



Meeting Notes

September 1, 2023

Attendees:

Jill Randall- LSE, Debra Whalen-Maine Savings Bank, Amy Angelo – Alzheimer’s Association, Jami Aleksiev-Eastern Area Agency on Aging, Dana Morrell – SeniorsPlus, Chief Andrew Booth-Bath PD, Jane Margesson – AARP Maine, Kimberly Snow – Researcher at the Muskie School, Linda Bridges YCEATF, Ben Hawkins – Maine Health Care Association
Guests: Jenna Jones and Don Harden

Minutes for June 2, 2023 were approved.

Erin Salvo nominated to the co-chair role for MCEAP previously held by Patrick Hood from the Maine State Police. No other nominations. Chief Booth nominated. Kimberly Snow seconded. Unanimous approval by the council.

Presentations:

Don and Jenna. Maine Council on Aging.

Don Harden – introduction. Working with the Maine Council on Aging to support older adults living healthy and engaged lives. Updated the vision to include diverse older people.

Goals: Age, equity, inclusiveness with supports for housing, transportation. Working on expanding supports for informal caregivers. Working on enhancing opportunities through equity and healthy aging initiative

See the Website for the Maine Council on Aging for more information about the upcoming annual summit on 9/27th; titled “chAnGE”

Power and Aging Project– Ageism. Positive, equitable and inclusive. Want to end Ageism by 2032. Can do presentations for agencies. Want to engage the audience about age bias. It is a 60 to 90 minute conversation. Ageism 101. They also interact with media if desired. Working towards Age Friendly and positivity in healthcare.

Leadership Exchange is a 14 hour leadership development program on ending ageism. 180 people have “graduated” thus far. There is also a 6 hour middle management program.

Language Matters program

Tips and Techniques for Interrupting Ageism.

They have created a Tool Kit.

Can host a session at your organization!

(ONE PAGE DOCUMENT TO BE CIRCULATED BY JILL TO ALL MEMBERS)

Jill – She attended frameworks training. Surprising thing that Don has learned? How much people want to talk about ageism. Pervasiveness. It is everywhere. Beliefs that people hold. “It’s not a thing”. Many stereotypes. Ex. Older adults can’t do technology.

Jenna Jones – Passionate about their work.

2022 – Economic insecurity for women. Report found that women typically are not making enough money to meet needs. Most abused are typically women. One reason may be that they depend on others for assistance with care and home maintenance issues. They were successful with drafting a bill for economic justice. They were able to get the asset test eliminated for the Medicare Savings Program which will now allow greater eligibility for older adults needing help with their Medicare part B payment and with obtaining low cost medications. Bill did pass. March 1st of 2024, the new eligibility for the expanded MSP will take place.

Maine’s Essential Care & Support Workforce Partnership website link: essentialworkforce.org

The High Cost of Undervaluing Direct Care Work report link: [The High Cost of Undervaluing Direct Care Work - MECEP](#)

Join Partnership link: [Join Maine’s Essential Care and Support Workforce Partnership!](#)
(office.com)

<https://mainecouncilonaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Economic-Security-Older-Women-in-Maine-Report-FINAL.pdf>

Direct care worker crisis makes it likely that folks must rely on other systems of support. Abuse is most likely widely under reported.

MCOA wants to grow and sustain the direct care worker population for older adults and those with disabilities.

Secondary harms – Our older adults are the fastest growing homeless population. One of the contributing factors is not being able to maintain their home. Can’t do such tasks as taking out the trash which could lead to hoarding and eviction.

Maine’s Essential Care and Workforce. <https://essentialworkforce.org/>

This group is trying to increase reimbursement systems and benefits options for direct care workers. Want to introduce legislation. Bill to allow workers to access an education benefit. Allow workers to earn a one year education benefit of \$4000. This could cover tuition, technology, housing, supplies. Not restricted by course of study. Can earn 4 benefits total and can pass it on to a spouse or child.

<https://www.mecep.org/jobs-and-income/the-high-cost-of-undervaluing-direct-care-work/>

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NZQp9gT7dUOISsNyVDLPt3wQzaYHAWdGhyd_q6zNshUNDRPMUhLRUxJSENDREtHUFNLNUQyWIVGMyQIQCN0PWcu&wdlOR=c8C32C11C-7EC9-4220-8461-2E96C75D20A2

Looking for others to join their advocacy work. Lots of ways to do this such as letters or submitting testimony on a bill. Contact Jess Mauer or Jenna Jones if you want to be part of this.

Workgroup reports:

Education and Awareness Committee – Jill Randall – LSE

Elder Abuse Roundtable on 11/2/23. It will be in person at the Augusta Civic Center. Registration will be available at the end of September. Let Jill know if you need further info or want to be part of the MCEAP committee.

Essay Contest has concluded. Award ceremony was held on Zoom 6/15/2023. Jane Margesson reported that the winner joined an AARP meeting, and his essay was read to the AARP group.

Other workgroups are inactive at this time.

Community Partner updates:

Jane Margesson – AARP Maine

Ramping up efforts for shredding events and medication take back events.
AARP Maine shredding events schedule and additional info: <https://states.aarp.org/maine/shred-2023esentation>.

MHCA – Ben Hawkins

Fall conference. Oct for LTC facilities. Celebrating direct care workers. Excellence in direct care. Celebration in Nov. In Sept., they will present Too Hot, Too Cold, Just Right. Regulating temperature at facilities.

Kimberly Snow

Doing a statewide needs assessment. Trying to find the best ways to use Older American Act funds. They are doing a survey for adults 55 + and caregivers under 55 caring for an adult. Lisenting session in Sept.

Amy Angelo – Alzheimer's Association

Walk to End Alzheimer's. 7 walks around the state. These walks help to increase awareness and fund raise.

Linda Bridges - York County Elder Abuse Task Force

10/22. Community Gourmet. Prepares meal kits for older adults. Plan to be doing talks on fraud prevention.

Dana Morrell

SeniorsPlus will be having the Aging Well/ Living Well Expo at Sunday River on 9/29. For more details or to sign up, please visit our website: Seniorsplus.org

Send Jill ideas for the education portion of this meeting.

Meeting ended at 10:05am.