



## **Meeting Notes**

*3/7/25*

**Attendees:** Andrew Booth, Bath PD, Jill Randall-LSE, Nicole Marchesi- Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kimberly Snow- Researcher at Muskie School, Alicia Hunter- DHHS- OCFS, Jane Margesson-AARP, Nichole Bilodeau- Bureau of Financial Institutions, Ashley Pomeroy- Maine Federal Credit Union, Andrew McCormack- Assistant Attorney General, Jesse Devine- Maine Office of Securities, Dana Morrell- SeniorsPlus, Wendy Russell- Catholic Charities, Crystal Roy- LSE, Laurie McDonnell- Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership, Ashley Pomeroy- Maine Savings, Pamela Stutch- Maine Bureau, Sarah Mattox- MECASA, Melina Colson- Maine Savings, Elizabeth Gattine- Governor's Cabinet on Aging, Lorna Lannom- Hope and Justice Project, Gina Googins- APS

### **Approved leadership of Council:**

Co-chairs: Chief Andrew Booth, Bath PD and Jill Randall, Helpline & Medicare and Advocacy Services Director, Legal Services for Maine Elders

Secretary: Nicole Marchesi, Public Policy Advocate, The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Education and Awareness Committee: Dana Morrell, SeniorsPlus

Meeting notes approved.

### **Presentations:**

Lisa Ravar and Sarah Mattox- MECASA (Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault)

#### Overview of Restorative Practices Pilot

- Grant for 5 years
- Grant Partnership includes
  - Penquis, Restorative Justice Program
  - USM- Catherine Cutler Institute
  - Legal Services for Maine Elders
  - Disability Rights Maine
  - Maine TransNet
  - Immigrant Resource Center of Maine

### MECASA's Mission

- Organized to end sexual violence and to support high quality sexual violence prevention and responses within Maine communities

### Core Components

- Public Policy
- Training, technical assistance, resource
- Funding for local services
- Informing conversations about sexual violence

### MECASA's Goals for FY 25-26

- Cultivating sustainable workplaces
- Expanding alternative paths to justice & healing
- Increasing the accessibility of programs
- Transforming community conditions to prevent sexual violence

### Each year, 19,000 Mainers experience sexual violence.

- Fewer than 3 % will report to law enforcement
- In 2020, Over 40,000 Mainers age 60+ experienced some form of abuse
- Others may prefer not to engage with law enforcement because:
  - They're unsure it will enhance their own safety or healing
  - Many folks are harmed by someone known/close to them; and sometimes, they rely on these folks to meet their survival needs
  - They have had harmful interactions with systems actors in the past
  - They want the person causing harm to get support and do their own healing work

### Why do we need it? Restorative Justice is about the needs of those hurt.

- Restorative practices as defined by 34 U.S.C 12514(a)(3):
- Practically speaking this means...
  - Relates to a specific harm
  - Is community-based
  - Not connected with any civil or criminal legal process
  - Is initiated by a victim of the harm
  - Is voluntary for all parties

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

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

- Elder Abuse Summit, opening registration later this month
  - Virtual event (May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 8<sup>th</sup>)

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

- The council has partnered with GFWC Maine on an elder abuse essay contest that invites graduating high school students to submit an essay based on the question "What is elder abuse and what is your solution?"
- Task Forces across the state select county winners, then a statewide winner is selected.

## **Community Partner Updates:**

### Andrew Booth, Bath PD

- Seeing lots of scams
- Lincoln County is starting up a triad

### Debra Whalen, Maine Savings

- Current scam - Microsoft is giving out passwords, money mills are going to homes to pick up money
- Individuals are falling for scams due to threats and fear

### Jesse Devine, Maine Office of Securities

- Looking at where victims of scams can be reached most effectively

### Dana Morrell, SeniorsPlus

- Seeing romance scams

### Nichole Bilodeau, Bureau of Financial Institutions

- Tellers at banking institutions are working hard to identify scams

### Jane Margesson, AARP

- Fraud watch is never ending, raising awareness
  - TV spots
  - Monthly ZOOM calls
  - Local speaker opportunities
  - Six shredding events coming up

### Kimberly Snow, Researcher at Muskie School

- Provided report link on scans of all ages

### Jill Randall, LSE

- Announced Jaye Martin Director of LSE will be retiring in August. The job has been posted.

**Next Meeting:** June 6, 2025

Submitted by Nicole Marchesi  
Public Policy Advocate  
The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program  
4/24/25