



Meeting Notes

June 5, 2026

Attendees: Jill Randall-LSE, Kimberly Snow- Researcher at Muskie School , Andrew Booth-Bath PD, Nichole Bilodeau- Bureau of Financial Institutions, Renee Wellman- EAAA, Crystal Roy- LSE, Wendy Russell- Catholic Charities, Dr. Lisa Yeh- Maine Health, Pamela Stutch-Maine Bureau of Insurance, Jane Margesson- AARP, Ari Teller- Pastor, Polly Campbell-UNE, Jessica Gorton-MECASA, Alicia Hunter-DHHS, Courtney Chasse-Hope & Justice, Ashley Pomeroy- Maine Savings Federal Credit Union, Jesse Devine-Office of Securities.

March meeting notes approved.

Presentation: Polly Campbell, RN, BS, BA., Program Director, ANE SANE Program, School of Nursing, University of New England

This educational offering will acquaint participants with the role of forensic nurses, and why the nursing specialty makes a difference in the life of survivors.

The Importance of Forensic Nursing for Trauma Patients:

- Help people across the lifespan—younger to older people
- These are trauma patients who need a comprehensive exam including history and documentation
- Sexual assault is a type of sexual activity committed by one person without the consent of the other
- A study of sexual assaults in Maine from Muskie shows that 14,000 Mainers may experience sexual violence each year, and a small number is reported to law enforcement. In 2024, 405 were reported to law enforcement. One in five Mainers will experience a sexual assault at some time in their life. Eighty percent of people with disabilities have been assaulted and half have experienced more than 10 assaults. Over 25% of Native American women will suffer sexual assault. Forty-four percent of women at Preble St Shelter and 70% of trans people have experienced sexual assault.
- Elders are trafficked.

Forensic nurses are not for purposes of investigation and prosecution but to provide specialized comprehensive care for trauma patients.

First programs in the US were started in the 1970s.

1990s: International Association of Forensic Nurses was established. Dissolved in 2026.
Maine SAFE program: Sexual assault forensic examiners provide education, training, and technical assistance for healthcare providers. They model an interdisciplinary approach.

In Maine, the program started in 1990 with MECASA. In 2002, the first director was hired (Polly Campbell). Currently there are 145 practicing SAFEs and SAFEs in training in Maine.

The University of New England program was established to enhance the recruitment and retention of forensic nurses throughout the state. Funded by a grant in 2018, 2021, and 2024.

The first priority is the person, not collection of evidence.

Sexual Assault is the most underrated crime in the US. On 2-8% of rape reports are false reports.

SAFE provides improved short and long- term patient outcomes, working with an advocate.

SAFE program benefits: minimize the disruption of care, higher quality of care to survivors and consistency in evidence collection.

Overview of Committees and Work Groups:

Education and Awareness Committee (Jill Randall):

- Report has been sent out
- Elder Abuse Summit was held on May 5 & May 7. Day 1 had 225 attendees and day 2 had 210 attendees.
- This year's Roundtable event will be held October 22nd at Augusta Civic Center.

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?"
- This is the 10th year
- Eighty-two essays submitted this year
- County winners notified and received \$50 dollars. High Schools are notified so students can be recognized.
- Statewide winner received \$1,000. Zoom award ceremony will be recorded and released around June 15. Working on having the winning essay published in a local newspaper.

Speakers Bureau (Jill Randall)

Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership 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 has eight trained speakers in the bureau and have had nine requests so far for speakers, mostly from public libraries. We hope to have another training session for speakers in the fall if people are interested.

Community Partner Updates:

Jane Margesson, AARP: Scamdemic was a tremendous success with almost 200 guests.

Next Meeting Dates:

September 4, December 4
Elder Abuse Roundtable October 22