

Started LE in 2004
Graduated 9th BLETP Maine Criminal
Justice Academy 2005



Education: Organizational Leadership Studies & Business
Administration USM, Dale Carnegie Leadership Training,
Yale Leadership Program, training in DV, Elder Justice,
Leadership



Candice L. Simeoni

Investigator: State of Maine-DPS Elder Justice

Kennebunk Police Department

President: York County Elder Abuse Task Force

Beacon Cottage: 102 Main Street, Ogunquit
Mon-Wed 9-1pm

www.yceatf.org

csimeoni@kennebunkmaine.us

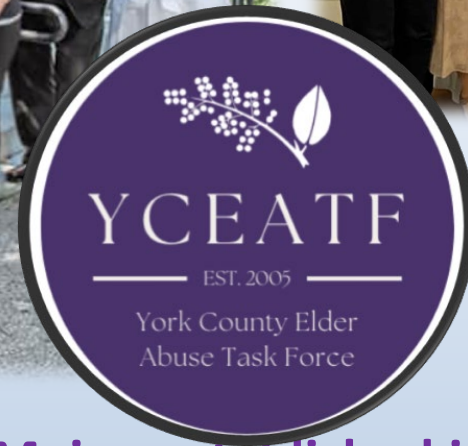
yceatf@gmail.com

207-646-6492



About YCEATF

Founder and President of the York County Elder Abuse Task Force (2005). On several related boards to include: *SMAA, First County Foundation, Healthy Maine Brain, SOME, MEDRT, Alz, Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership, etc*



The York County Elder Abuse Task Force, Maine established in 2005, is a nonprofit 501©3 group of committed professionals from many fields, including but not limited to law enforcement, social services, legal services for the elderly and financial institutions.

We come together to share our knowledge and skills, to serve as a resource to educate the public about elder abuse and ultimately eliminate it as a problem someday.

#1 goal=Education!!!



York County Elder Abuse Task Force



GRANTS



American Rescue Plan Act MiniGrants 2023 Quarterly Service and Expense Summary

EDUCATIONAL ROADSHOW

hosted by the York County Elder Abuse Task Force

"Rebuilding our community after a pandemic"

JOIN US AT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

July 27, 9am-12pm: Standish Municipal Building
August 15, 9am-12pm: South Berwick Community Center
August 17, 1230-330pm: Trafton Center, Sanford

COVID - Various professionals will share their knowledge and advice on how to get our communities back from the implications of the pandemic.

This is made possible through support from Southern Maine Agency on Aging and the American Rescue Plan Act One-time Subcontracting Opportunity for Community Partners. This educational roadshow will be equipped with flyers translated in various languages, LIVE closed captioning and sound amplification. This will also be offered LIVE via ZOOM for those who are unable to attend in person. Attendees will be gifted a bag full of resources; including ways to stay connected after the roadshow and how to stay healthy both physically and mentally.

Attendees will also receive a bag of shelf stable items to keep at home. Come mingle with community members, professionals and leave with knowledge, friends and giveaways!

Questions or for the ZOOM link: Contact 604-1365 or cimeoni@kennebunkmaine.us



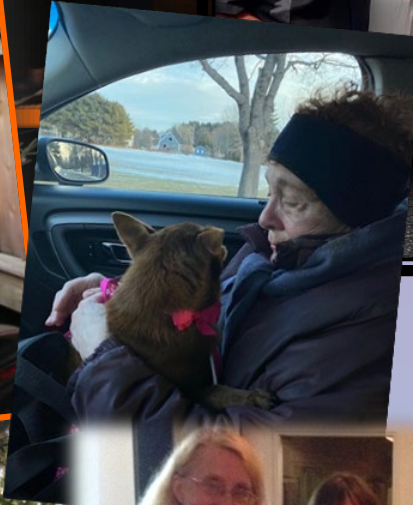
York County Elder Abuse Task Force



Black



WISHING WELL





**GOLDEN BEAUTY
PAGEANT**

Celebrating Grace and Wisdom

Introducing the 2026 Golden Beauty Pageant!

Hosted by the York County Elder Abuse Task force and made possible by donations from: TBD

www.yceatf.org

Find us on Facebook!

102 Main Street, Ogunquit Maine ~~~ PO Box 1672, Ogunquit, ME 03907

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A specialized focus on elder justice positions and sustaining them isn't just "helpful" ... it **fills gaps** that traditional systems were never really built to handle.

Why do we need a focus on EJ specialties in LE??

1. An aging population

Maine has one of the oldest populations in the country. More older adults means a higher risk of abuse, neglect, fraud and exploitation. We experience more cases that require specialized attention.

