

## MCEAP Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2012

Members in attendance: Jessica Maurer, Judy Shaw, Kathy Kenneborous, Jaye Martin, Quincy Hentzel

Participating by phone: Rick Mooers, Melissa Morrill, Deanna Mullin

Absent: David Bernier, Patrick Hood, Patty Kimball, Mary Jane Richards

### 1. General:

The meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted with the following modifications:

- a. Deanna Mullins was added to the list of members participating by phone; and
- b. the reference to a requirement that APS redact certain information before providing reports to law enforcement was changed to make it clear there is no such requirement.

Jaye Martin asked for clarification of the differentiation between the Steering Committee and the Council. The group agreed that the purpose of the Steering Committee is:

- a. to identify barriers including through the use of presentations by outside entities;
- b. to make recommendations to the Council on ways to overcome those barriers; and
- c. to assure that the work of the Council and the various working groups is moving forward.

### 2. Reports

The Financial Exploitation Working Group reported on its work. The group continues to develop a pilot program that will allow employees of financial institutions to continue to identify customers who may be at risk or currently the victim of abuse or exploitation. Once identified, the program will have tools to facilitate a meeting with the customer that would include the financial institutions, a representative of Legal Services for the Elderly, and a representative of an Area Agency on Aging. Each service provider will provide information to the customer about resources they have available and will take over for the financial institution thus having effectuated the "warm hand off."

Once developed, the working group will assess how to obtain a grant to cover the costs of the program especially the costs for added resources for LSE and the AAAs including staff and program costs such as the Money Minder Program for the AAAs. The pilot program will include a train-the-trainer component and will be designed to be portable so that other professions such as law enforcement can modify it for their use.

The working group is also exploring the possibility of obtaining a grant to conduct a study of the overall costs of elder abuse and financial exploitation in Maine. The focus of the study will include costs to state government as well as private businesses. It is believed that this information is critical to an ongoing discussion about the impact of elder abuse and financial exploitation on systems in Maine.

Deanna Mullins reported on the Asset Map Project. She indicated she had heard from a few people but needed more information. Jessica indicated she would send a reminder to Council members.

### 3. Legislative Session

Jess mentioned that she had invited a number of individuals to be on a working group focused on reviewing current state law and making recommendations about possible legislative proposals. The group's first meeting is scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Jess mentioned that the Maine Council on Aging will be inviting individuals to a symposium to discuss initiatives and ways in which members of the council may be supportive.

### 4. Increasing Reporting

There was a general discussion about ways in which there could be increased reporting and information sharing. The discussion focused on state agencies and it was agreed that Judy and Rick would explore ways in which Department of Professional and Financial Regulation agencies can facilitate information sharing with APS including possible memorandums of understanding.

The group discussed next steps following the presentation by a bank employee at the prior Steering Committee meeting. It was decided that the Committee would like to hear from law enforcement to get their perspective. Using the fact pattern provided during the presentation by the bank employee, we will ask members of law enforcement to give their impressions of the case and approaches they might take. Jess agreed to invite the District Attorneys from York and Androscoggin Counties to meet with the Committee. She will report back to the Committee with a date and time for the meeting.

### 5. Update on Website

Jess handed out a website map setting forth the general concept for a Council website. The working group decided to focus the website on content for individuals at this point leaving content for service providers and other professionals for later. Jaye suggested that the website should contain concrete guidance for third parties who observe potential abuse.

### 6. Announcing ourselves

The Committee decided that once the website is done and the study on the cost of elder abuse and financial exploitation is complete, the Council can do a press conference to introduce itself. Jess also suggested the Council should approach the new legislative committees in December and introduce the Council as a resource. It was agreed that the committee would recommend that the Council announce itself by the start of the next legislative session.

Jess reminded members about the upcoming trainings hosted by the AAAs in partnership with the Office of Securities and FINRA. One training will be held in each region of the state on September 10, 11 and 12 which includes two hours of training as well as a 45 minute train the trainer program.

Jess also noted the Maine Area Agency on Aging will be holding an advocacy summit on November 14<sup>th</sup> focused on healthcare advocacy.

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 at Spectrum Generations.