

Maine Council on Elder Abuse Prevention  
Meeting Minutes  
July 6, 2012

In attendance: Jessica Maurer, Judy Shaw, Mary Jane Richards, Deanna Mullins, Lynne Caswell, Nan Bell, Donna Waterman, Joel Merry  
David Garthe, Jaye Martin, Melissa Morrill, Megan Stiles, Quincy Hentzel, Patrick Hood.  
Participating by telephone: Larry Caruso, Patty Kimball, Linda Weare, and David Bernier

**Introductions and review of EA initiatives/activities**

Jess welcomed any new members and asked folks to share information about elder abuse prevention/education initiatives and activities.

- David Garthe indicated the Gorham Westbrook TRIAD received an \$18,000 grant from the Town of Gorham to implement the Yellow Dot program. This program is a companion to the File of Life program. By placing a Yellow Dot on the rear window of your car, a First Responder will know to look in your glove box for your file containing pertinent medical information and your photograph, among other things. In the future, the TRIAD would like to roll the program out statewide.

Jess noted that the File of Life can be obtained through the AAAs but if an organization wants the files, they can contact APS. It was also mentioned that Rick Mooers is officially the new Director of APS.

- David also noted the Seniors in Motion DVDs have been completed. One focuses on Medicare enrollment; one covers visiting nurses explaining their role; and another highlights Ricker Hamilton and his role. In addition to the DVDs, the videos are streamed on the GOCAT.org website.
- Jaye Martin informed the group that Legal Services for the Elderly received funding to develop an Elder Rights Manual.
- Jess asked what members did in recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Nan Bell noted her organization distributed placemats containing resource information through the Meals on Wheels Program. Television, radio and other press coverage as well as forums were mentioned including the coverage Jess received and the timely article about the LSE's successful elder financial exploitation case handled by Denis Culley. The signing of the Governor's proclamation was noted which brought up the topic of better coordination next year (see further discussion below).

## Council Updates

At the May meeting of the Council it was decided that a Steering Committee would be formed to help facilitate the work of the Council. The Steering Committee meets once a month and includes the chairs of the Council's working groups/standing committees. Members of the Steering Committee include Jess Maurer, Judy Shaw, Quincy Hentzel, Kathy Kenneborus, Patty Kimball, Jaye Martin, David Bernier, Patrick Hood, Deanna Mullins, Melissa Morrill, Rick Mooers, and Mary Jane Richards.

Jess provided an update of the first meeting of the Steering Committee which was held on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

1. The Steering Committee defined its main purpose as trying to find ways to address system barriers. The Committee suggests that the best way to start that process is to focus on the issue of financial exploitation in the broadest sense and on what happens with reporting in all directions. To that end, a representative of a bank will attend the next meeting of the Committee on July 12<sup>th</sup> to present a case study. From there the Committee will consider the response of APS and law enforcement in the particular case to see if the referral process is working well and whether there are enhancements which the Committee can recommend for consideration by the Council.
2. The Steering Committee also recommends that the Council work on the creation of an "asset map" of elder abuse resources. The map would identify statewide service resources and provide a short description of the resources. We might also consider identifying regional or local resources on the other side of the map. The map would also be a component of the design of a Council website.

Deanna Mullins volunteered to spearhead the effort. Members were asked to email a blurb about their organizations; the areas they serve; and a primary contact including website. Deanna's email is [dmullins@goodallhospital.org](mailto:dmullins@goodallhospital.org). Deanna will bring her work back to the Steering Committee before it is presented to the Council for consideration.

3. Jess and Patty Kimball are taking the lead on creating a Council website. Larry Caruso graciously offered to have some folks in his office assist. Members were asked to pass along any ideas; fact sheets; or other resources that would be good to include. The goal is to have one place where people can go to access solid, quality information. The majority of the site will be devoted to consumer information but

there will be specific pages for organizations and professionals. Anyone who wants to assist with this project should contact Jess or Patty.

4. Judy gave a report from the Financial Exploitation Working Group. The focus of the group is to develop a program that bank employees can use to assist with identifying the possible signs of elder financial exploitation and identifying resources to which a referral can be made. Any program that is developed will be portable meaning that it can be adapted for other professions and disciplines. If successful, the hope is to expand the program for use by law enforcement. Work has begun on the development of a consumer brochure as well as a “cue card” for use by frontline personnel and a train-the-trainer program. Larry Caruso is assisting with the brochure including locating a “famous” person with Maine connections to be the face of the program.
5. Jess reported on a grant proposal under consideration by Rick Mooers. The focus of the grant is on prevention. While the proposal is a concept at this point, the emphasis will be on preventing elder financial exploitation. More information will be presented as the grant proposal develops.
6. Jess noted that Gloria Payne will be leaving APS. As a result, the Council is in need of a new co-chair. Jess suggested that Rick Mooers be the co-chair until November when leadership positions will be reconsidered (positions are one year commitments). The Council concurred.
7. Jess reported on the successful Geriatrics Conference held in June and noted that the conference included a policy track for people advocating for care. Planning for the 2013 conference has begun. If anyone is interested in working on the planning committee, they should contact Jess.
8. Another focus of the Steering Committee is to find ways to support and grow the TRIADS, the Elder Abuse Task Force, and MATI. Joel mentioned that MATI is in the process of redefining its role. Some thoughts are to serve as a clearinghouse; to organize broader statewide initiatives; and possibly sponsor a biennial conference. He also said MATI is hoping to develop its own website in which case it could post minutes from the Council meetings. The website could also provide an opportunity for local TRIADs to connect into.

The general view of Council members is that all of these organizations need broad support since they are so reliant on the hard work of volunteers. The strength of any group depends upon the commitment of its volunteers and the number of volunteers

available to the group. It was suggested that as MATI reconsiders its by-laws, it could consider writing them broadly enough to include the EATFs and members from the credit unions and other financial institutions.

9. A committee was formed to start planning for WEAAD 2013 events. Melissa Morrill agreed to spearhead that effort. Anyone interested in assisting with this project should email Melissa at [melissa.morrill@voanne.org](mailto:melissa.morrill@voanne.org).

The meeting adjourned. Next meeting of the full Council is scheduled for **Friday, September 7, 2012** at 9-11 a.m. at the offices of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation/Office of Securities, 76 Northern Avenue, Gardiner.

Call-in number: (877) 455-0244 Conference Code: 7743928730