

Meeting Minutes
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
October 17, 2012, 1pm – 3pm
Nash School, Augusta

In Attendance:

Eloise Vitelli, Chair, Donna Yellen, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Kimm Collins, Karen Keim, Brenda Commander

Participating via conference call: Jen Burke, Fatuma Hussein, Megan Williams, Kate Power

Not in attendance: Denis Culley, Romy Spitz, Julia Colpitts, Sarah Bigney, Karen Raye, Ruth Summers, Cheryl Timberlake

Welcome and Introductions

Review and approve minutes from June 7, 2012

Motion to accept – Elizabeth, second – Donna, all in favor.

Committee Reports

***Research and Data Collection** – *Review final Report on the Status of Women and Girls*

Both need copy editing. Conversation regarding rollout. Consider calling initial results of the survey “the survey” and use “report” for the report.

***Outreach and Public Education** – *Review Report on Survey Responses*

Jen thanked all who distributed surveys and Kate who compiled data. Kate broke data into themes mirroring the report. Looking for feedback from commission - favorable.

Eloise and Kate have met with Louisa DePrez who reviewed the survey and report of survey results. She suggested we include some stronger conclusions to survey report.

Fatuma has over 70 surveys still out in the Somali community. Rowanda and Congo represented in the Lewiston area. Could the Commission still incorporate some of that input into the results? Agreement among Committee members of the value of integrating the data. Discussion of the process for doing so, and the extended timeline necessary. Brenda echoed that we were also underrepresented in Native American Women.

Currently have 1200 responses. Keep demographics and the bullet points concise: under 18, 18-65, and 65 and older. Four categories would be better. Donna will check to see if Preble’s volunteer data entry people can assist.

Kate still has access to Survey Monkey data, though the survey is not active. She can enter hard data even when it isn’t live. Survey Monkey can do the analysis. Check with Julia to see if her organization can continue to host.

Discussion of other categories that impacted the data greatly:

- Significant chunk of middle aged women. Lacking young girls and older women. 9 responses under 18, 65 between 18-24. Megan will have 10 girls fill out survey on 10/20/12 and provide feedback where girls are under represented by the end of the week.
- Strong concern for elderly women, but respondents were not elderly.
- Discrepancy in educational attainment. Skewed to those with higher educational attainment

- Assume same issue with income. Over represented in those with full-time employment.

How will we reach the underreported populations next time? Mention in the report. Survey different from data in report. Make clear that this is grass roots and this is what we were able to get. Do need to get Legislature to fund a greater effort. What came across when reading all of the surveys is that respondents are incredibly concerned about equal pay, their futures as they age, and their mothers. Results more accurately reflect the report than the demographics - women's own voices.

Any other issue that came up under comments that were not addressed in the report?

- Transportation and the fact that we are a rural state. Not a lot of good data out there about the impact. If we had data from elderly, we would have even more.

Doing the best with the funding we've got. Not a done process. Ideas to plot out over the next year:

- Continue brining surveys out to various communities
- Brenda –Public health nurses would be interested in taking survey around to health clinics.
- Partners in unemployment office, head start families
- Leaving the survey open to obtain missing data

Jen established 10/26/12 as a deadline for comments on the survey. Decision to have a March deadline rather than December for presenting the report/survey. Allows more time to complete analysis. Turn all surveys in before 12/12. Want to have a document to Meredith. Should have final product by next meeting on 12/12/12.

Motion to accept the report, *The 2011-2012 Status of Women and Girls in Maine* as presented as the official report by the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and Girls in Maine as required under enabling legislation. And, between now and its submission to the Legislature, any additional copy edits and non-substantive edits that occur between now and its publication be considered official. – Elizabeth, second - Kimm, all in favor.

***Governance and Operations** – *Update on Draft by-laws – committee did not meet.*

Intended to review draft bylaws from Organizational Committee that would allow us to accept funds in order to prepare us to do additional work. Take up at next meeting. Discuss adding language in statute.

Old Business

What will overall product look like? One document with one cover to legislature, careful that if each document stood alone, it be threaded with enough information. Or present report to Legislature and the Executive in January, and in March have a concerted push to get second piece out with a press push. March is Women's History Month. Pay Equity in April. Decision to refer to a sub group.

New Business

Eloise - We've finished our work plan, now what we do from here? Question for next year.

Next Meeting

December 12, 2012