



Meeting Notes March 4, 2016

Attendees: Betty Balderston, Kevin Cuddy and Jaye Martin, Legal Services for the Elderly; Michelle Mason Webber, Fire Marshal's Office; Judy Shaw, Maine Office of Securities; Seth Blodgett, Maine Attorney General's Office; Joel Merry, Maine Sheriff's Association; Holly Stover, Maine Office of Violence Prevention; Francine Stark, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence; Elizabeth Ward Saxl and Cara Courchesne, Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault; Kiera Finucane, Office of the Public Advocate; Nate Miller, SeniorsPlus; Kelley Glidden, Safe Voices; Polly Campbell, Safe Program; David Bernier, Maine Bar Elder Law Section; Sheryl Nadell, Maine Adult Protective Services; Lynne Caswell, Maine Office of Aging and Disability Services; Patrick Hood, Maine State Police; John Cronin, LPL Financial (by phone)

Minutes of the January 8, 2016 meeting were approved.

Education and Awareness Committee Update (Cara Courchesne):

- Discussed the following elements of the proposed 2016 Annual Work Plan:
 - The membership list has been sent to members for updates. The Executive Committee will be working on gaps in membership. For copies of membership list, or if anything else is needed, contact Dona Garippa at Dona.L.Garippa@maine.gov
 - Welcome packets will be changed to refer new members to MCEAP Co-Chairs with any questions.
 - A revision of the website is completed. If there are any questions or issues, contact the Committee.
 - An outreach presentation has been developed and the committee will be identifying potential target groups and presenters. MCEAP members were encouraged to attend presentations to be a resource for their organization.
 - The World Elder Abuse Planning Team has a subgroup that is focusing on social media.
 - A draft Social Media Policy, which included a new MCEAP Facebook page, was presented and approved. The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault and other members of the Education and Awareness Committee will have responsibility for monitoring and maintaining the pages. (The Facebook page went live the same day.)
 - A draft agenda for the May 12, 2016 Elder Abuse Summit was reviewed. A \$30 attendance fee was approved, with scholarships available.

Multi-Jurisdictional Scams Working Group Update (Judy Shaw):

- The Working Group has been focused on resource materials for law enforcement and the public on the reporting of scams.
 - AARP-Maine is looking into the possibility of sponsoring printing. There are various opportunities for distributing the materials to law enforcement, including the Chiefs Road Show.
 - The Maine Information and Analysis Center (MIAC) will be tracking scams statewide, allowing law enforcement to monitor the prevalence of specific scams.
 - It was suggested that any outreach and education to the public should be brought to the Education and Awareness Committee to determine whether a subgroup for targeted outreach should be developed.
- The next area of focus for the Working Group will be on the financial services sector, specifically money transmitters (i.e., Western Union, banks, and credit unions).

Mandated Reporting Working Group (Elizabeth Ward-Saxl):

- A Working Group meeting is scheduled for next week.
- Their focus is to increase the availability of mandated reporter training and increased reporting. It was suggested that mandated reporter training include the importance of being a witness if a case goes to court.
- Attendees were reminded that the role of the Council is to support mandated reporting training through Adult Protective Services, so suggestions for changes should be directed to APS.
- APS is currently working on the creation of a financial abuse team which Rick Moores is coordinating.
- APS is helping to investigate complaints, working towards prosecution.
- Jess Maurer informed the council that a new bill (L.D. 1621) is before the Maine Legislature that establishes a Stakeholder Group to examine methods of protecting the elderly and persons with disabilities from financial exploitation.

RADAR (Pat Hood):

- Cards will be redistributed to law enforcement through a variety of methods, including the Police Academy and through the Chiefs Roadshow.

SeniorSafe (Judy Shaw):

- The National Association of Financial Advisors (NAFA) is collaborating with investment advisors and broker/dealers to update SeniorSafe for use by anyone in the U.S. A handbook is being developed.
- The possibility of modifying the materials for use by insurance agents is being looked at. Lindsay Laxon with the Maine Bureau of Insurance is willing to retool the materials. NAIC will be approached to roll out nationwide.