2. Complexity of cases

Elder abuse cases often involve overlapping issues:

- Financial exploitation by family or caregivers
- Neglect in home or institutional settings
- Cognitive decline, like dementia, affecting testimony and consent
- Civil and criminal elements happening at the same time

A traditional law enforcement response isn't always equipped to navigate all of that at once.

3. Underreporting

Many older adults don't report abuse because of fear, shame, loyalty to family, or dependency. An Elder Justice Investigator is trained to build trust, recognize subtle signs, and work cases that might otherwise go unnoticed.

4. System navigation

These cases rarely sit in one lane. They often involve:

- Law enforcement
- Adult Protective Services
- Medical providers
- Financial institutions
- Legal systems

An Elder Justice Investigator and Specialized units act as a bridge and point of contact. We are someone who understands all those systems and can coordinate them effectively.

5. A trauma-informed approach

Older victims often need more time, patience and a different style of interviewing. The role prioritizes dignity, understanding and empowerment rather than just case closure.

6. Accountability and prevention

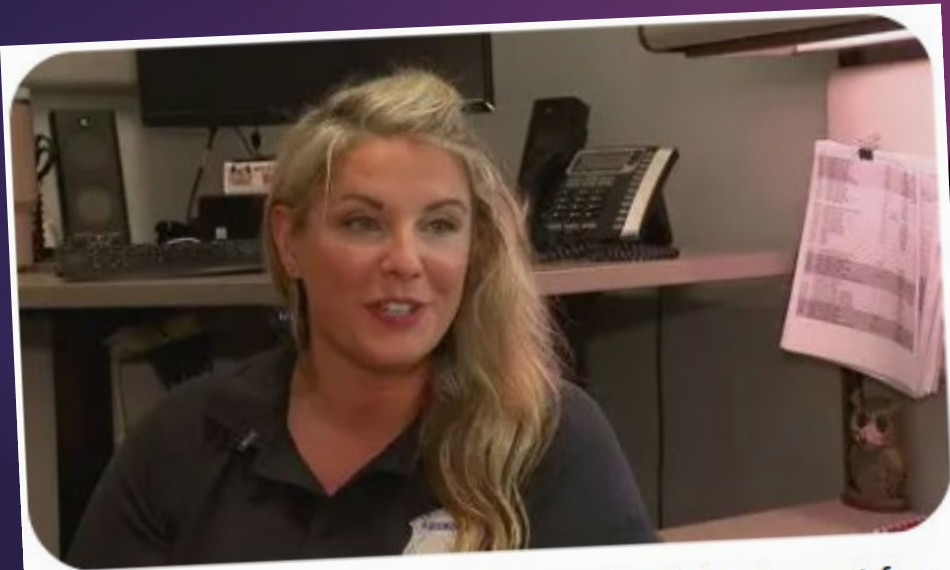
It's not just about responding after harm occurs. The roles also help:

- Identify patterns (repeat offenders, systemic gaps)
- Educate communities and professionals (become more approachable)
- Strengthen prevention efforts (establish strong networking/resources)

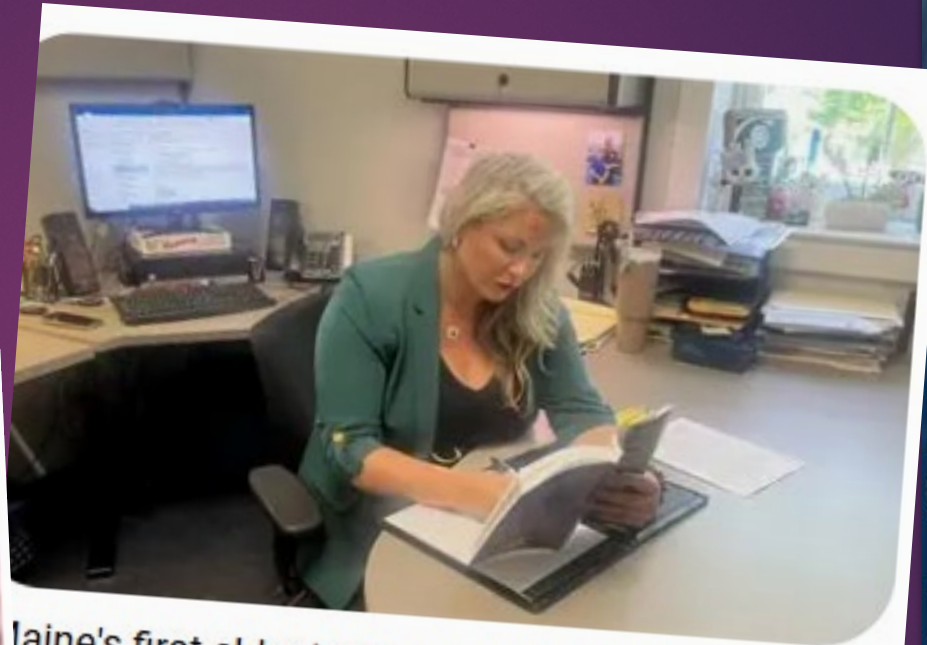
Without these roles, too many cases will continue to fall through the cracks.

