



During the 2014 Elder Abuse Prevention Roundtable, participants heard from six panelists who are members of Elder Abuse Task Force groups or other elder abuse prevention programs throughout Maine. Each panelist discussed their EATF activities, or their elder abuse prevention program.

- ❖ Candice Simeoni, York County Elder Abuse Task Force
- ❖ Stacie Bourassa, Franklin County: Preventing, Recognizing and Responding to Abuse in At-Risk Populations, and Franklin County Domestic Violence Task Force
- ❖ Kelley Glidden, Androscoggin County Elder Abuse Task Force
- ❖ Lauren Dembski, Oxford County Elder Abuse Task Force
- ❖ Samantha Massey, Prevention and Wellness Coordinator for United Ambulance, developer of the Home Visit Program, and Androscoggin County Elder Abuse Task Force
- ❖ Nan Bell, Greater Augusta Area Elder Abuse Task Force

York County Elder Abuse Task Force

Home Totes

Tote bags designed to include items that an older adult would need to have if they had to leave their home in an emergency. The totes also contained contact information for helpful resources in the area. Specific vulnerable older adults were targeted for receipt of these bags, and they were delivered to their doorstep. Donated items included:

- Totes
- Flashlights
- Non-perishable foods
- Water
- Toiletries
- Pill boxes
- Band-Aids

Yellow Dot

A Yellow sticker is placed on the window of a vehicle indicating that the glove box contains a “file of life” for the driver of the car. File of life includes current medical information. \$1.00/each.

Holiday Magnets

Magnets with local resource information distributed by the Meals on Wheels program during the holiday season.

Mobile Awareness Panel

A panel of members of the EATF travel to different churches in the region to present information about elder abuse and available resources.

Androscoggin County Elder Abuse Task Force

Community Access TV Partnership

Connected with Mt. Blue TV, the local access tv station to facilitate the recording of an elder abuse and financial exploitation training conducted by members of the EATF. Local Access TV provided short trainings on how to use the equipment, and supported the group during the recording. Link to the training is hosted on the Mt. Blue TV website.

Senior Resource Fair

Yearly event tailored to the needs of the older adults in the community. All of the EATF partnering agencies have tables with information about their organizations. Presentations are conducted by community members on topics of interest to seniors such as personal and financial safety and nutrition on a budget. Recently began partnering with the local high school culinary arts program to provide lunches for the seniors during the Resource Fair.

Sun Journal Guest Column

Every year on the Sunday before World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a member of the EATF writes a guest column about elder abuse.

Oxford County Elder Abuse Task Force

This is a new program, only six months old, in a very rural county. The group's focus right now is on two major events, one in the Northern part of the county, one in the South.

Senior Resource Fair

The groups first Resource Fair was held at the Credit Union in Mexico, ME. Modeled after the Androscoggin County EATF, this Resource Fair had tables with information about partner organizations, presentations of topics of interest to seniors such as financial safety, and light refreshments.

Roundtable advice to a new EATF:

- Connect with your local Area Agency on Aging is pivotal. The AAA can often help with transportation and marketing. You can sometimes hold your events at their centers- this has proven very successful. Seniors know that the AAA is a trusted resource.
- In a rural county, it might be best not to focus energy on events that require the senior to come to you. Rather, focus on ways to get to the senior.
- Persistence is key. It takes time to become established in a community.
- Partnering with other agencies is very important, especially when funds are tight.
- Connect with the faith communities, try and get church leaders to join the group.
- Connect with the Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, or Rotary Club.

Franklin County: Preventing, Recognizing and Responding to Abuse in At-Risk Populations and the Domestic Violence Task Force

Warming Centers

Generally put on by the local church, older adults are invited to come and socialize with other older adults from the community. A representative goes to these events to make connections in the community.

Good Morning Calls

This program was piloted and was a great success. The local CAP has secured funding to look into how to replicate this program. The group is working to ensure that all the volunteers are trained in elder abuse.

Mobile Health Unit

The group ensures that at least one domestic violence professional is available to answer questions.

Senior Resource Fair

First Senior Resource Fair held in Rangeley this year was a great success with a huge turnout. This Resource Fair was for the Rangeley population only, and focused on resources available within Rangeley.

A Senior Resource Fair was held at Franklin Memorial Hospital in conjunction with the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This Resource Fair was modeled after the Androscoggin County EATF Resource Fair offering tables of information about partner organizations, presentations on topics of interest to seniors, and light refreshments.

United Ambulance: Home Visit Program

There are 12 such programs in Maine, each program has a specific focus. This program's focus is "safety." This is a home visit program, and community members are often referred through their primary care physician. If the client wishes to be part of the free program, then the providers partner with the primary care physician. Whenever the EMTs respond to a call or otherwise visit the client, they report to the primary care physician.

The website for the Maine Emergency Medical Services will host information about all the different programs throughout the state.

Greater Augusta Area Elder Abuse Task Force

Longest established EATF in Maine. This group focuses on education and awareness and meets every other month. Create a work plan at the beginning of the year and revisit it at the end of the year to see how successful it was.

Healthy Living Expo

Organized by the Area Agency on aging. EATF does a display, the senior resources booklet is distributed.



Panel Discussion in June

The “Effective solutions to ending elder abuse” panel discussion was held for the first time this year. Low turnout could have been a result of the title of the event. Will reconsider for next year.

The “Bullying and the connection to elder abuse” discussion was very well attended. Connecting youth to seniors was a great idea.

Letters to the Editor

Members of the EATF group author letters to the editor for various local newspapers. Also, the group run an Elder Abuse Awareness Day advertisement (with donated space).

Presentation

Members of the EATF present to the Augusta City Council during June (Elder Abuse Awareness Day month) to talk about resources.

Community partners

Connecting with law enforcement is very important to help break down barriers. Also, faith communities are excited to connect generally and are willing to act as a resource.

Placemats

Created placemats for the Meals on Wheels program and some local restaurants. Included activities and resources. Worked with local print shops and had 3,000 printed for \$250.00.