



Meeting Notes

9-5-2025

Attendees: Jill Randall-LME, Nicole Marchesi-Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Kimberly Snow-Researcher at Muskie School, Andrew Booth-Bath PD, Nichole Bilodeau-Bureau of Financial Institutions, Renee Wellman-EAAA, Gina Googins-Associate Director OADS/APS, Debra Whalen-Maine Saving Federal Credit Union, Crystal Roy-LME, Wendy Russell-Catholic Charities, Dr. Lisa Yeh-MaineHealth/Mid-Coast Hospital, Pamela Stutch-Maine Bureau of Insurance, Jane Margesson-AARP, Amanda Taisey-MCEDV, Elizabeth Gattine-Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, Ari Teller-Small Point Baptist Church, Ashely Pomeroy-Maine Savings, Quinn Gormley-MECASA, Tori Gelinas-Safe Voices

Meeting notes approved with edits.

Presentation:

Courtney Chasse, Executive Director, Hope and Justice Project

Courtney presented on working with people impacted by abuse in later life in Aroostook County.

- In February of 2024, applied for a grant and notified at the end of September 2024 that they received the grant and a lot of training that goes along with it
- Sent trainers to law enforcement to “train the trainers”
 - Aroostook Area Agency on Aging
 - District Attorney’s office
 - Sheriff’s office
 - MOU partners
- Sent a training team to Missouri for law enforcement helping older victims
- Now tasked with presenting this training to all of law enforcement in Aroostook county
- Legal services remedy guide is being developed which will consist of the laws related to abuse later in life and will be used to conduct training
- Part of the grant process was to get letters of commitment
- All law enforcement in Aroostook county agreed to this training
- Three different training courses in three different areas this coming year
- Next year, a fourth training course will be held with new officers or those that have missed the training

- After regular training, then will be bringing an enhanced training a national presenter to work with law enforcement
- Older adults are 50 or older for this grant
- Currently one DA is attending the training
- Another DA will be attending a training in a couple of months
- Tasked with trying to send a judge to a training and currently working on this
- Conducted two community assessments in Aroostook from February to May to get responses from age 50 or older and second survey to get responses from professionals who work with people 50 or older

Survey brought a variation: highlights

Age 50 or older

- 50-80 responses: varying education
- \$15,000 to \$75,000 a year for income
- Half were retired
- People feel that abuse later in life, advocacy, financial assistance, education on council services, legal services, services provided victims would be helpful
- DV or area agency on aging services should be out of those locations
- Best way to reach people - TV, newspaper ads
- One percent of this survey were victims of abuse

Professional responses based on surveys

- Advocacy, shelter
- Housing is more important than safety planning
- Services should only be offered at senior locations
- DV resource center would be the last place for older victims to go
- Ways to reach older people - TV, brochures, newspaper ads, social media services
- Believing that when older adults are victimized, they should never be left alone and have 24 hour care after
- Learned that a lot of people that help are victims of abuse later in life
- Never referred anybody to DV centers
- 100 responses from both

Tasked with getting a strategic plan: not an approved plan yet but think the planning should include

- A designated abuse in later of life advocate: advocacy, safety planning, and financial empowerment
 - Work closely with other Hope and Justice advocacy groups
- Create an in-house team of advocates to discuss gaps of services and how the agency can do better
- Outreach campaigns to target professional services providers and provide information on what Hope and Justice Project does
- Community outreach, presentations, events, take advantage of Area Agency on Aging and their meeting spots - transportation is a huge barrier in Aroostook county
- New brochures, flyers, and interviews with news to be featured on later news channels

- Help people with first months rent and security deposits – It is easier to house people aged 60 older because there are housing complexes in Aroostook county. 50-60 is a gap where there are not as many housing options
- Utility assistance
- Attorney retainer fees
- Money for gas cards
- Build a community response team on September 23rd national clearing house for victims of abuse later in life will presenting for community response kickoff event the date that will start doing community response work
- Currently looking into an online app for service providers where they can click on a location and see what is available in that location based on needs/wishes

Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership Roadmap-Jill Randall and Chief Booth

Proposed tasks: to see if MECEP would potentially be able to extend spokesperson and raise awareness at 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
- October 30th at Augusta Civic Center for this year's Roundtable Event: AARP has provided a grant to offset costs, and there will be a registration fee.
- Will send out an email blast when registration opens (hopefully at the end of this month)
- Once Roundtable is wrapped up, will be focusing on the Summit again. Please send any ideas.
- 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):

- Wrapped up for this year. Discussed continuing partnership with GFWC Maine and will look at materials in December
- The council has partnered with GFWC Maine for the 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 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

- Triad continuing to meet monthly
- Attends the Bath/Brunswick resource coalition which has expanded to 30 members-great collaboration and networking
- Still seeing occasional scams and following victims to crypto scams

Dana Morrell, Seniors Plus

- Big uptick in need for housing for seniors and a lot of seniors living with family members and being asked to leave
- Seeing a lot of financial scams
- Moving forward with a new building to feed more people and a computer lab to help older adults gain more access to the internet

Parker Ferland, Office of Securities

- No real updates
- Still seeing a lot of scams and financial institutions and crypto scams
- James working with Laurie McDonnell on revamping Senior\$afe training now updated to be called Maine\$afe

James Trask, Office of Securities

- Responding to reports of vulnerable adults from financial firms
- Tracking the crypto in reported crypto scams to let people know that they are part of the scams

Renee Wellman, Eastern Area Agency on Aging in Brewer

- Homelessness
- Food insecurities
- People are getting more concerned and not a lot of resources out there

Nichole Bilodeau, Bureau of Financial Institutions

- Senior\$afe looking to make a couple of modules to be coupled with bank safe training with financial exploitation of adults

Ashley Pomeroy, Maine Savings

- Still monitoring financial exploitation

- Just saved a member \$14,500 the member was going to a car dealership to purchase a car and scammers wanted cash

Crystal Roy, LSE

- New Director, John Brautigam

Anna Black, MHCA

- No updates, new to MHCA

Hilary Waterman, New Hope MidCoast

- October DV awareness month hosting events
- Lots of intimate DV happening still
- One event scheduled for speaker series in the fall: September 29th and 30th - Boothbay and Rockland-Margaret Roband-Professor University of Maine School of Law, 4-5:30am-Anyone is invited

Quinn Gormley, MECASA

- Uptick in request for training for sexual violence later in life

Ari Keller, Small Point Baptist Church

- Phippsburg CARES to connect seniors in the community to resources, finding ways to help educate

Tori Gelinis, Safe Voices

- Experiences a bit of turnover with staff
- Elder abuse one on one
- Prepping for DV awareness month

Next Meeting Dates:

October 30, 2025- Roundtable Event at Augusta Civic Center

Quarterly Council Meeting: December 5th, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 10:13AM

Submitted by Nicole Marchesi

Public Policy Advocate

The Maine Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

11/19/2025