

MAINE COUNCIL FOR  
ELDER ABUSE  
PREVENTION

**Meeting Notes**  
**July 8, 2016**

**Attendees:** Lynne Caswell, Maine Office of Aging and Disability Services; Patrick Hood, Maine State Police; Betty Balderston, Kevin Cuddy and Jill Randall, Legal Services for the Elderly; Michelle Mason Webber, State Fire Marshal's Office; Bonny Small, Maine Health Care Association; Brianne McNally, Maine Bureau of Financial Institutions; Nicole Fish, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Kelley Glidden, Safe Voices; Polly Campbell, SAFE Program; Erin Hysell and, Sheryl Nadell, Maine Office of Aging and Disability Services; Kathy Keneborus, Maine Bankers Association (phone); Elizabeth Ward Saxl, Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (phone); Jane Margesson, AARP-Maine (phone)

Minutes of the March 4, 2016 meeting were approved.  
Next meeting rescheduled to Thursday, September 1, 2016.

**New Business/Updates (Lynne Caswell)**

- OADS has received approval for a no-cost extension from the Administration on Community Living for Maine's Model Approach to Statewide Legal Assistance grant. This extension will allow for funds to produce more bumper magnets. The Executive Committee will look for long-term funding sources.
- Lynne recently provided a presentation to the Central Maine Power/Maine Yankee Retirees Association (approximately 300 people). Coming up in July is a presentation at the Waldo County Triad event in Belfast, where David Leach and the Maine State Police Crime Unit will also be in attendance. 2-4 additional people are needed for speaking opportunities
- Follow-up from last meeting:
  - The Executive Committee will begin looking at gaps in membership in the fall.
  - The Maine Background Check Center (a division of Licensing and Regulatory Services) is working on a national check for all nursing home, hospital and private care workers. Lynne has a PowerPoint if anyone wants more information.

**Education and Awareness Committee Update (Jill Randall):**

- A summary of the Summit feedback was shared. If anyone has ideas for future speakers and/or breakout sessions to meet the needs of the various disciplines that attend the Summit, please share that information with Jill, Lynne and/or Pat.

- The Essay Contest received 67 submissions. On June 15<sup>th</sup> an event was held in the State House Hall of Flags where the winner read her essay. A press release was issued and the story was picked up by some media outlets. It was suggested that the winning essay should be posted to the website, along with photos. Whether the contest should be run again needs to be discussed at a later meeting.
- The Roundtable is scheduled for October 27<sup>th</sup> in Lewiston and will include the Elder Abuse Task Forces and Triads statewide. Help is needed for the event.

### **Multi-Jurisdictional Scams Working Group Update (Pat Hood):**

- The AARP Scam Jam in Bangor was a rewarding opportunity, with approximately 250 attendees. Pat and Betty had information tables at the event, Pat provided a presentation and Judy Shaw, David Leach and Jane Margesson participated in a live panel presentation on MPBN radio.
- Rack cards for consumers and law enforcement have been distributed statewide. Currently looking for additional funding for a second printing - contact Pat or Judy.
- Prevention has been a focus of the group, but outreach only works to some extent and not always with older people. Continuing to look for new avenues to educate older Mainers.
- The Model Act is an opportunity for brokers, dealers and investment advisors to be mandated reporters, helping to stop the disbursement of funds in fraudulent situations. The Maine Legislature is expected to look at a proposal from Judy's office this fall.
- Senator Collins continues to be involved with the National Senior Safe Act. The week of October 3<sup>rd</sup> is Senior Safe Training nationwide.
- The Team has invited retailers that sell Green Dot Cards to share information on the use of these cards by seniors and whether there are opportunities to slow down the process when the cards are used for fraudulent activities.

### **Financial Exploitation Work Group (Lynne Caswell)**

- On July 5<sup>th</sup> the House approved the Senior Safe Act. Judy and Kathy Keneborus were instrumental in moving this Act forward. To-date, 500 bank and credit union employees have been trained in Maine. A training is scheduled for banks and credit unions in Aroostook County on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- AARP invited the Council to submit an application for funding to develop online training that would be launched nationally. It was decided that the parameters of the grant were not a good fit with the current work of the Council.

### **Mandated Reporting Working Group (Elizabeth Ward-Saxl):**

- The group met to develop a proposed agenda and will be meeting again within the next month or so.

## **Community Best Practices (Roundtable Discussion):**

- Jane Margesson shared the following details on AARP events:
  - Shredding events on 8/13 in Ellsworth, on 9/24 in Auburn and on 10/1 in Windham. Approximately 20,000 lbs. of shredding was performed at past events. Some events include participation by the Sheriff's Association and drug takeback events.
  - Details on Public Safety Awareness Day will be emailed.
- Sheryl Nadell shared the following information from Adult Protective Services:
  - A second financial abuse staff person has been hired in Bangor
  - FAST is active as of June and currently working on procedures. The Team is working with folks that do have capacity and are making referrals to the Attorney General's Office as of 6/15/16. The intake process routes the caller to the appropriate agency. Currently working on an automated system. At the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee will be looking at specific cases.
  - APS currently has a partnership with Muskie to produce statistical reports. Results of 2010-2014 can be found on the OADS and APS websites. This is the first time this information has been available in Maine. Data for 2015 is currently being worked on and will be compared to national data.
  - The University of Toronto is working with APS to develop a Goal Attainment Scale to better describe the needs of each client. 8 APS caseworkers will participate in a 6-month study of approximately 300 clients. The data could be used for risk assessment. If successful with APS, this process could be used nationally.
- Kelley Glidden announced that another transitional housing facility for elder victims of violence has opened. Martha's Cottage Two is a 2-bedroom unit in the Lewiston/Auburn area, where residents are provided free housing for up to 2 years. For more information, contact Sharon Lewis at Safe Voices.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 1, 2016 at 76 Northern Avenue, Kennebec Room, Gardiner

**Roundtable:** Thursday, October 27, 2016 at USM-Lewiston

### **Follow-Ups:**

- Consider posting the winning essay to the website, along with photos.
- Decide whether the essay contest should be run again.
- Jane will email details on Public Safety Awareness Day.

Submitted by Betty Balderston, Legal Services for the Elderly