re: underserved communities. Offer stipends to those sharing their stories. One-pager for December, prior to Cloture. Focus on a narrow range of issues. Childcare continues to be a huge issue. Showcase how state government can help.

Commission input - With students assisting, should be able to pay for translation service. Helpful to look at what other states do. Include stories from different areas of the state. Add a timeline. Highlight intersectionality.

Spotlight Committee – Darylen

Stick with panels. Value to using Zoom. Pay one person to facilitate all for consistency and to tie together. Need people to share stories and experts. Email Darylen recommendations.

Commission input - The Care Economy (childcare, health care). Compensate people-grocery or gas gift cards

Kate – Are we missing anything?

Kim - Women with disabilities experience life in so many different ways.

Sec. Bellows – BIPOC lens

Bonnie – Juvenile Justice and access to quality mental health care in ME

Jen – Sexual exploitation is complex. Can assist with this topic.

Ruth – Difference between rural areas vs. urban/suburban

Emily – Ability to serve

Sue – Housing- a lot of property purchased

Kim – Input from those who are voiceless. Not just mental health. Other disabilities too.

Kate will send Doodle polls for July subcommittee meetings. Both committees please have a draft 2021-22 work plan ready for the August commission meeting. Will look for intersections.

New Business

NACW Time Capsule – Our commission is submitting Anne’s book, [Voting Down the Rose: Florence Brooks Whitehouse and Maine's Fight for Woman Suffrage](#). This is Maine's story. Letters from Anne and Sec. Bellows will be included.

Conversation with Sec. Bellows -

Contribution to time capsule, openings on BMV Medical Advisory Board

Moriah suggested representation from those being affected or a medical social worker

Next scheduled meeting date – August 19, 2021, 1:00-2:30