

Maine Council on Elder Abuse Prevention  
Meeting Minutes  
January 4, 2013

In attendance: Jessica Maurer, Judy Shaw, Joel Merry, David Garthe, Jaye Martin, Melissa Morrill, Quincy Hentzel, Patrick Hood, Patty Kimball, Greg Cross, Seth Blodgett, Jaye Martin, Kathy Keneborus, Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Richard Taylor, Holly Stover, Kelley Glidden, Lyn Carter.

The meeting opened with introductions.

Judy Shaw presented a brief history of the Council for the benefit of new members.

The meeting was then opened up for partner updates:

- Jaye Martin of Legal Services for the Elderly reported that there would be a Maine Calling show on January 15 featuring elder financial exploitation. The show is the result of the Consumer Reports article on the topic that included one of LSE's clients. The show will include Judy Shaw, Seth Blodgett, and Denis Culley.
- Seth Blodgett shared information about a recent successful conviction by the AG's office in a financial exploitation case that involved an 88 year old victim and a family member perpetrator who held a POA and was on the elder's joint account. Seth shared that a real key in pursuing this case was the victim's ability to testify. Another interesting element was the success in pursuing theft in a case involving a joint account. The sentencing hearing has not been scheduled yet. It is hoped the person will get at least two years. There was discussion of ways that the methods used to pursue this case could be shared with other investigators and prosecutors, maybe through the state prosecutor's meeting.
- Jess Mauer of the Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging shared information about an upcoming elder abuse and exploitation training that is being sponsored by the Episcopal Church. This one day training will include presentations in the morning by Denis Culley of LSE and Jess and small group work in the afternoon. Jess solicited names of volunteers for doing group facilitation in the afternoon. The training will be on April 27 in the Brunswick area. Leaders from other churches and faiths will be invited to attend.

## Working Group Reports:

Steering Committee. The November minutes were distributed and highlighted. The January 10 meeting will focus on getting feedback from representatives in the law enforcement area regarding barriers to prosecuting elder abuse and financial exploitation cases. The February 14 meeting will focus on getting feedback from elder abuse task force and TRIAD members about how the Council might best support their local efforts. As noted in the minutes, Jaye will be developing an on line survey of the Council members to help guide member recruitment and future meeting content.

Financial Exploitation Working Group. Judy reported that the group's progress has been delayed due to Allyson Cumming's departure from the department. The work in progress includes a consumer brochure for bank customers, an internal checklist for bank employees, and training materials for use with bank employees. Future plans include a pilot project in a few counties involving a "warm hand off" from financial institutions to organizations like LSE and the area agencies. Future plans also include working with law enforcement representatives to adapt the materials for their use.

Website Design Working Group. Jess opened the report by asking for one or two more additional volunteers. Jaye offered the assistance of LSE's new Elder Rights Fellow and offered to assist with covering site design and hosting costs and to manage the web content through LSE. The hope is to get the website up and running in the next couple months.

Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2013 Working Group. Melissa reported the group has met and is making plans for the day. One idea that came up is to provide all elder abuse task forces with information about the elder abuse resource fair put on each year by the Lewiston area task force. Melissa also reported plans were underway for honoring the organizations and individuals working on these issues as a part of the day's events. It was agreed we will use Friday, June 14, as the day for that rather than the official Elder Abuse Awareness Day of June 15.

Asset Mapping Working Group. No report was available but it is hoped this work will be completed in time to be presented to the Steering Committee at their next meeting.

## Other business:

Judy urged members to share information about any pending legislation that might be of interest to other members. Jess shared that M4A may pursue legislation to make changes to the criminal statutes applicable to elder abuse/exploitation and is also working hard to oppose changes to the way that MaineCare funded non-emergency transportation services are purchased by the Department that could have a serious adverse impact on isolated Maine seniors.