



## Meeting Notes

9/6/2024

**Attendees:** Jill Randall-LSE, Nicole Marchesi-Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kimberly Snow-Researcher at Muskie School, Alicia Hunter-DHHS-OCFS, Jane Margesson-AARP, Andrew Booth-Bath PD, Nichole Bilodeau Bureau of Financial Institutions, Ashley Pomeroy-Maine Federal Credit Union, Andrew McCormack-Assistant Attorney General, Jesse Devine-Maine Office of Securities, Hillary Waterman-New Hope Mid-Coast, Gina Googins- Associate Director OADS/APS, Debra Whalen Maine Saving Federal Credit Union, Amanda Taisey-MCEDV, Laurie McDonnell-Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership, Jami Aleksiev-EAAA, Crystal Roy-LSE, Chris Wolff-EAIME, Ari Keller-Small Point Baptist Church, Melinda Colson-Maine Savings Federal Credit Union, Quinn Gormley-MECASA, Pamela Stutch-Maine Bureau of Insurance, Jacinta Deschaine Elder Abuse Institute, Dr. Lisa Yen-Bath Primary Care

Meeting notes approved.

### Presentations:

#### Chris Wolff- Elder Abuse Institute of Maine

The mission of Elder Abuse Institute of Maine is to ensure that all older people impacted by abuse have access to resources, services, and supports.

- All work is client driven, allows to develop a relationship that matters.

**1994**-established a multi-disciplinary coalition called PEACE

**2003**-became a non-profit organization

**2010**-Martha's Cottage in Portland secured federal funding to open this first housing design

**2016**-The organization was volunteer led until hired first executive director, as well as program director.

**August 2024**-have 17 staff

#### Services:

- Transitional housing
- Case management
- Safety planning
- Financial planning assistance
- Counseling and referral services
- Legal advocacy and referrals
- Housing advocacy

- Outreach and education research
- Partner with agencies to achieve these steps
- Manage four properties, one in southern Maine, three in mid-coast
- Martha's Cottage is the first transitional housing program
  - Can live there for up to two years
  - Low barrier
  - Do not disclose location
  - Serve all of Maine
  - Martha's Cottage is named after Martha who endured 51 years of abuse from her husband.

To Qualify for Services:

- 60 years or older
- Free services
- Confidential
- Housing is not an emergency shelter
- Anyone can make a referral
- Serve all of Maine
- Cottages are not staffed

Elder Service Connections:

- Partnership with APS to provide support to older adults that have had open cases with APS.
- In 2018, awarded a three-year intervention research grant from ACL to provide client directed victim services to APS clients in Maine's Cumberland and York counties.
- Model intervention called RISE model, R-Repair Harm, I-Inspire Change, S-Support Connection, E-Empower Choice
- Now we have eight advocates statewide

A Helping Voice:

- Provides "warmline" offering information and consulting to mandated reporters 207-805-5555

**Overview of Committees and Work Groups:**

Education and Awareness Committee (Chris Wolff):

- Save the Date: November 8<sup>th</sup>, In-person Roundtable event for those working in the field. The roundtable event will have speakers and panelist.

Elder Abuse Essay Contest (Jill Randall):

- The council has partnered with GFWC Maine to have an elder abuse essay contest that invites graduating high school students to submit an essay based on the question "What is elder abuse and why does it matter to you?"

## **Community Partner Updates:**

Andrew McCormack, US Attorney Office, and Jane Margesson, AARP:

- Press release issued to educate older Mainers about scams.
- Efforts were to reach beyond AARP membership
- Public relations office attaching brochures to prescriptions with warnings about scams, reached out to Hannaford and agreed to this.
- Press conference held on 9/5
- 12,000 brochures are going out

Chief, Andrew Booth:

- Scams seeing: Grandparent romance and cybersecurity

Jesse Devine, Maine Office of Securities:

- Consumer Credit Bureau, policy responses to cryptocurrency scams

Ellen Parent, Maine Credit Union

- Scams are becoming more convincing in all demographics
- Trying to promote general awareness
- In house documentation created

Jane Margesson, AARP:

- Next fraud watch call, second Thursday of the month, website has registration
- October 25<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup> shredding events

Meeting adjourned at 9:50am

Submitted by Nicole Marchesi

Project Manager

The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

10/25/2024