

MAINE COUNCIL ON ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

March 7, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Betty Balderston; Elizabeth Ward-Saxl; Lyn Carter; Kathy Brill; Kelly Glidden; Pat Hood; Nan Bell; Jaye Martin; Lynne Caswell; Judy Shaw; Kathleen Willette; Mary Jane Richards; Tracy Poulin; Amanda Asfahl; Tracy Corey; Mark M. Waltz; Joel Merry; Michael Cloutier; Sandra Kimball; David Bernier; and Lori Trenholm.

- 9:00-9:05 **Introductions, welcome new members, approve minutes**
- Welcome to new members, Betty Balderston, Maine Senior Medicare Patrol and Michael Cloutier.
- 9:05-9:30 **Presentation: Maine Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)**
- One of 54 programs nationwide. Maine's SMP is considered one of the best in the nation. DHHS considers the SMP the "boots on the ground" educating consumers about fraud.
 - Maine SMP is empowered to prevent healthcare fraud. Through this mission, the SMP learned that consumers who were experiencing healthcare fraud were often experiencing other types of scams and frauds at the same time. Accordingly, SMP recently decided to expand their outreach program to encompass all scams, generally, in addition to healthcare fraud.
 - The Maine SMP partners with the area agencies on aging and is comprised of over 80 volunteers.
 - Handout: Medicare: Be "Scam Smart" available online on the [LSE Elder Rights Handbook: Watch Out for Scams!](#)
- 9:30-9:45 **Discussion of:**
- **Attorney General's Elder Fraud Task Force**
 - Leanne Robbins has convened criminal justice professionals to discuss the barriers to prosecuting elder financial abuse. This task force will be made up of a small group of people to include: prosecutors and law enforcement. Among those invited are Pat Hood and Ricker Hamilton.
 - Plan to survey all criminal justice professionals to identify the laundry list of barriers to prosecution so the task force can focus on how to address these issues. The AG intends to produce some form of a report and recommendation based on the work of the task force.
 - The MCEAP will send a letter of thanks to Attorney General Mills. The letter will be produced on Council letterhead and will be signed by the co-chairs on behalf of the Council. The letter will include:
 - A brief description of the Council and the makeup of our membership;
 - A statement of thanks for taking on this work;
 - A statement of support for the work that will be done; and,
 - An offer to support the work in any way.
 - **Maine Council on Aging Working Group**

- From the Aging Summit that was held in January, several working groups are being created, including one that covers public safety issues. The focus and work of that working group will overlap with the mission and work of this Council. Accordingly, the Council would benefit from having members serve on that working group with at least one person acting as a liaison to serve as the voice of the Council.
- Role of liaison is limited to bringing ideas back to the Council to see if the Council wishes to take the lead on applicable projects. The decisional authority remains with the full membership of MCEAP.
- Elizabeth Ward-Saxl, Jaye Martin, and Lynne Caswell volunteered to take on this responsibility with Lynne Caswell as the liaison; this was approved by the Council.

9:45-10:00 **Update from the Education and Awareness Committee and request for approval of:**

- **MCEAP Logo**
 - The Council approved adoption of the logo.
 - A letter of thanks will be sent to Michael Mahan of Mahan Graphics.
 - The group discussed whether the logo needed to be trademarked or registered. General consensus was that it did.
- **MCEAP Brochure**
 - The Council approved the brochure; thanks to MECASA for donating the time of their graphic designer to create this brochure.
 - This will be posted on the MCEAP website. The Education and Awareness Committee will look into offering a black and white version for printing.
 - Funding: Estimate for 2,500 = \$550.00. LSE is willing to contribute up to 1/3 of the cost; MECASA and North Country each pledged \$100.00 toward the cost. Members were asked to consider what their organization could contribute and to connect with Jaye within the week regarding the amount.
- **EATF Startup Kit**
 - The Council approved this work product.
 - Will be posted on the website.
 - Thanks to Jill Randall, staff attorney at LSE who took the lead on this process and solicited input from active EATF groups.
- **Discussion: Elder Abuse Summit**
 - The draft agenda was circulated.
 - Registration fee of \$15.00 will be requested, with scholarship available.
 - Promotion will be staggered due to space limitations with the objective of getting as many disciplines through the door as possible. First stage of promotion to: APS, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, MECASA and MCDEV, and M4A.

10:00- 11:00 **Discussions by Policy Committee on Systems Work Completed and Recommended Next Steps**

- The past work that was focused on the barriers to investigating, reporting, and referring elder abuse cases will be continued. Next steps will include conversations with:
 - Nursing facilities, including residential care
 - Direct care workers, including home health

- First responders
- DV and Homeless shelters
- Health Care providers, will need to be defined
- APS
- The Council discussed the need to make very clear the scope of these conversations. The Council concluded that this will be: Questions in regards to the profession's awareness of the issue and practice in regards to intervention.
- The people from the identified populations will be invited to the full Council meeting with the understanding that it is simply an information gathering session. If any issues are identified in the course of this initial information gathering, the person/s will be asked to do a follow-up meeting with the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee will lay out some specific questions or ideas of things the Committee would like to hear more about including what is working well; what is not working well; and what next steps might look like. After any follow-up meeting, the Policy Committee will report back to the full Council.
- The Council discussed the benefit of doing a broad survey of the respective groups in addition to having these conversations. Kathy Willette can offer support in creating this survey.

11:00 – 11:10 Update from the Law Enforcement Officer working group

- **RADAR Card:** This draft will be circulated to a few key law enforcement officers for end user feedback. Once received and incorporated, and after Council approval, this will be submitted electronically to every police officer in the state. The second part of this project is to create a short training on the issue and more information about the referral agencies and what services they can provide.
- **County- by- County Resource:** The local DV and SA support shelters and the area agency on aging broken down by county. Will be distributed along with the RADAR card.

Discussion of community best practices and upcoming events

- Due to time constraints at this meeting, members were asked and encouraged to email Judy with updates about current goings on, past and future events, and anything relating to community best practices.