Elder abuse doesn't always look like a crime scene. Sometimes it looks like isolation, unpaid bills, missed medications, change in behavior or a trusted person slowly taking control. It takes someone trained to see those patterns...and willing to stay with the case long enough to make it right.

First of its kind position



Maine becomes first state to receive federal grant for elder crime ...



Maine's first elder justice investigator tackles rising number of ...

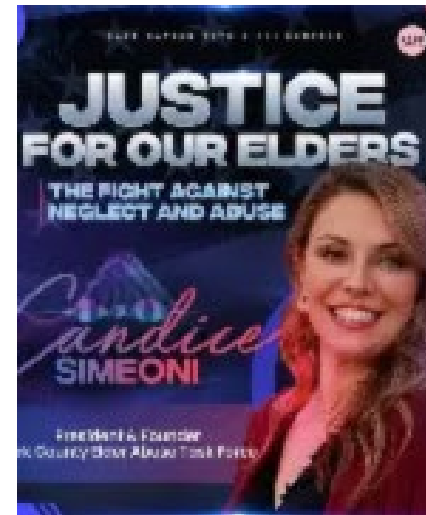


**MAINE HIRES
FIRST ELDER
CRIME
INVESTIGATO
R**

▶ <https://youtube.com/shorts/BK8vC3cljgU?si=LTelkwI8DIAUZ9pk>

Elder Justice Investigator Position

- In 2025, Maine's Department of Public Safety created a *statewide Elder Justice Investigator* role funded by a federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.
- The goal is to strengthen how elder abuse, financial exploitation, and neglect are identified, investigated and prosecuted across Maine and recommend how to proceed.
- End of 2027: report and evaluate next steps



Maine EJI position



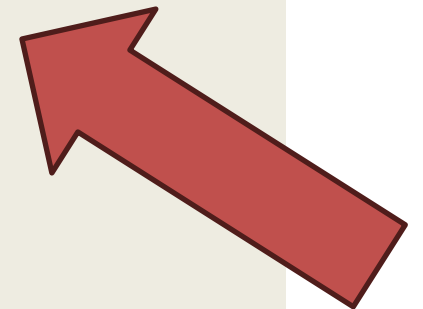
Three prong assignment:

- Strengthens investigative practices for elder-related crimes by mentoring depts with investigations
- Train/educate law enforcement, professionals and community partners as well as the community
- Collect statewide data on elder abuse, exploitation and neglect from front line and produce report

Supports systems aimed at improving wellbeing and protection for older adults.

#1 Risk Factor of victimization

- Loneliness/Isolation!
- Low social connections are the greatest vulnerabilities that increase the risk of being exploited and decrease the chance for seeking help.



Beacon Cottage

Gifted from town of Ogunquit, the Beacon Cottage at 102 Main Street serves as the Hub for the Elder Justice Investigator and offers several ways for older residents to connect, learn and seek assistance.



Justice & Community

BEACON COTTAGE

Supporting Older Adults



Welcoming and non-intimidating

- Neutral (not a police station) so older adults feel comfortable sharing concerns and professionals can easily enter.
- Designed for privacy, warmth, and dignity.

Offer walk-in support

- Drop-in hours for questions about scams, financial exploitation, safety, wellness or even caregiver resources.
- Resource area
- Staffed by trained volunteers (YCEATF, residents, etc)

Host outreach and training

- Fraud prevention classes
- Caregiver support groups
- Elder focused/awareness workshops
- “Tech help” sessions to reduce digital vulnerability

Serve as the hub for multidisciplinary collaboration now and future investigation team

- Social workers, detectives, financial institutions, victim advocates, APS, and healthcare providers can meet safely and confidentially.



Beacon Cottage

A. Book Nook

- Cozy reading corner with book & resources
- Hosts small discussions/reading groups

B. Safe Technology Hub

- Hands-on tech help from local college students with phones, tablets, and computers
- Scam-prevention & Support for reviewing suspicious messages or accounts

C. Aging Resources Center

- Central spot for brochures, guides, and aging services
- Easy access to information (ex caregiver support, pantries, housing options, etc)
- Volunteers available for guidance

D. Discussion & Workshop Space

- Room for support groups, trainings and expert talks
- Safe place for conversations about aging, safety, wellness and independence
- Hosts community event, activities, and prevention programs

Join us!!

