



## Meeting Notes

*12/3/2021*

**Attendees:** Patrick Hood-ME State Police, Jill Randall-LSE, Nicole Marchesi- Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Debbie-EAAA, Eric Selzer- retired private attorney, Stephanie Ham- ME Office of Securities, Kimberly Snow- Researcher at Muskie School, Megan Nizza- EAIME, Cassandra Morin- Levey and Wagley, Erin Salvo- APS, Regina Rooney - MECDV, Nadine Grosso- MEHCA, Lori L- New Home Midcoast, Kathy Keneborus-Maine Bankers Association, Ellen Parent- Maine Credit Union League, Diane Gallagher-SafeVoices, Daniel Eccher- Levey and Wagley, and Cindy-Lou Farrington- C&C Realty Management, LLC

Meeting notes approved for 6/4/2021. Eric Selzer motion to approve minutes, Jill Randall seconded this motion.

### **Presentation:**

Nadine Grosso,  
Vice President and Director of Communications  
Maine Health Care Association

- 87 out of 88 nursing homes are members of MEHCA along with 125 assisted living facilities.
- MEHCA supported the healthcare mandate for LTC facilities-seeing high vaccination rates in residents and staff.
- Currently 29 nursing homes are in outbreak status but seeing less severe cases.
- In the process of ensuing booster clinics are held in nursing homes- most facilities have had clinics already- working through Assisted Living now.
- **Visitation** in long-term care has been a huge concern/ struggle.
- In the beginning of COVID all facilities were in lock down due to recommendations from CMS, the US and ME CDC. The isolation had a huge impact on residents. Visitation evolved overtime- in summer months outdoor visits occurred along with scheduled visits following infection control. Now CMS releases new guidance before thanksgiving allowing doors to be open again while following infection control.
- MEHCA is helping facilities navigate and implement this new guidance.
- MEHCA helped facilitate family groups via zoom in partnership with the Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- **Staffing-** MEHCA has surveyed members on staffing in two different categories
  1. Vacant positions
  2. Why are staff leaving?
- Over 50 percent of members have 3 to 10 vacant staff positions.

- Reasons for this staffing crisis-
  1. Burn out and stress
  2. Vaccine mandate- roughly 1,800 works left
  3. Leaving healthcare all together because it is tiring
  4. Mental health

-Trying to fill these staffing vacancies with temp nursing programs, role of the facility members and agency staffing.

-hospitals are backed up causing a capacity issue.

-Long-term care facilities are limiting admissions due to no staffing to care for residents.

## **Overview of Committees and Work Groups:**

### Education and Awareness Committee (Jill Randall):

- The committee is focusing on elder abuse summit in May which will be two half days.
- Essay contest is coming up
- In 2016 partnered with GFCW, high school seniors answer this question in an essay form. "What is elder abuse and why does it matter to me". Each county provides \$50 to the winner. If anyone is interested in donating can adopt a county. Reach out to Jill Randall.

### Mandated Reporter Work Group (Erin Salvo):

- APS website is hosting the training PowerPoint.

### Financial Exploitation Work Group

- No update

### Multijurisdictional Scams Work Group (Pat Hood):

- Work group is waiting for the report from the Governors office before moving forward.
- AARP continues to send out alerts.

## **Community Updates:**

### Erin Salvo- APS

- APS has been focused on at a federal level and received a COVID grant, ACL disturbed this.
- Piloted a program in 2018 demonstration program in CU and AR county this has expanded to all counties in Maine. Elder institute of Maine is partnered with this piloting program. This allows a client to have a warm hand off with an elder advocate.
- Public service announcement for Mandatory Reporting.
- APS is working with forensic accountants across the state on a case-by-case basis.

### Jill Randall- LSE

- LSE has two new staff attorneys
- Helpline continues to work remotely offering same services. Seeing more acute cases.

Cassandra Morin-

- Increase in helpline support
- Courts are not always open to file PFA
- Offering in-person support by appointment
- Shelter has been at capacity

Lori L- New Home Midcoast-

- Changed name to New Hope for Women to New Hope Midcoast
- New material, same numbers

Pat Hood- ME State Police

- State of ME is ranked #8 for protection of Seniors
- Jan 6<sup>th</sup>- committee is meeting to plan new year agenda
- One goal is to refresh participant involvement.

Meeting adjourned at 10:43am

**Next Meeting Dates:**

March 11, 2022

June 3, 2022

September 2, 2022

December 2, 2022

Elder Abuse Summit - Thursday, May 19, 2022 (Virtual Event)

Elder Abuse Roundtable – Thursday, November 3, 2022 (Details TBD)

Submitted by Nicole Marchesi

Volunteer Program Manager/ Regional Ombudsman

The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

2/25/2022