



## Meeting Notes

*12/6/2024*

**Attendees:** Jill Randall-LSE, Nicole Marchesi-Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kimberly Snow-Researcher at Muskie School, Alicia Hunter-DHHS/OCFS, Andrew Booth-Bath PD, Nichole Bilodeau-Bureau of Financial Institutions, Andrew McCormack-Assistant Attorney General, Courtney Chasse-Hope and Justice Project, Renee Wellman-EAAA, Gina Googins- Associate Director OADS/APS, Debra Whalen-Maine Savings Federal Credit Union, Laurie McDonnell-Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership, Crystal Roy-LSE, Melinda Colson- Maine Savings Federal Credit Union, Alicia Hunter-Maine DHHS/OCFS, Wendy Russell- Catholic Charities, Dr. Lisa Yeh-Maine Health, Daniel Eccher-Private Attorney, Levey, Wagley, Putman & Eccher, Pamela Stutch-Maine Bureau of Insurance, Kayce Hunton-MECASA, Hillary Waterman-New Hope

Meeting notes approved.

### **Presentation:**

#### **Laurie McDonnell, The Maine Elder Justice Roadmap:**

The presentation provides an overview of:

- How the Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership came together
- How it built Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap
- Updates on progress made on Roadmap Recommendations

Maine's history of collaboration regarding Elder Justice:

- Regional elder abuse task forces have been in place for nearly two decades in some parts of the state.
- In 2011, the Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention was formed to raise awareness and provide training and support.
- In 2014, then Maine Attorney General Janet Mills formed a Task Force on Financial Exploitation of the Elderly.
- A *federal* Elder Justice Roadmap was published in 2014.
- In 2019, Legal Services for Maine Elders obtained support from the John T. Gorman Foundation for an effort that would be modeled loosely on this federal Roadmap.
- Victim services providers entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in support of the Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership concept and asked the Governor to form the EJCP via Executive Order. This happened on October 23<sup>rd</sup> of 2019.

Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership Membership:

- Public/Private Partnership
- Multi-Disciplinary/21 members
- List of members at: Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership | Department of Health and Human Services (maine.gov)

Purpose of EJCP:

- Identify challenges to the prevention of, detection of, and response to elder abuse
- Develop strategic priorities across the public and private sectors to prevent and respond to elder abuse
- Make recommendations regarding direct services, education, public policy, and data collection and evaluation

Goal: Create a roadmap with concrete recommendations to help Maine:

- Decrease the incidence of elder abuse
- Increase the number of elder abuse victims that seek and receive help in stopping abuse
- Improve the multi-disciplinary response to elder abuse

Process for building Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap:

- EJCP members and key stakeholders were surveyed
- Survey resulted in the identification of strengths, gaps and challenges, and best practices in the **four key areas of focus**:
  1. Direct Victims Services
  2. Public and Professional Education
  3. Public Policy
  4. Data Collection and Evaluation

2021: A series of facilitated meetings:

- In the first half of 2021, four meetings centered on four priority areas
- Rigorous process of:
  - Reviewing survey results
  - Small breakout group conversations
  - Create lists of action items
  - Generate a set of discrete recommendations

Discussion and ratification of concrete Recommendations:

- *Top Priority* (15)
- *Secondary*(22)
- *For Future Study* (7)

Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap was presented to the Governor in December of 2021. Released, publicly, by Governor Mills on February 4th, 2022

Direct Victim Services:

RECOMMENDATION: Examine the staffing capacity at Adult Protective Services.

RESULT: APS has added at least ten new positions since the Roadmap was built.

RECOMMENDATION: Develop and expand wraparound support services, including case management services, for victims of elder abuse based upon Adult Protective Services pilot.

RESULT: The Elder Service Connections program, a partnership between Elder Abuse Institute of Maine and APS, has expanded significantly and funding for the program was included in the State budget.

RECOMMENDATION: Identify an assigned Elder Abuse Prosecutor within each District Attorney's office that works with the Elder Service Officers.

RESULT: At this time, no counties have dedicated Elder Abuse Prosecutors.

RECOMMENDATION: Develop hub and spoke style investigative resources to increase specialized investigative resources and improve the response to elder abuse.

RESULT: Work continues to find a source of funding to support the launch of a pilot of this project.

#### Public and Professional Education:

RECOMMENDATION: Add specific elder abuse investigator training to the offerings from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, similar to what specialized domestic violence investigators receive.

RESULT: Under the leadership of the Commissioner of Public Safety, conversations are underway with the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to map a process for developing this training.

RECOMMENDATION: Expand and enhance training of Adult Protective Services staff and community partners.

RESULT: Maine APS staff have been working through a national APS training platform that has a core curriculum of 23 modules.

RECOMMENDATION: Mandate training for mandatory reporters and enhance the trainings given to individuals and groups by Adult Protective Services on mandatory reporting responsibilities.

RESULT: In 2024, a training requirement regarding individuals mandated to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation was added into law. They must complete approved training once every four years. Adult Protective Services offers on-line, on-demand training for mandated reporters.

#### Public Policy:

RECOMMENDATION: Regularly convene the Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership to monitor and guide implementation of the Roadmap.

RESULT: The EJCP has continued to meet since the Roadmap was built. In 2024, the EJCP met quarterly.

RECOMMENDATION: Add an attorney's fee provision to the Improvident Transfer of Title Act.

RESULT: Work is underway at Legal Services for Maine Elders in this area, including evaluating potential allies. Continue to hope to introduce a bill in the upcoming session.

RECOMMENDATION: Restructure and update the statute on the Maine Elder Death Analysis Review Team.

RESULT: There has been no change to the statute at this time.

[The Maine Elder Justice Roadmap](#)

Questions?

Please contact me:

Laurie McDonnell

EJCP Project Coordinator

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

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

- Report circulated on Elder Abuse Roundtable and workplan for 2025
- Save the Date: Elder Abuse Summit
- If you have any interest in joining the committee, please reach out to Jill Randall at Legal Services for Maine Elders.

### Elder Abuse Essay Contest (Jill Randall):

- The council has partnered with GFWC Maine on the 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?”
- This is the sixth year.
- Task Forces across the state select county winners, then a statewide winner is selected. A suggestion made to revise prompt question due to deeply personal essays that may not be good for public consumption. This revised suggestion is to look at solution.

## **Community Partner Updates:**

### Chief Andrew Booth, Bath PD

Tri-Ed meets monthly focused on scams

- Seeing online scams
- Gift card scams
- Romance scams

### Nicole Marchesi, The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program:

New Proposed Assisted Housing Regulations releases - LTCOP spoke in support of new regulations at the public hearing on 11/13/24. This is an opportunity to improve care for older and disabled residents living in these settings.

### Courtney Chasse, Hope and Justice Project

Hope and Justice Project received OVW Abuse in Later Life Grant. With this grant, they will be attending lots of training and bringing it back to Aroostook.

### Kayce Hunton, MECASA

The Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA) was recently awarded a DOJ Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) Restorative Practices Pilot Sites Program Grant to support a

partnership with various organizations, including Legal Services for Maine Elders. [OVW-RP Grant Overview.pdf](#)

Next Meeting Dates:

Friday, March 7, 2025  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Friday, June 6, 2025  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Friday, September 5, 2025  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Friday, December 5, 2025  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Save the Date:

**Elder Abuse Summit**

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Thursday, May 8, 2025

*Virtual event; registration and event details TBD*

Meeting adjourned at 9:48am.

Submitted by Nicole Marchesi Public Policy Advocate  
The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program  
12/6/24