



MePCSW Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Online Meeting

In Attendance: Sue Mackey Andrews, Meredith Strang Burgess, Darylen Cote, Kate Elmes, Anne Gass, Moriah Geer, Samantha Lott Hale, Fatuma Hussein, Kim Moody, Bonnie Porta, Jill Barkley Roy, Jennifer Wilkey

Absent: Rebecca Austin, Maulian Dana, Ruth Kermish-Allen, Jill Randall

Welcome and Introductions

Old Business – Kate

- **Approve August minutes** - Motion to approve by Bonnie, Sue second, all approved
- **Membership Update** – All but one of Governor’s seats filled.
- **Fund Accessibility update** – Nikki moved leftover grant funds to next quarter.

Update from Committees

Report Committee – Anne

Focus group of 11-12 people met on 10/14/21 re: data needs and opportunities. Facilitated by Sue. Raised visibility of women’s issues.

Current data do not reflect women’s anxiety and isolation well. Data cannot be shared across programs because of obstacles such as software and terminology. Funding source driving the data. Does not draw on the people. Must be culturally competent. Better data collection urgently needed around safe housing options.

Clientele feels over-surveyed. Gathering very personal info. No relationship. A lot of discretion left to the intake worker. Should not have to tell your story more than once. Most info comes from applications that can’t be shared. Painful process for many clients as they do not have all their necessary documents. Don’t bother to apply. The disrupting engagement process gives us bad data. During COVID, learned that not requiring paperwork is helpful. DHHS streamlined a single app.

Over 20 people scheduled to attend the next meeting on 10/26. Talked about creating a 3rd session on 11/3 at 1:00 pm. Asking people to choose between these two dates.

Reach out to Elizabeth Ward Saxl. Moriah will reach out to Quinn Gormley at Maine Trans Net.

What role does the commission have to inform the Legislature on what’s happening with data?
What are legislators needing from state gov? Moriah will share link to a public hearing.
How can we work across sectors to improve this at the federal and state levels?

We could help agencies understand the necessity. Not being done well.
Share compelling take-aways from the 3 focus groups in some manner.
Our report could be the bridge. Use with Spotlight/lived experiences. Move strategies forward.
Immediate/next year or two, year 3 or 5. Terminology, interoperability.

Spotlight committee – Darylen

Helping with Focus Groups. Will not meet until an area is chosen to focus on.

New Business - Kate

Meaningful ways to engage all commissioners. In 2022, meet when everyone can get together. Reach out to new members. Kate will assign buddies. Updated contact list.

Next scheduled meeting date – December 16, 2021, 1:00-2:30