

The Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention

2015 Elder Abuse Prevention Roundtable

At Miller Square at Harlow, Bangor

Kelly Glidden

Activities for Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15<sup>th</sup>)

- Senior Resource Fair: Partner with local businesses to sponsor, provide community resources, simple healthcare services, speakers, and lunch.
- Guest column with local newspaper (Sun Journal)
- Partner with local business owners to post “No Excuse for Elder Abuse” on their signs.
- Organize an essay contest with the local high school.

Training Resource

- Partnered with multiple service providers such as Legal Services for the Elderly and the local DV and SA organizations, along with the local public access TV station to create a DVD training on elder abuse.

Community Outreach

- Placemats: Working with the local area agency on aging (SeniorsPlus) distributed over 500 placemats to the meals on wheels recipients. Placemats include local resources information and are updated quarterly to include season specific information, etc.
- Merry Meals: Distributed bags decorated in a holiday theme, filled with resource information, little gifts, and an ornament.
- YellowDot: Hoping to pursue this project soon, funding permitting.
- Tabling: Attending local craft fairs, etc., to connect with community.
- Info sheets: circulate seasonal fliers with season specific resources, such as heating assistance.
- BBQs: Hoping to start this soon, partnering with local law enforcement and targeting the more rural areas of the county.

Danielle Malcolm

Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP)

- Speak Up! Campaign  
LTCOP recently received a grant to focus on mandatory reporting in facilities in Maine. Training efforts recently started and include:
  - Day-long training;

- Speak Up! Poster for facilities with a short breakdown of the reporting law requirements and who is a mandated reporter.
- Elder Abuse indicators brochure
- Quick reference card outlining who is included in the mandated reporter law, and how to report.

#### Officer Megan Tibbetts

- “Wishing Well”- seniors in the community submit an application with a wish attached, the winner gets their wish granted. Former winners: Met former President Bush and gone on a hot air balloon ride.
- Coats for seniors drive
- Calendar raffle – prizes are donated by the community
- “Rack card” with local resource information
- Christmas giving tree, community members take an ornament that includes a senior and a list of needs, then purchase these items for Christmas.
- Yearly gala
- Scholarship program
- High school partnership to create “Have you Hugged Your Elder Lately?” poster campaign.
- Community training/education with local Rotary Clubs and at senior housing.
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day posters with purple ribbons attached for people to take and wear to raise awareness.
- Tote “home bags” full of emergency items like a bottle of water, snacks, pill containers, local resource information, flashlight. Easily accessible in case the senior needs to leave home in a hurry.
- Fundraising ideas: Calendar raffle; community donations- especially financial institutions and the Rotary club.

#### Sergeant Patrick Hood

- Bag drive- distributed to the senior living facilities, provides the local law enforcement officers the opportunity for face-to-face interaction and connection.
- New idea to engage with senior community a little after the holiday season is over. The group felt like homebound seniors might feel more isolated after the holiday season because it’s likely that someone will reach out to them during Christmas, but then perhaps not in February.
- Experiencing some significant challenges connecting with the community. It seems like the same group of people come to each event, but can’t figure out how to expand interest. Would appreciate any feedback or guidance from other groups who have had this problem in the past.

#### Sheriff Troy Morton

- Wandering Program

- Vehicle safety check- seniors can bring their cars to local PD to have a quick safety check, check on inspection/registration, do a glove box check and look for the file of life.
- 911 signs
- Scam presentations
- “Freebies”
  - Sleeve protector for credit cards that have a chip, includes the Triad information on the bac
  - Purse carabiner with Triad name on it
  - Fluorescent vests to give to seniors to wear on walks or when they are shoveling in the winter.
- Drug take-back.
- “Senior Moments” with the local access TV station, talking about scams and safety concerns. Aired first thing in the morning and then again throughout the day.
- “Coffee with a cop”- trying to reach a new target audience. A police officer sets up shop in a local Dunkin Donuts or Tim Hortons and serves coffee to the community for a day.

Marcia Young

- Health care providers, especially nurses, are in a unique position to be vocal advocates for the elderly, as well as reporters of inappropriate conduct and abuse. It’s also important to pay attention to caregivers and create programs that offer support/respite. The “savvy caregiver” program with the local area agency on aging is a great example.
- The “virtual dementia” tour offers participants the opportunity to experience first-hand what life can be like for someone who is aging or disabled.
- The Eastern Area Agency on Aging’s (EAAA) “Furry Friends” program provides supplemental pet supplies, food, vaccinations, and travel to and from the vet’s office.
- The EAAA also offers heaters to seniors who need to reduce oil consumption/heating costs.

Hilary Fernald

- Recently started a new Elder Abuse Task Force in Washington County. Used the “EATF Startup Toolkit” that is available on the Council’s website at: <http://www.elderabuseprevention.info/elder-abuse-task-force-startup-toolkit>
- Connected with Attorney Jill Randall at Legal Services for the Elderly for guidance and support. Reached out to local service providers and invited them to come and discuss starting this new group.
- First meeting was well attended and demonstrated a need for the group as many people used the opportunity to discuss frustrations/difficulties experienced while working with seniors. The goal is to use this discussion as a starting point towards strengthening collaboration in the future, and hopefully the group and the community will become more empowered once the EATF starts working on projects together.

Jodi Leach

Sonoggee Trauma Recovery Empowerment Model: There is much value to be gained by having face-to-face interactions with community members. People in EATF and Triad groups need to be mindful of making solid connections in order to foster a feeling of trust/safety so that the senior will reach out when help is needed.

Jane Margesson

- The AARP is working on a campaign to get scam information posted in the local weekly newspapers to help spread the word about scams and tips to avoiding them. Currently, through partnerships with over 30 newspapers, AARP is able to reach roughly 350,000 on a weekly basis.
- Wednesday's social media "Fraud Watch" campaign is ever growing. AARP will post something new each week. Contact Jane Margesson at [JMargesson@aarp.org](mailto:JMargesson@aarp.org) if you are interested in joining the "Fraud Watch" list.
- On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the AARP is hosting a FREE train the trainer conference: Maine Fraud Watch. Jane will circulate an email with the details. All are encouraged to attend.
- The AARP has some great materials on scams and fraud, if you're ever in need of a resource, contact Jane.
- In Maine, you can now freeze your credit for free. This is a very new initiative. This is a great way to prevent identity theft.

Officer Ted Hatch

- The Triad is only successful because business partners have stepped up and supported the projects. Without this financial contribution, they would not be able to do the things they do.
- To start, the Triad surveyed all those 60 + voters who were out voting for the presidential election in 2008. Wanted to take a poll and see what things people were struggling with. The majority of the responses were about scams and identity theft.
- Senior Neighborhood Awareness does call-in system to check on seniors.
- Leaf raking and snow removal
- Sand for Seniors in the winter
- Drug take-back year round at the police department via a locked box.
- Partnered with Southern Maine Agency on Aging to distribute cell phones for seniors. Can be used anywhere to make an emergency call.
- Connected with the local high school.
- Santa for a senior- trees with ornaments that have senior name/needs for community to fulfill.
- Numbers Up- campaign to get lighted numbers on every house.
- YellowDot program.