



MePCSW Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2022, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Online Meeting

In Attendance: Sue Mackey Andrews, Rebecca Austin, Meredith Strang Burgess, Darylen Cote, Kate Elmes, Anne Gass, Moriah Geer, Samantha Lott Hale, Fatuma Hussein, Kim Moody, Jennifer Wilkey

Absent: Bonnie Porta, Jill Barkley Roy, Maulian Dana, Ruth Kermish-Allen, Jill Randall

Guests:

- [Jill Ashton](#), Regional Administrator, New England - Region 1 Women's Bureau
- [Angela Rizzolo](#), Senior Program Analyst U.S. Department of Labor/Women's Bureau
- [Commissioner Laura Fortman](#), ME Department of Labor
- [Destie Hohman Sprague](#), Executive Director, Maine Women's Lobby

Welcome and Introductions

Update from Jill and Angela and Commissioner Fortman about priorities and projects

Brainstorm on how Commission can support the work of Maine Department of Labor

Collaborate & Assist

- Funds in budget: stipends for childcare, retrofitting and building childcare facilities, apprenticeships, expanding access and investments in care economy.
- PCSW and Maine Women's Lobby bring specialized conversations around employment to system. Integrating approaches to DEI & access across all segments.
- Elevate available resources. ex: pay equity poster & complaint form
- DOL data share

Opportunities to engage with the USDOL, Women's Bureau

- Lean into partnerships
- Engagement with communities - co-host conversations
- Research – facilitate informational meetings, can be via Zoom
- Partner with education programs. Highlight what is happening at the national/regional/state level.
- Connections to resources, especially care economy

Concerns from PCSW

- Barriers in rural Maine – no childcare for training programs, transportation, and broadband issues. Information not getting to the people who need it. In-person, informational sessions at local level with specific directives for access to resources would be helpful.
- Access to programs for underserved populations – often does not get to those who need it. Language, transportation, and childcare barriers trickle down through generations. How can we target and meet them where they are? How can we protect resources? Educational assessments /secondary education readiness
- Graduation readiness for students with disabilities must be addressed.

Commissioner Fortman

- State level response to barriers - rural, housing, transportation & training
- Review Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan website/links to funds. Following treasury guidance.
- Target funds to trickle down to underserved populations.
- Latest grants require plans for DEI, accessibility & wages.
- Elevating opportunities for students with disabilities - career and investment pathway. Expanding models. ex: apprenticeships & employers aware of programs & supports.

Jill Ashton

- US DOL charged with being laser-focused on marginalized workers.
- All offices accountable for certain goals. Connecting with right communities. How can we elevate?

Sharing report info - Guests

- Legislative briefing sharing district specific data.
- Choose 3-4 communities where data needed. Reach out to local officials & organizations. "What in report resonates and what is missing?"
- Listening sessions, partnering with other agencies/organizations. Gather info needed for policy recommendations.
- Consider info needed to obtain funds when doing outreach.
- Small focus groups, local press

2022 Report Update: Count us In: Maine Women, Data, and the Care Economy

Team effort. Focus groups foundational. Jennifer, super job on design.

2022 Report Distribution Plan

- Since released, hard copy to Governor and emailed to legislators. Will do a second touch on it.
- Emily Cook sent press release. Picked up by Maine News Service and Maine Public Radio.
- Anne will reach out to Maine Calling and Maine News Service
- Kate spoke with Maine Public
- Jennifer, Nikki, Anne, Meredith – Facebook boost post, potential targeted digital ads
- Consider September email to legislative candidates. Mid-November to winners.
- Commissioners share and ask organizations to post a link to the report in online newsletters.
- Nikki change graphic from Spotlight on web page
- Potential press release -Governor

Kate will send Doodle for Report Media and Distribution subcommittee meeting.

Next scheduled meeting date – June 16, 2022, 1:00-2:30

See page 3 for Related Links

Related links:

US DOL Women's Bureau <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/wb>

Bearing the Cost: How Overrepresentation in Undervalued Jobs Disadvantaged Women During the Pandemic
<https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WB/media/BearingTheCostReport.pdf>

Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/>

Economic Security of Older Women in Maine
<https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1150&context=aging>

Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan <https://www.maine.gov/jobsplan/>

PCSW Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MaineWomenCommission>