Lunch & Learn at the Cottage

Travel Tips & Safety!

April 22 11-12pm



102 Main Street,
Ogunquit



Justice & Community
BEACON COTTAGE
Supporting Older Adults

Travel
with
Tracey

Tracey Williams
Travel Agent
207-608-9187
Travelwithtracey@gmail.com

Scam awareness
Travel tricks
Hints
Safety tips
Lunch provided!

Mindfulness & Meditation with Nicci

"Taking care of those, who once took care of us."



Transpersonal Psychologist

Join us for a calming and restorative session designed to help you de-stress and find moments for yourself:

- Designed for:
- Older adults
- Caregivers
- Those who work with older adults

Beacon Cottage
May 20 at 10am



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BEACON COTTAGE
Supporting Older Adults

WIDOW SUPPORT GROUP

Losing a life partner is one of the most difficult events a person is likely to go through, and the longer you've been together the more complicated the loss can be.

Please join us on the **2nd Monday** of each month for an ongoing conversation about love and loss, and navigating the challenges of widowhood.

Our goals are to provide information and resources, support through the stages of grief, and offer a space to share memories, life lessons, and occasionally, even laughter.

Starting May 11

Beacon Cottage
102 Main Street, Ogunquit



Facilitated by:
Christopher "Kris" Clough, LCSW
Foundations Counseling, ME PLLC

BEACON COTTAGE PRESENTS VOLUNTEER VA SPECIALIST

★★ Meet Meghan ★★

SUPPORTING OLDER VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES

We are proud to welcome Meghan to Beacon Cottage, where she will be offering guidance, support and education to help navigate VA benefits and available resources.

★ WHAT SHE OFFERS ★

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| GROUP SESSIONS | PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS |
| ★ VA benefits education | ★ One-on-one support |
| ★ Resource awareness | ★ Benefit questions & applications |
| ★ Understanding available services | ★ Personalized guidance |

MEETINGS & OFFICE HOURS

FIRST SESSION IS MAY 7TH

Group meetings the first Thursday of every month from 10-11am for office hours until 2pm

All programs at the cottage are free!

★ You served. Let us serve you. ★

Join
us!



**Bernice's Boutique
POP-UP**
— In Loving Memory of Bernice —

Join us at the Beacon Cottage for a special boutique honoring Bernice, whose family donated her clothing to bring joy to others. Join us for fun conversations, snacks and leave with a new outfit!

Beacon Cottage
102 Main Street, Ogunquit
Saturday, April 25
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

WHO IS INVITED
• Women of All Ages
• Come shop, connect, & celebrate a life well lived.

WHAT'S OFFERED
✓ Choose 2 clothing items free
✓ Exchange gently used clothing
✓ Snacks and friendly conversation

CLOTHING DONATIONS WELCOME
• New or gently used, non-women's clothing, accessories appreciated.
• Size Available: S-XXL

All offerings at Beacon Cottage are free thanks to donations and volunteers.

DONATION BOX

The Stroll Patrol: Walking Club

Weekly, starting April 27- Mon & Weds
at 8am

First mission: Walk across Maine!
Maine is approximately 210 miles wide.
It is one of the largest states in New
England! We will be logging the miles
we each walk on the bulletin board and
once we reach this goal...we will have a
brunch together to celebrate. We have
marked out miles along the route and
will let the group know when they have
hit a ½ mile mark so walkers can turn
back around based on their desired
mileage!

*This is an intergenerational activity! All
welcome.*

Stitch & Serve Club

Tuesdays at 10am
Weekly, first meeting April 14th at 10am

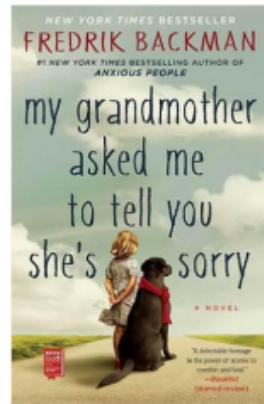
First mission: Comfort Wrap Replenishment
Come knit, quilt, sew or crochet with us to help
with the mission of the quarter. It is fun to get
together to make a difference. Join us as we
connect with others from around Southern
Maine who have a similar interest and shared
heart! Bring your supplies and we will have
coffee, tea and snacks ready!
We also have a limited number of supplies as
well.

