



The Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention (MCEAP) is made up of individuals and public and private organizations from all over the state who are committed to ending elder abuse in Maine. MCEAP works toward achieving this goal by collaborating on best practices, supporting local efforts, raising awareness, and education. MCEAP is comprised of two co-chairs, the Standing Committee on Education & Awareness, the Standing Committee on Policy, and various working groups convened as the need arises. More information about MCEAP and its current initiatives and membership can be found at: www.elderabuseprevention.info.

Elder Abuse Systems Response: Exploratory Conversations

At the regular MCEAP meetings, the full Council engages in exploratory conversations with key professionals in the aging community to consider systems that are set up to address elder abuse and identify gaps, if any exist. The most recent conversations were with the director of the Maine Emergency Medical Services and the Maine Fire Marshal, and with direct-care in-home service providers. Past conversations included district attorneys, financial institutions, and law enforcement. The RADAR and SeniorSafe programs were initiated as a result of earlier exploratory conversations and a new working group has been convened as a result of the conversations with the Maine Emergency Medical Services department.

New Working Group: Emergency Medical Technician (EMS) Working Group

As a result of the Elder Abuse Systems Response: Exploratory Conversation that took place with members from the Maine Emergency Medical Services department, a new EMS working group has been convened. This new working group is tasked with providing support to APS through the process of updating its' mandated reporter trainings that are available on the APS website, then using this updated material to create an EMS focused elder abuse training and additional materials covering red flags of elder abuse and community referral resources for the EMS protocol system.

New Working Group: Multijurisdictional Scams Working Group

MCEAP's newest working group, the Multijurisdictional Scams Working Group, is finishing up the preliminary planning stages and is set to convene its first meeting in the coming weeks. This new group is charged with interrupting the business model of scam artists by identifying the barriers and challenges associated with this goal, and coming up with creative ideas of how best to address those barriers. Captain Mark Waltz of the Brunswick Police Department has agreed to co-chair this working group along with Judy Shaw of the Maine Office of Securities and co-chair of MCEAP. Representatives of the Maine Office of Securities, the Maine State Police, the Maine Adult Protective Services, the Maine Bureau of Financial Institutions, the Maine Senior Medicare Patrol, and Legal Services for the Elderly have all agreed to join the working group, and many more invitations have been extended to several other state and federal offices.

RADAR

The Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) working group has put the final touches on the RADAR card- a resource designed specifically for LEOs responding to potential elder abuse cases. The RADAR card includes simple definitions for common legal terminology, provides tips on how to interview older adults, and gives contact information for community referral resources. The RADAR card will be rolled out to all law enforcement officers throughout the state. The RADAR card is currently out for publishing.



Annual Elder Abuse Summit

The Annual Elder Abuse Summit is a day-long multidisciplinary event for professionals working to prevent, detect, and respond to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The first Summit, held in 2014, boasted three national speakers and several state experts. The Standing Committee on Education and Awareness organizes this event and plans for the 2015 Summit are underway. The date is set for May 15, 2015 and it will be held at the Augusta Civic Center. The Committee has begun the process of selecting topics to cover at the 2015 Summit. Of those under consideration, the topic of elder abuse screening tools quickly rose to the top of the list. Ideas for other topics were solicited from participants of the Elder Abuse Prevention Roundtable and will be considered by the Committee.

Elder Abuse Prevention Roundtable

The Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Roundtable is a half-day networking event focused on collaboration among local Elder Abuse Task Force (EATF) and Triad groups. The Standing Committee on Education and Awareness organizes this event with the help from local experts who are actively engaged in EATF and Triad groups. This event was created based on Summit feedback that indicated a need for networking opportunities. The first Roundtable was held on October 30th, 2014 at the Governor Hill Mansion and over 40 people participated. The event was a great success and the group engaged in a lively discussion and sharing of ideas and resources for the duration of the event. Responses to the follow-up online survey are overwhelmingly positive. In an effort to gain participation from people all over the state, the location of the Roundtable will change from year to year.

Senior\$afe

Senior\$afe, a training designed specifically for financial institutions to recognize and respond to financial exploitation and elder abuse, has gained national attention since its launch. Recently, the North American Securities Administrators Association adopted and co-branded the program and it is being rolled out to NASAA members in the United States and Canada. The Financial Exploitation Working Group recently reconvened to consider the impact the Senior\$afe training has had on the financial world in the six months since its launch. Since the training, there has been a notable increase in reports by banks to the key referral resources (APS, Office of Securities, and Legal Services for the Elderly). The Senior\$afe train-the-trainer event will occur again in 2015; the working group is in the preliminary stages of scheduling this event.