- Local resources will be referenced for each state.
- Senators Collins and McCaskill have introduced a Federal Senior\$afe Act, which has support from a broad group of organizations. The legislation is intended to provide immunity for anyone reporting elder financial exploitation.
- There is work being done to mandate reports by Investment Advisors and Broker/Dealers and delay the disbursement of funds, as well as requiring Broker/Dealers and Advisors to provide records to Adult Protective Services.

Executive Committee and Council Follow-Up to Strategic Planning Session (Lynne Caswell)

- The Executive Committee will be identifying individuals and/or organizations for continued MCEAP membership.
- Suggestions from Council members include the following:
 - Dementia Organizations
 - Victim Advocates
 - Home Care/Hospice
 - More representation from Long-Term Care
 - Maine Health Workforce Forum
 - Healthcare
 - Muskie
 - Refugee Organizations
 - Community Health/Migrant Workers
 - Council of Churches
 - Deaf Community
 - Blind/Visually Impaired
 - Physical/Occupational Therapies
- The Maine Background Check Center is expected to go “live” in June. All licensed providers will be required to use the system.
- A draft Time, Talent and Resource Survey was approved. Survey Monkey will be used for the survey, which will create an Excel spreadsheet of the responses. The survey will be added to Welcome Packets.
- Channels of communication:
 - Facebook
 - Newsletter didn’t work; Roundtable more effective.
 - Suggestions from Council members:
 - Consider providing an email with links to materials from the Roundtable and Summit
 - Consider creating an annual “Quick Success” guide that provides links to resources
 - Consider a quarterly reminder of what’s coming up that could be shared with others
 - Consider creating a white paper recapping Senior\$afe
- The Executive Committee will review how to deal with media requests

Capturing Impacts (Roundtable Discussion):

- Seth Blodgett has begun working on a curriculum to train law enforcement in financial investigations.
- Jaye Martin shared information on a pilot project with OADS where a screening tool to identify potential victims is being created. LSE, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, the Aroostook Area Agency on Aging, the Eastern Agency on Aging and SeniorsPlus are involved in the project.
- Jaye also reported that a pilot project is being developed with a local bank regarding the identification of situations that may not be reportable, but still need attention. The plan is for a LSE attorney to meet with the person at the bank.
- LSE is continuing to move forward with the essay contest.
- Jane Margesson reporting that AARP-Maine is partnering with sheriffs' offices in various locations throughout the state to host 6 shredding events.
- AARP-Maine is also planning its second Scam Jam, to be held the first week of June in Bangor. There are opportunities for MCEAP members to participate as planning team members, presenters and/or vendors. If interested in participating, Council members should contact Jane at jmargesson@aarp.org or at 776-6301.
- Betty Balderston shared information about the new Scams Report issued by the Senate Special Committee on Aging. AARP-Maine has hard copies available. An electronic version of the report is available at <http://www.aging.senate.gov/press-releases/senate-aging-committee-announces-top-10-frauds-targeting-our-nations-seniors>
- Lynne Caswell shared that OADS, LSE, LTCOP and APS are conducting trainings statewide to share information about their agencies with staff.
- Jess Maurer shared information that the Maine Aging Initiative is focusing on the role of TRIAD and a wellness check program. The Tri-State Learning Collaborative has scheduled a Summit in New Hampshire, with Paul Greenwood as the keynote.
- Kiera Finucane noted that April 15th is the end of the winter non-disconnect season for electric utilities and there could be an impact on Maine seniors.
- Jess Maurer noted that Fairpoint is no longer required to provide land lines to certain communities and 25 towns in Maine could potentially lose service in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Next Meeting: May 6, 2016 at 76 Northern Avenue, Kennebec Room, Gardiner
Elder Abuse Summit: May 12, 2016 at the Augusta Civic Center (more info coming)

Submitted by Betty Balderston, Legal Services for the Elderly