

MCEAP 2025 Elder Abuse Summit Agenda

Virtual Event - May 6 & 8, 2025

DAY ONE: Tuesday, May 6

9:15-9:30

Welcome

Francine Garland Stark, Executive Director, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

9:30-10:15

Domestic Abuse in Later Life

Julie LeBlanc, RN, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner

Hillary Waterman, Ph.D., Community Prevention Educator, New Hope Midcoast

Julie and Hillary will review/explain common elements of domestic abuse, such as coercive control, highlighting the intersectional nature of partner abuse in later life and way that culturally dominant ageist and sexist attitudes work to enable and hide abuse. Older adults can be vulnerable to abuse for particular reasons: dependency, gendered ideologies of caring work, family dynamics, pressure, or collusion, isolation, economic marginality, and others. We will see how abusers easily exploit these dimensions of identity and lived experience associated with aging both in long partnerships and also in newer ones.

The second part of the presentation will shift focus to the healthcare system as a critical interface in which many older adults regularly encounter professionals who may be in a position to observe private dynamics of abuse and signs of maltreatment, and potentially to intervene or help.

10:15-10:30

Break

10:30-12:00

Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Perspectives From the Field

Moderator/Panelist: Julie LeBlanc, RN, Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner

Hillary Waterman, Ph.D., Community Prevention Educator, New Hope Midcoast

Christian Behr, Investigator, Kennebec and Somerset County District Attorney's Office

Patricia Kimball, Executive Director, Elder Abuse Institute of Maine

Quinn Gormley, Equity and Access Coordinator, Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Randi Clatchey, Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel Coordinator, Office of the Attorney General

Lisa Marchese, Deputy Attorney General/Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel Chair, Office of the Attorney General

Experts from multiple varied disciplines will share the prevalence, detection, and nuanced response to domestic abuse in later life.

12:00-12:05

Closing

Andrew Booth, Chief of Police, Bath Police Department, Co-Chair of the Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention