



MePCSW Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2022, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Online Meeting

Attending:

Anne, Moriah, Rebecca, Kim, Jill BR, Jill R, Jennifer, Sue M, Bonnie

There were no questions or objections to previous meeting minutes. Bonnie motioned acceptance, Kim seconded, and all were in favor.

Anne spoke of an action she participated in last week at the State House, along with members of the Maine Women's Lobby, Equal Rights Maine, and 8 students from Camden Hills High School. ERA are also planning to hold a virtual rally on the eve of the final vote on the Maine ERA bill, LD 344. The rallying cry this year is to "Let the Voters Decide." However, a 2/3 majority of House and Senate are necessary to bring it to referendum and, as of today, there are no House Republicans that have indicated support.

Jill R mentioned a Muskie report that will be coming out on the economic security of older women in Maine.

Kim mentioned how helpful her mentoring chat with Sue had been for her, as a new member.

Discussion was mostly about the report Anne drafted, "[Count Us In](#)" that we would like to complete by late March. **Please review the draft and make comments by close of business on Tuesday, Feb 22nd- the next draft will be ready by February 25.**

Many of the members shared very powerful stories, either personal or from their professional experience, regarding women's experience during covid.

-The Child Tax Credit- a non-gendered policy that helped families is no longer available despite its clear potential to lift children out of poverty.

-Domestic Violence- and the issues around court backlogs resulting in possible danger to women and children.

-ME Equal Justice received money from Gideon campaign to be directed toward low-income parents (up to \$2K) in "Parents of Scholars", HOPE, TANF or in other credentialed programs.

-The stigma attached to those seeking public benefits i.e., food stamps or WIC and the rudeness that can be experienced by those using or asking for public benefit help was described by several members.

- Making sure we remove "othering" language (such as "those with disabilities").

It was decided that some of stories told during the meeting would be good "out-takes" for the report.

It was suggested that all PCSW members send in a story that will inform and enhance the meaningfulness of the report.
PLEASE add your story to the draft that Anne has sent out so they can be added to the report.

Next Meeting

April 21, 2022, 1:00 – 2:30 pm