



Meeting Notes

December 1, 2023

Attendees:

Jill Randall – LSE, Chief Andrew Booth – Bath PD, Elizabeth Gattine – Governor’s Office – Cabinet on Aging, Joanne Stockinger, Alicia Hunter – DHHS-OCFS, Amanda Taisey – MCEDV, Ellen Parent – Maine Credit Union League, Chris Wolff – EAIME, Judith Shaw – Office of Securities, Jane Margesson – AARP Director, Courtney Chasse – Executive Director of Hope & Justice Project, Jesse Devine – Administrator of Office of Securities, Debra Chalmers – Eastern Area Agency on Aging, Alicia Hunter – DHHS, Nichole Bilodeau – Bureau of Financial Institutions

Meeting opened: 9:02 am

Minutes from September 1, 2023 were circulated in prior email. Motion to accept by Chief Andrew Booth, 2nd by Chris Wolff. All in favor.

Presentation:

Elizabeth Gattine – Cabinet on Aging, Cabinet Coordinator

Provided an update about the Cabinet on Aging, which is over a year old. The Cabinet is housed in Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation & the Future (GOPIF). They are expected to be leadership for up to eight different state agencies. The mission of the Cabinet on Aging is to ensure that Mainers are able to age safely, affordably, and in ways and communities that best serve or need their preferences. The Cabinet on Aging is focused on individuals 60 years of age or greater. The Cabinet is expected to address ageism and bias, including system of care. The demographics and geography of Maine provide opportunities to lead as a model for other states.

1. Elevate opportunities of older adults
2. Promote coordination and communication across state government – includes the participation of multiple state agencies.
3. Incorporate an aging lens across state policies and systems
 - a. Access to food, including the preparation of food.
 - b. Engage older adults in meaningful employment.

The Cabinet on Aging’s priorities will focus on sustainable living for older Mainers in their communities. Community connections will be made to assure quality of life, inclusion, and engagement, to permit

retirees to be active and work, if they choose. Governor Mills announced that Maine is an age friendly state in 2019 and continues stakeholder input. The Cabinet's work incorporates eight domains of livability. Maine has the largest aging community.

The Cabinet is funded through the National Center for State & Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions. An RFP invited proposals to support new and existing coalitions; Maine was one of eight states that were awarded the grant. The program is to support and align activities in communities to the State efforts or at least be similar. Efforts will be leveraged for mutual benefit. The Cabinet will include the co-chairs of the MCEAP as members of EJCP. The Cabinet will enhance outreach and resource development supported by the coordinator.

The Cabinet will fund a Coordinator Position – anticipated to be a two-year limited position. Human Resources is in the process of getting a position posted. The Coordinator Position will be responsible for grant reporting, participating in monthly grantee meetings, and technical assistance provided by the National Center for State and Tribal Elder Justice. Salary range is estimated to be \$65K to \$75K, based on qualifications.

Judy Shaw shared that this Cabinet on Aging reinforces the commitment to these goals. There is an importance to all the efforts provided by the members of MCEAP. Multi-disciplinary teams can exist and be successful. It is all about the partnership. The Coordinator Position will write grants and be closely involved with MCEAP.

Jesse Devine asked, "How often will with Cabinet meet?" The Cabinet must meet four times a year. It is expected that the Cabinet will meet every other month. All meetings are expected to be virtual, and anyone from the public can listen to the meetings in "listen only" mode. Please email Elizabeth Gattine for an email invite. It is anticipated that monthly staff meetings will also occur, which will include all participants across all agencies.

Debra Chalmers inquired about how well the listening sessions are attended. Only those who are connected to the internet listen in. The Cabinet has not participated in a listening session lately.

DHHS is currently involved with a statewide review on aging. The data collection period is closed. The challenge is connecting to the individuals/people that need to be connected with. The best practice to reach the individuals that need to be reached is to ask the people to come to us.

Debra Chalmers - Eastern Area on Aging, shared that food, housing and transportation are always basic needs that are concerns; however, understanding Medicare Advantage Programs is challenging and the sales forces are aggressive.

Jill Randall shared that Senior Medicare Patrol and LSE's Medicare Part D Unit can assist seniors understand their Medicare products.

Elizabeth Gattine encouraged all to seek information about the Maine Cabinet on Aging from the Maine website.

Workgroup reports:

Educational and Awareness Committee – Jill Randall - LSE

Education and Awareness Committee – a report was circulated. On November 2, the Elder Abuse Roundtable met at the Augusta Civic Center. Eighty-six attendees participated in the program. It was an event to bring participants together to discuss elder abuse and exploitation. A variety of discussions were part of small discussion groups. The anticipated date for 2024 is November 7, 2024. The committee is working on reserving space. Others are welcome to join the committee. The primary goal of the Education and Awareness Committee is to plan an annual virtual Summit event and an in-person Roundtable event in the fall.

Essay Contest

“What is Elder Abuse and why does it matter to me?” Each Maine county winner gets \$50, and the Maine state-wide winner is awarded \$1000. MCEAP will continue to partner with GFWC. The Committee sends out applications and requirements of the essay contest in April or May. Jane Margesson shared the essays are tremendously powerful. It is fascinating to read about the younger generation talking about their experiences. The 2023 Essay Winner provided a reading at an AARP event.

Other working groups – currently inactive.

Community Partner update:

Chris Wolff – EAIME – Appreciates the Coordinating Cabinet.

Elizabeth Gattine –Cabinet on Aging - The department has gone back to doing an adult protection book, with a benchmark of data.

Judy Shaw –Office of Securities - The recommendation in the Elder Justice Roadmap has moved forward, and a public service announcement will provide information about a victim restitution fund being established.

Judy Shaw -Office of Securities - Senior Save Training Product – The Office of Securities holds the trademark for the product. There is a desire to update and modernize the Senior Safe Program. Let Judy know if you are interested in participating in the modernization sessions.

Jane Margesson – AARP - Shared the Phil & Pam Show sponsored by AARP has been providing tips to seniors for the past two years. The virtual meeting is hosted every second Thursday of each month for a 30-minute program starting at 10:00 am. The program is always featured over zoom.

Jane Margesson – AARP - Shared there was a great turn-out for a shredding event in Portland, Maine. Approximately 400 people participated in the event and provided 35K pounds of documents. The event has really out-grown the site. The shredding company encountered a small glitch on the day of the event. Other areas that held shredding events in Maine are Bangor, Bowdoin, and Saco.

Next Meeting:

March of 2024

Meeting ended at 10:00 am.