

MAINE COUNCIL FOR ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION

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April 25, 2014

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Cara Courchesne; Pam Marshall; Lindsay Laxon; Holly Stover; Barbara Foley; Seth Blodgett; Jessica Mauer; Lyn Carter; Kelly Glidden; Jaye Martin; Lynne Caswell; Judy Shaw; Amanda Asfahl; and David Bernier.

9:00-9:05 **Introductions, welcome new members, approve minutes**

- Minutes approved

9:05-9:30 **Presentation: Open sharing of community best practices, upcoming events, and any exciting developments in the work being done by Council members**

- **Martha's Cottage:** B. Foley: This is a transitional home for elder victims of abuse in Maine. The program has ten clients on average, with four to five new clients per month. Clients stay for two months to a year, with representation from across the state. Abused clients who have had family with dementia are presenting a new facet to the issues raised by abusive situations.
- **Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel Report:** L. Caswell: The domestic homicide review team report that just was presented and thought that the Maine Elder Death Analysis Review Team (MEDART) could publish their information in a similar way. Reporting by MEDART could be used to get better exposure for the issues addressed by the group; Lynne will bring this suggestion to the AG's office and provide updates as they become available.
 - Because Maine has a high suicide rate for elders, this may be an additional point on which to focus for all review teams.
 - MCEAP Policy Committee will put "placeholder" into work plan to coordinate statutory review teams as it relates to issues affecting seniors and appropriate scope of these reports as it relates to suicide, etc. This might crossover to public safety issues addressed by the Council on Aging.
- **LSE Public Education Campaign Update:** J. Martin: The campaign is an eight month television, radio, and newspaper campaign to educate seniors through vignettes about the risks of financial exploitation, primarily aimed at teaching elderly about risks posed by family members including POA abuse, credit card abuse, theft of home, etc.
 - Campaign started in February and will hit greatest saturation in May and June to coincide with WEAAD. LSE has already seen a 50% in overall call

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volume and a 100% increase in calls related to elder financial exploitation. Third party calls are up, too.

- Two complaints have been received about the campaign:
 - 1) it is making people afraid of their children
 - 2) it is harming the family unit, trying to generate fees for lawyers, and “probably funded by communists”
- **LSE’s Elder Rights Handbook:** The website page has been completed and there are no restrictions on who can link to it, so “link away”.
- **The Area Agencies on Aging Money Minders Program:** J. Mauer: All AAAs now have the program, whose purpose is to ensure that bills are getting paid and budgets are followed. It also helps with scam prevention; however, more volunteers are always needed.
- **Speaker Eves and Maine Council on Aging Initiative:** The initiative will result in several working groups and will be convening in May to begin collaborative work. One of the first goals is to help at a community-based level helping first responders, community volunteers, etc. by creating a training opportunity so that those who are working with this population can learn what local resources are available at the community level. Goal is free or low cost program, with the potential to give some of these trainings to law enforcement officers (LEO) via the academy. LEO specifically need to use different techniques for interviewing dementia victims.
- **Androscoggin Elder Abuse Task Force**
 - **WEAAD Activities:**
 - June 12th Senior Resource Fair at the Green Ladle (Culinary Training Program for the vocational school) in Lewiston for EAAD.
 - June 17th, smaller event scale Farmington
 - Electronic sign efforts: “no excuse for elder abuse”
 - Task force has a team training with LSE, Lewiston PD, which will be videotaped and posted task force member websites.
 - Chief Hodson from Mexico PD was a guest for SeniorWatch Program – 7 days a week, seniors receive morning calls from “explorers” (young people who want to go into LE) who will also be doing wellness checks etc. The program is just getting started and Kelley will provide update in a few months.
- **Seth Blodgett:** For the last 2.5 months, Seth has been at the FBI academy at Quantico, 220 students (23 international students) which afforded him a great chance to make contacts both in the US and internationally. It was interesting to see that financial crimes that we are seeing in the US are an international problem.

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- **Judy Shaw:** Judy recently returned from a trip to Washington, DC that included conversations with Maine's congressional delegations discussing:
 - Investor Protection Trust pilot program for elder financial exploitation geared toward lawyers and Maine will likely be one of the pilot states.
 - Senior\$afe program –Senators Collins and King both loved the program and praised the collaborative efforts of the Council. Judy met with FBI detailee to the Committee on Aging to discuss the program and preview the RADAR card. The Committee on Aging may do a hearing and will likely be a piece in Sen. Collins's newsletter. Sen. King asked his Chief of Staff to draft floor statement to read on the floor about the program. FBI agent suggested contacting international association of chiefs of police for further distribution of LEO materials.
 - Others interested in Senior\$afe: several broker dealers and the CT Bankers Association
 - Program Statistics: the program has trained over 200 financial institution employees, and eight referrals have been made to the Office of Securities to date. The group will look into doing a joint program in northern Maine with both the banks and credit union employees. The Potato Blossom Festival might be a good time: July 12-20, 2014.

- **Domestic Abuse Homicide Review Panel Report:** Holly Stover added that the report highlighted the depression and grief experienced by Maine's elderly population and a trend of homicide paired with suicide. Recommendations focused around continued training around health care: screening, assessment, and referrals. See pages 43-44 of the Panel Report.

9:45-10:15 **Update from the Education and Awareness Committee**

- MCEAP brochures are available and communication will go out to full council to handle distribution to those who are interested. LSE will handle the associated mailings.
- E&A committee is working on a statement of website content to address requests to link to non-Council sites.
- Action Item for the Group: Take a look at the participants in MCEAP and think about whether there are any suggestions or membership gaps. Recruitment of council members may be an option if gaps are identified.
- Elder Abuse Awareness Day- MCEAP plan:
 - Governor's proclamation
 - MCEAP press conference
 - Op-ed initiative to ensure that major papers in the state have pieces for EAAD
 - Likely printed June 14, depending upon whether there is a Sunday edition of a given paper.
 - See list on the MCEAP WEAAD Program (sent by email). Program plan will go up onto the MCEAP website as soon as the bumper magnets are available.
- Elder Abuse Summit Update: registration is at 120 and J. Mauer will send out invitation to legislators

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10:15-10:45 **Update from the Law Enforcement Officer working group:**

- RADAR Card:
 - Discussed some specific questions regarding what LEO is supposed to do when someone is not dependent or incapacitated, and there is a situation of abuse, neglect, or self-neglect. Cara will make appropriate edits to the card.
 - Question about limited scope of resources listed, but all participants are committed to warm/handoffs referrals to appropriate agencies to ensure that first responders and victims are not overwhelmed with options.
- Resource card that is geared toward victim that could be left with the victim (business card size) – this is something that the LEO WG will discuss.
- County Resource List: several edits to be made, will hold off on vote. LEO WG will come to next meeting with the info.
- “Cost to print” discussion postponed

10:45- 11:00 **New Business**

- The July meeting will include an elder abuse awareness and practice discussion, perhaps in a panel format. The Policy Committee will look at the list of discussion areas, pick one, and select the panel for the July 11th meeting.