



Maine's Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

MePCSW Retreat Minutes
October 11, 2017, 9:30 – 1:30
MCEDV Conference Room

In Attendance: Marianne Moore, Amy Gallant, Regina Rooney, Ruth Kermish-Allen, Jill Randall

Absent: Samantha Lott Hale, Fatuma Hussein, Holly Stover, Cara Courchesne, Meredith Strang-Burgess, Kelly Bentley, Marjorie Crowley

9:30 Gather, Group Agreements & Icebreaker

10:00 Agenda management: What Questions Do You Bring?

10:15 Looking Back: Where Have We Been?

- List of our accomplishments over past two years.
 - Facebook page and developing a voice
 - Report one-pagers
 - Developed a logo
 - Actively participated in the 2016 NEWPI conference
 - New England Women's Policy Initiative
 - NEWPI Grant
 - Day at the State House: Press Conference, Media, conversations with legislators
 - Turnover/recruitment
- Compare to goals set at 10/6/15 retreat
 - Area to continue to develop - Right now we don't take positions on bills. We have been asked to. The process we came up with does not work well with the fast-paced legislature. Tabled for today.

Connections to other women's groups:

- We are non-partisan. Our unique offer is some original voices of Maine women and girls. A direction we might like to expand in. The current grant project will work towards that.
- Maine Women's Lobby, DOL Maine Women Employment Issues Committee, Maine Women's Fund

11:00

Future Planning: Commission Capacity Building

- Where would we like to be, two years from now?
 - How do we fit in to the greater landscape?
People need to know what to come to us for. Clear understanding among related groups. Meet with other leaders. Explore partnerships, in-state & regional.
 - Achieve the goals of the NEWPI grant – one year grant.
What role will the report play to our report?
 - Maine Calling?
 - Clear understanding of our role inside the State House
 - Continue to grow our presence on social media
 - Represent Maine at the next NEWPI conference
 - New member orientation guide
 - Is one of the roles for this group to be an amplifier? Amplify stories of innovations. Ex:
 - Maine Math & Science Alliance grant funded by the National Science Foundation
 - Suit-Up Maine Action Network
 - Olympia Snowe's Leadership Institute

- What are our current commitments? How do we meet them?
 - Communication/Social media, press opportunities, State House Day – Sam and Cara. Meredith and Amy will help with State House Day
 - Grant Project - Kelly
 - NEWPI Conference – Amy, Marianne, Holly
 - Ongoing Communication with NEWPI – “off year” contact – Marianne (Amy help with historical knowledge)
 - Report – Release in March 2019. Start this winter. Keep on the agenda to assign. Depends on what shape it takes after the rest of the group gets together. Plus, the grant is still outstanding.
 - Attending Meetings – Regina will still coordinate as Acting Chair
 - 2018 - 9am-11am, second Wednesday, every other month. Next meetings: Dec 13, Feb 14, April 11, June 13, Aug 8, Oct 10, Dec 12
 - Women's Commissions from New England have asked for PCSW to be involved. - Regina
 - Appointments – Regina and Amy

11:45

Lunch break

- Legislative Advocacy- Add to December agenda
 - What legislation could we potentially be a voice on? (proactive) Do we take a stance/give testimony speaking for commission as a whole? Decide as a board voting for each option individually? Majority rule?

Has been by consensus. How quickly can this process work? Who will scan lists of bills? Who will give testimony? Who will write it?

- On December agenda:
 - Amplification
 - Legislative action/testimony
 - Facilitate connections with related groups
 - Orientation guide

12:30 Stepping Forward: Where Do We Go From Here?

- What is our expectation of the membership?
 - Attend meetings: one-on-one conversations
- How do we engage our members?
 - Could re-frame some of our voting. Can we do an email vote for the minutes?
- What can I commit to the Commission? Only 6 meetings a year.
 - Want to volunteer your time to something that is productive.

1:15 Closing: What are you taking away?

- Maine Women's Magazine – idea. Connect each commissioner with an amplification story with the magazine.