



MePCSW Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2018, 9:00 – 11:00

Nash School, Augusta

In Attendance: Regina Rooney, Jill Randall, Cara Courchesne, Ruth Kermish-Allen

Participating remotely: Amy Gallant, Marianne Moore, Fatuma Hussein, Samantha Lott Hale, Holly Stover

Absent: Marjorie Crowley, Kelly Bentley, Meredith Strang-Burgess

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve December 13, 2017 minutes by Sam, Marianne seconded, all approved.

Grant Project Update (notes submitted by Kelly Bentley)

Grant project is ongoing. Scheduling a meeting with DHHS to collaborate on information around infant mortality. Is anyone interested in being part of those meetings? No volunteers.

NEWPI Updates (Marianne, Holly)

Last call on Jan 25. Launching a planning committee. Told about the Listening Tour. Issues were location and costs. Considering Thursday, November 15 or Friday the 16th at UMASS Lowell which is all-inclusive, but not available on the 16th or UMASS Boston-Kennedy Institute, also not available on the 16th. Holly suggested Wellesley College, which was well received. They plan on contacting Dr. Paula Johnson at Wellesley about scheduling a Friday there. The next call will be on Feb 22.

They voted to invite Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement, as a keynote. Will schedule 30 min. for her speech (possibly mid-day), 30 min. for Q&A and 30 min. for a book signing.

Discussed tracks for the workshops. IGNITE – young women ready and available to be the next generation of political leaders. May do 2-4 youth-specific workshops.

Review of By-Laws & Proposed Changes (Amy, Regina)

Confusing language in the by-laws around quorum. Regina and Amy, and Kelly met in January to review and made suggestions for changes. Two-week's notice is required before a vote. Please consider these changes. You will have an opportunity to offer input at the next meeting.

- Article III, Section 3 – Suggest two year terms for the chair and vice-chair.
- Article IV, Section 1 – Propose removing Finance as a Standing Action Committee and adding fiscal responsibility to the Governance Committee.
- Article IV, Section 3 – Recommend changing the minimum number of Commission members who must serve on each standing or ad hoc committee from three to two.
- Article V, Section 4 – Clarify that a quorum consists of one more than half of appointed members.
- Article V Section 5 – For the purpose of approving minutes ONLY, quorum would be one more than half of those attending a meeting.

Chair Transition & Membership Updates (Regina)

Membership

- Marianne and Kelly - Submitted to the Senate President's Office for re-appointment.
- Ruth - Reappointed to her seat.
- Amy - Speaker's Office is aware of Commission's desire to move her to At-large Seat #16. Her current seat aligns with her former job representing low-income.
- Marjorie - Her seat has expired. Reached out. She appears to have moved on. By-laws allow termination. Appropriate to send her a letter thanking her for her service and letting her know that we will move on with filling the seat.

Chair Transition

- Regina would like to remain on the Commission, but will be challenged to manage it or attend meetings in the next 6 months. Attendees agreed to uphold her active status.
- Motion to name Amy Gallant as chair and Holly Stover as vice-chair by Marianne, Jill seconded. All approved.
- Regina will place information on shared Google site.

Update re: Amplification Idea (Ruth)

Ruth has been speaking with Rep. Joyce (Jay) McCreight about Opportunity Maine, which offers loan forgiveness through a tax credit if you move to Maine from a different school and take on a STEM degree. Her constituent's daughter has a business degree, not STEM. Rep. McCreight is interested in learning who is tracking the data.

Ruth discovered that the IRS is tracking it, but they are not tracking demographics or gender and are not interested. How do we find out what is happening with STEM? We have demographics for students graduating with particular degrees, but that is it. We should track regional, social-economic, and gender equity information around STEM education both for the Opportunity Maine tax credit and the hundreds of jobs left unfilled.

Rep McCreight proposed starting a bipartisan task force following a similar model she used for the opioid epidemic. The STEM Council has already done the research. The task force would work on the equity issues. McCreight has floated the proposal with House leadership. Looks promising and would involve both the Education and Labor committees.

Regina asked Fatuma if there has been any effort being made to engage young immigrants in STEM programs. She was not aware of any and added that there needs to be a targeted effort in including any particular population. Ruth shared that MaineSpark is talking about incorporating new Mainers in the program, not just K-12, also engaging the adults. She also mentioned the Maine Emerging Environmental Changemakers Network.

Ruth will keep track of this and report to the group.

Sam will send a meeting invite for the ad hoc committee and the commission will discuss the additional amplification ideas at the April meeting.

Closing & Next Steps

Next meeting on April 11

Motion to adjourn by Ruth, Jill seconded, all in favor, approved. 10:02am.