

## MINUTES for Public and Private Safety Workgroup

DATE: 12/9/16

Participants: Seth Blodgett, Jane Margesson, Joel Merry, Tom Garrepy, Jeff Emerson

1. Review of Public Safety training held in Brunswick on 11/9/16. Joel mentioned that the messages delivered are good for people of all ages. There is a need to bring these messages into smaller and more rural communities going forward. Proposed communities for the training next year (supported by budget from AARP Maine): Houlton, Machias, Kennebunk, Bangor, Lewiston.

Jeff mentioned that there is a project underway to create a cable program that would cover fire safety and scams. This would be Brunswick-based, but we could deliver this to local access channels and other venues. Jeff provided the training materials from the 11/9 training to David Jester (Brunswick paramedic) with background in communications. Looking at Spring to launch this, the idea being that we could focus on short public safety episodes to air (eventually) statewide. We also discussed making sure that a strong social media platform would be developed.

Jane mentioned the radio programs that AARP Maine works on each week (WLOB - Portland, WZON – Bangor) and monthly (WVOM – Bangor) which could also incorporate some of these safety messages – something that started in 2016 with guests like Kevin Joyce, Judy Shaw and Joe Thomas.

The group agreed that this could be a priority for 2017 and we can use our collective resources (financial, personnel etc.) to bring this to fruition.

2. Tom, Jeff and Joel discussed the Sand Bucket Program which is managed in partnership with the local Lowe's to deliver 5-gallon buckets of sand in the winter to make driveways safer in Brunswick, Topsham, Sagadahoc. Jane mentioned that AARP Maine could help promote community programs like this via social media.
3. Jane is going to reach out to Mike Field about how to involve the Red Cross in Maine in our work in 2017. We would like to have a representative make a presentation about the smoke detector program so we can see how to best support this through the Workgroup initiatives.
4. Joel reviewed the phone meeting that had taken place with Evelyn DeFrees with a review of some of the Workgroup's goals:
  - a. Need to revisit the wellness check program in various towns/counties which are in various stages of development/maintenance.
  - b. The group plans to more closely examine the TRIAD model in Maine and find ways to boost the programs and best practices.

- c. Mike and Joel are working on the drug collection box project to create a master list and share information.
- d. We plan to invite someone from the AG's office to attend a meeting as a guest speaker so we can learn more about home repair scams, consumer rights and develop a plan to disseminate information to protect Mainers from these crimes.
- e. Jane gave an overview of scam awareness work for 2017 including six shredding events and the Scam Jam in Portland (possibly with Frank Abagnale as the keynote speaker). Seth gave an overview of the work with the AG's office. All agreed that we are seeing positive results from our collective efforts to raise awareness including an increase in reporting to law enforcement.

OUR NEXT MEETING IS January 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30AM at the Topsham PD

Houlton  
Machias  
Kennebunk  
Bangor  
Lewiston