

Meeting Minutes
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
December 10, 2014, 12-2:00pm
Nash School, Augusta

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attending in Person: Holly Stover, Andrea Irwin, Regina Rooney

Attending remotely: Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Marianne Moore, Bre Kidman (intern/guest), Sarah Ruef-Lindquist, Samantha Lott Hale, Amy Gallant, Fatuma Hussein

Absent: Jessica Maurer, Gary Walcott, Rebekah Smith, Jennifer Burke, Jessica Laliberte

II. Review and Approve Minutes from November Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from 11/12/14 meeting - Marianne, second - Regina, all in favor.

III. Discuss Final Draft of Policy Recommendations – Regina

Small group tried to synthesize feedback from last meeting and those offered by email. We did not have the expertise to properly word all feedback. Some of the updating was left for the group as a whole. Any questions/concerns with what is in the latest report, or do you approve?

Education

- Spell out what STEM stands for: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Economic Security – This section is structured a little different, with a list.

- “Tax deductible” wording may imply that it will cost something, but no better way to word it.
- Add housing to this section. Will also be listed in Safety and Well-Being. Safe, affordable housing for women of all ages. Housing is one of the first keys to economic stability – highly dependent.

Health

- Add an additional bullet about hunger. Maine leads New England in food insecurity, which disproportionately affects women and children. “Very low food insecurity” is increasing dramatically in Maine as well. “Maine should pursue policies that ensure women and children have access to nutritious food. Potential remedies could include...” Amy will add a list of current initiatives.

Regina - The last two sections were not discussed at the last meeting. We did get some feedback by email.

Safety & Wellbeing

- Substance of this section agreed upon.
- Reword education section to be applicable to the legislature and governor.
- Cross- reference employment economic security, health impacts, and education.

Leadership and Public Life

- An area the Commission can play a role in: resource to appointing bodies to expand female membership, providing the number of women in various leadership roles, etc.
- Convene in future months to discuss what the roll of a non-partisan group might be in doing this work and what the role of other non-partisan groups might be in moving this forward.

Regina – I will make these changes and send them to the group for final approval. We will have an acknowledgement section. I will list SOS and MSL. If there are other entities or people that ought to be mentioned, please send them to me.

Andrea – The official vote on report will be at the January meeting.

IV. **Other Committee Reports/Updates**

a. Governance – Elizabeth

- Will address tribal seat this week.
- Melissa has stepped down from seat 10. Will reach out to Kim Lane again to see if she has an interest in serving at some point.
- Speaker's Office should finish appointments for myself and Andrea this week.
- All members with upcoming expirations would like to stay on except for Jessica, who is unsure. Will follow-up regarding a replacement candidate.
- Governor's office has Samantha's reappointment request.

b. Finance – Marianne

- Andrea and Rebekah and I had a conference call on November 21, 2014. Talked about activities we need money for: report, intern, brochure, focus groups, paid surveyors.
- Agreement that priority should be to produce a brochure and a printed copy of the report.
- All of the funds we accept go through the SOS. Not able to produce 501c3 IRS letters for determination, which foundations will want. What sources are willing to fund given that fact? We have non-profits who are members of the Commission that may be able to accept the money as a 501c3 and pass the money through. Who is the check written out to? Do funders get a receipt?
- How do we go about applying for grants? Can we accept governmental grants?
- Build relationships with funders. Let them know our needs. Early childhood funders group meets every month in Portland. Research what other commissions are able to do in terms of private foundation funding. Holly will speak with VT Women's Commission regarding their funding sources.
- Will schedule another meeting later. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join us.

c. Outreach – Andrea (Jen absent)

- Jen has asked to step down as chair. May have news regarding a replacement at the next meeting.
- Will work on report roll-out.

V. **Other Business**

Google tutorial by Regina for those who wish to participate after the meeting.

VI. **Adjourn**

- ##### a. Next Meeting is Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 12:00-2:00 pm