Beacon Connection Book Club

Monthly, First Wednesday of the
month-10am First meeting: May 6th

First BOOK will be: *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik
Backman

Elsa is seven years old and different. Her grandmother is seventy-seven years old and
crazy—as in standing-on-the-balcony-firing-paintball-guns-at-strangers crazy. She is
also Elsa's best, and only, friend. At night Elsa takes refuge in her grandmother's
stories, in the Land-of-Almost-Awake and the Kingdom of Miamas, where everybody
is different and nobody needs to be normal.



When Elsa's grandmother dies and leaves behind a series of
letters apologizing to people she has wronged, Elsa's greatest
adventure begins. Her grandmother's instructions lead her to an
apartment building full of drunks, monsters, attack dogs, and old
crones but also to the truth about fairy tales and kingdoms and
a grandmother like no other.

How is this all possible?

All offerings at the Beacon Cottage are made possible through donations, grants and volunteers. There is no fee for any offerings that we host for anyone over the age of 60.

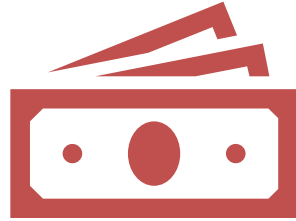


THANK YOU!

The York County Elder Abuse Task Force is dedicated to protecting our older population from abuse. From projects that lift them up to educating in various ways, the group is determined to make a make a difference. The mission is to provide resources, education and ways to help eliminate victimization and empower our older Mainer's.

They strive to take care of those who once took care of us.

What happens after pilot is over?



Funding is secure until Oct 2027



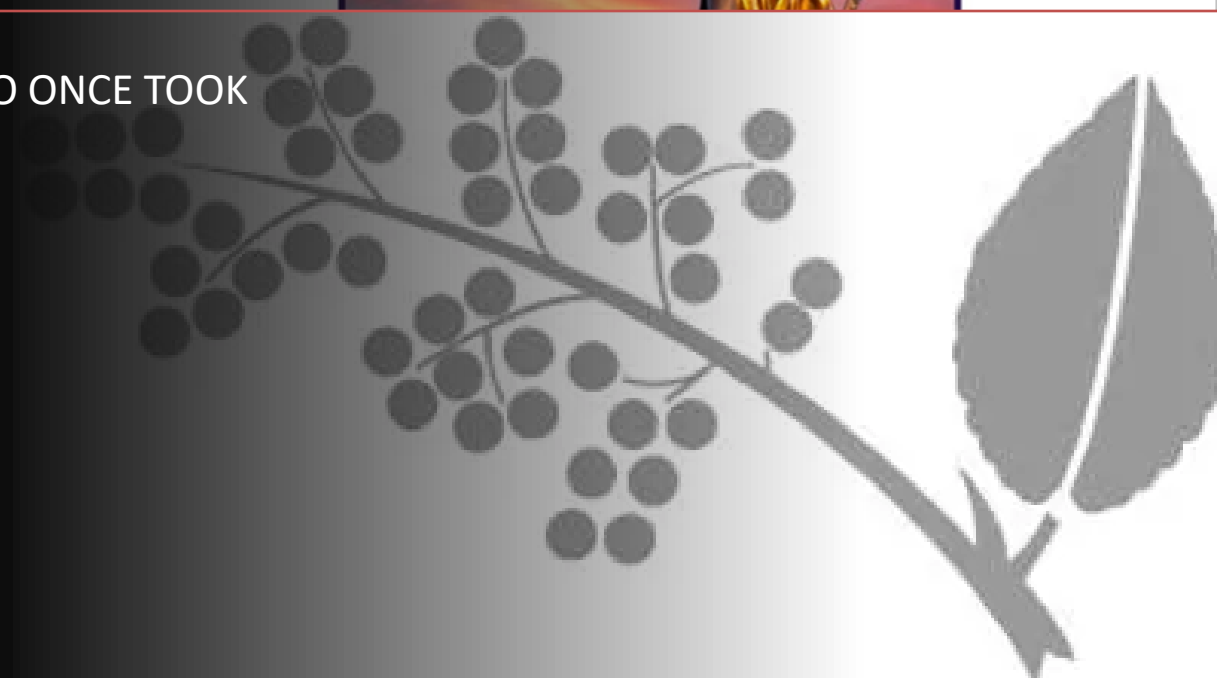
Options after:

- Seek funding for final year to study Region 3 and continue work started and explore the creation of Elder Justice Investigation Team
- Start investigation team (3 investigators in all three regions of State)
- Position ends



Thank you!

TAKING CARE OF THOSE...WHO ONCE TOOK
CARE OF US!



Thank you!

Candice L. Simeoni

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