



Meeting Notes

12/5/2025

Attendees: Jill Randall-LSE, Nicole Marchesi- Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kimberly Snow- Researcher at Muskie School, Andrew Booth- Bath PD, Nichole Bilodeau- Bureau of Financial Institutions, Laurie McDonnell- Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership, Crystal Roy- LSE, Wendy Russell- Catholic Charities, Jane Margesson- AARP, Ari Teller- Pastor, Candice Simeoni- York County Elder Abuse Task Force, Jesse Devine- Maine Office of Securities Administrator, Pamela Stutch- Consumer Health Care Division, Attorney, Alicia Hunter, DHHS- OCFS, John Brautigam- LSE

Meeting notes approved with edits.

Presentation:

Candice L. Simeoni

Kennebunk Police Department

Investigator: State of Maine-DPS Elder Justice

President: York County Elder Abuse Task Force

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YCEATF, York County Elder Abuse Task Force

Background:

- Started in 2004 in law enforcement
- Just celebrated 20 years of the creation of the elder abuse task force
- Operating under two year funded grant at this time
- First ever elder justice coordinator
- Focused on protecting older adults through education, advocacy, and improved investigative practices

YCEATF Background:

- Created in 2005 and is a non-profit 501(c)
- Website access
- #1 goal is education
- Annual conference this year was the 18th year for people in the field

- Wishing Well Program - grants wishes for individuals over the age of 60
 - Respects our older population, gets the word out, and gets in front of another audience
- Grants provided

Key Elder Crime and Abuse Trends in Maine

- High prevalence of underreporting
 - According to Maine's State Plan on Aging, about one in six adults aged 60 plus in Maine are estimated to experience some form of abuse
 - About 84 percent of elder abuse cases are never reported
- Growing financial exploitation/fraud risk
- Main perpetrators are often known to victims

Elder Justice Investigator Position

In 2025, Maine's Department of Public Safety created statewide elder justice investigator role funded by a federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

Three prong assignments:

- Mentoring departments with investigations
- Train and educate law enforcement, multi-disciplines, community partners, general community
- Collect statewide data on elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect from front line and produce report
- #1 risk factor is loneliness

Introducing new locations, 102 Main Ogunquit-

- A. Book Nook
- B. Safe Technology Hub
- C. Aging Resource Center
- D. Discussion and Workshop Space

www.yceatf.org

Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership Roadmap- Jill Randall and Chief Booth

Proposed tasks: To see if MCEAP would potentially be able to extend spokesperson and raise awareness state and local levels

Recommendation: *Potentially through MCEAP, expand the cadre of skilled spokespersons (and trainers) across disciplines who can articulately and accurately communicate compelling messages about elder abuse and raise awareness and consciousness at local and state levels.*

MCEAP does have a speaker's bureau. PowerPoint is on website and needs to be updated.

Overview of Committees and Work Groups:

Education and Awareness Committee (Jill Randall):

- Report has been sent out. Focused on Elder Abuse Roundtable held in person. 110 people registered and 95 attended, which were record numbers. AARP provided a grant to offset costs.
- Morning program was multi-disciplinary
- Panel presentation in the afternoon
- Looking at planning Elder Abuse Summit. Please reach out with information

Elder Abuse Essay Contest (Jill Randall):

- Wrapped up for this year, discuss continuing partnership with GFWC Maine and will look at materials in December
- The council has partnered with GFWC Maine 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?”
- This is the 10th year
- 115 essays submitted this year, the most received. Last year, 77 essays received.
- County winners notified and received \$50 dollars. High schools are notified so students can be recognized.
- Statewide winner received \$1,000

Community Partner Updates:

Chief Andrew Booth, Bath PD

- Continuing to see lots of scams.

Crystal Roy, LSE

- Seeing financial exploitation regarding child and parent dynamic and jeopardizing the housing for the older individual

Jesse Devine, Maine Securities Administrator

- The Office of Securities and the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation have started to try to integrate some of their approaches across the different regulation agencies, including the Bureau of Financial Education and Consumer Protection. They have been meeting regularly to try and figure out how to approach issues.
- Part of the project is to assess where their data collection may or may not coordinate and try to improve that.

Wendy Russell- Catholic Charities

- Continuing to provide education around scams

Pamela Stutch- Consumer Health Care Division, Attorney

- Lots of calls about Medicare advantage plans pulling out of the service areas and a lot of seniors left with not knowing what to do. Issued press releases around this.
- Unlicensed health care coverage is resulting in people not getting legitimate plans.

Nichole Bilodeau- Bureau of Financial Institutions

- On the team looking at data collection with three different agencies

Laurie McDonnell- Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership

- Just completed an update on the roadmap and it will be coming out soon
- Updating SeniorSafe to modernize the training now that there is an opportunity to deliver an on demand training.

Jane Margesson- AARP

- Providing education around holiday scams next week on Tuesday with an event

Ari Keller-

- Just hosted scam and fraud prevention workshop in partnership with community library- interested in doing more in the future

Kimberly Snow- Muskie School of Research

- Data innovation project, great resource <https://datainnovationproject.org/>

John Brautigam, LSE

- This week wrapped up commission looking at deed fraud report and recommendations will be coming out for the legislature to work on
- Artificial intelligence is also being addressed on that commission and will include protection and education around that sector

Alicia Hunter- DHHS-OCFS

- Sexual Assault Program might have educator come in and provide a review of the education provided.

Next Meeting Dates:

Leadership roles will be voted on. Please reach out if you have an interest.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03AM

Submitted by Nicole Marchesi

Public Policy Advocate

The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

2/17/2026