

Meeting Minutes
Permanent Commission on the Status of Women
December 12, 2012, 1pm-3pm
Nash School, Augusta

In attendance: Eloise Vitelli, Chair, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Romy Spitz, Megan Williams, Julia Colpitts, Donna Yellen

Participating via conference call: Jen Burke, Ruth Summers, Sarah Bigney, Kimm Collins, Cheryl Timberlake

Guests: Rachel Coffey, AmeriCore VISTA volunteer at Hardy Girls, Healthy Women; Janice Kassman, former Dean at Colby now with Access Health Worldwide (handout).

Welcome and introductions

Review and approve minutes from October 17, 2012

Motion to accept – Elizabeth, second – Megan, Romy – abstain, all in favor

Committee Reports

Research and Data Collection - *Report on the Status of Women and Girls – print-ready; determine plan to submit to Governor and Legislature*

Deep appreciation to Meredith Burgess from Burgess Communications. Report incorporates Executive Summary. Additional recommendations were made by Kate in response to Louisa DePrez's suggestion that we come up with conclusions. Commission has reviewed and approved. Confirm: this is our report and has our stamp of approval.

How to roll out? Discuss piggy-backing on to one of two prescheduled events:

1. Maine Women's Coalition having a day at the State House on January 15. Tables in Hall of Flags 8:00-9:30. Press conference at 11:00-11:30.
2. Maine Economic Growth Council event in February. Briefing on legislative priorities in Welcome Center, press event at 11:00-11:30.

Decided against both. May place copies of the report on a table on the 1/15. Will target outreach to the Governor, Legislators, and media; will explore having report contribute to the State of the State. Will present report as is, as information we encourage our public officials to use in guiding their decision making and helping us get the word out to the public at large.

Committee assignments expected next week, cloture Jan 18.

Enabling legislation from State and Local Government Committee. Outreach to legislators on committees connected to the 5 dimensions. Ex – DHHS. We can consider requesting an information session in any of the committees.

Julia – bring report to the attention of the Governor's office

Jen – media

Elizabeth – content committees

Sarah – contact legislators

Delivery Subcommittee formed to finalize plan before our next meeting on January 16 (changed to 23rd): Julia, Eloise, Elizabeth, Jen.

All members please send legislative contacts to Eloise.

Agreed that we will target 1/18/13 as the date by which to release our report to Governor, legislators and public, scheduling permitting.

Outreach and Public Education

Review status of Survey results, new additions, next steps

A little less than 100 additional surveys from Fatuma and Megan. Kate willing to look at results and pull into report on semester break. Hope to have a draft by next meeting and finalized by March. Better to have Kate's time with the analysis rather than data input. Donna will make a best attempt at getting a volunteer to do data entry. List what is and is not there at the point in time the report pulled together.

Governance and Operations

Proposal for legislative language allowing Commission to accept funds

1. Need to come up with bylaws. Include participating in meetings via phone. Elizabeth willing to work on updating our draft and getting it out to the Commission a week before our next meeting.
2. Request to add language to our legislation allowing us to accept funds – Eloise reached out to Ann Graham on State and Local last session.
3. Question was raised as to whether we should include other changes to legislation, ie, Commission selects its own Chair and Vice-chair and submit for affirmation from the Governor. Decision not to pursue. We can already make recommendations to the Governor.

Motion to proceed with a legislative strategy to add the sentence to enable the collection of funds to enabling legislation – Romy-accept, second – Jen, all in favor.

Old Business

Membership – Re-appointments, new members as needed

Eloise distributed list of current members with expiration date and appointing body. Would like to clarify everyone's expiration dates. Those with appointments from the Governor please send Eloise your expiration date. We will follow-up with appointing authorities after the presentation of the report.

New Business

Next Monday, USDOL hosting other New England Women's Commissions in a day-long event. Eloise attending.

Next Meetings – Set dates for next meetings

Wednesday, January 23, 2013 12:00-2:00

Wednesday, February 27, 2013 12:00-2:00

Wednesday, March 27, 2013 12:00-2:00

Wednesday, May 22, 2013 12:00-2:00

Wednesday, July 24, 2013 12:00-2:00