

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Permanent Commission on the Status of Women**  
April 12, 2017, 12:00 pm -2:00 pm  
Office of the Secretary of State, Nash School, Augusta

**Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review**

In attendance: Regina Rooney, Sarah Ruef-Lindquist, Amy Gallant, Cara Courchesne, Kelly Bentley

Guest: Megan Hannan, Executive Dir of Maine Women's Fund

Attending remotely: Vera Roberts, Meredith Strang Burgess, Samantha Lott Hale, Marjorie Crowley, Holly Stover, Fatuma Hussein

Absent: Jane Haskell, Marianne Moore, Ruth Kermish-Allen

**Approve minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from 8/10/16, 10/12/16, 12/14/16, 2/8/17 meetings - Sarah, Second - Kelly, all in favor.

**Membership Updates**

- Both Meredith and Ruth Kermish-Allen have been approved.
- Jennifer Galipeau, Penobscot Nation, has not gone through the entire process yet.
- Some terms have expired/will be expiring soon. Allowed to serve until approved or removed from seat.
- If you would like to be removed from the commission, send a resignation letter to the acting chair.

**Updates & Request from New England Women's Policy Institute - Holly**

**Discussion of NEWPI's data tracking proposal**

NEWPI asking commissions to submit a 2-page proposal outlining how the state would conduct a study that would track data for one year in one/some of ten identified issue areas. Each state will receive a \$2500-\$3000 grant to complete the study. The proposal should identify a partner and the topic of the study. They are looking for measurable data and would like a report-back half-way through the project and again at the end.

Maine will participate if non-partisan only. Ask how our citation be used in other publications at a regional or national level. Regina or Holly will follow-up.

If the commission participates, there is agreement to study Maine's increased child morbidity, tying it in to WIC, Medicaid, & TANF data. Kelly will inquire about an undergraduate student to assist. Agreed to partner with the University of Maine and Maine Children's Alliance. Kelly and Regina will work on the potential proposal.

**Updates on Report Outreach - Updates from Regina, Jane, others?**

- Jane met with Erin Herbig and her Chief of Staff Megan Rochelo. Interested in Maine elderly. Left 7 copies of the report.
- Regina heard from Molly Bogart at the Speaker's Office. She visited the table at the State House.
- No response from the Governor's Office. Every Day no longer there. Reached out to another contact.
- Report has been sent to everyone in the Legislature in several formats.

## **Event debrief from Day at the Statehouse**

**Met goals:** research, activities, advocate. Great legislative and staff engagement. They picked up reports. Media coverage was excellent.

**Challenge** - Legislators asked us to support bills. Process not in place. Was done with previous commission. Bi-partisan nature of the current commission needs to be upheld. Add the following language to the webpage. Review requests at scheduled meetings. Require a quorum.

*The commission will, from time to time, take a position on or support legislation of interest to the commission. Time is needed to review the request in writing or we cannot comment.*

## **Plans for Commission's Upcoming Work**

- Hold a meeting for long term planning
- Integration of Maine women and girls voices - expand from grass roots

## **Next Steps**

- Next meeting June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00-11:00am
- Motion to close the meeting - Sarah, second – Kelly, all in favor. Meeting ended at 1:29.