

MAINE AGING INITIATIVE: Public and Private Safety Workgroup

Meeting Minutes: August 26, 2016

9:30-11AM

Location: Topsham, PD

Present at the meeting: Joel Merry, Jane Margesson, Jess Maurer, Jeff Emerson, Seth Blodgett, Joe Thomas and Michelle Mason Weber (Fire Marshall's Office), Neil Martin

1. Round of introductions, brief discussion regarding ways we are going to be able to collaborate, and recognition that there are holes in communication between local/state entities. Acknowledgement that Maine growing older increases the need for review of needs/wants of older residents.
2. Brief discussion of bigger policy issues – housing, transportation, etc. – that can help people remain safely in their own homes. There are rarely enough resources, so there is a lot of pressure town-by-town to serve multiple roles which often means that vulnerable residents are not getting the resources they need.
3. Looking at what would be the best way to organize our proposed training for fire safety as well as scam awareness. Jeff had provided excellent information during the last meeting regarding hoarding and some other issues which resulted in the idea that our group host a training on these two issues. AARP Maine's budget will be able to cover related costs.
 - a. Jeff described the "Remembering When" training program. He mentioned that the program may be missing the target audience right now which raised the question: How do we get information to the people who really need it?
 - b. Four 30-minute workshops in the Remembering When program cover the most important information. Joe agreed that the program is comprehensive and covers a lot of ground using the Train the Trainer model which is just what we need for our Scam/Fire Safety training.
 - c. The group decided on three train-the-trainer presentations to cover at our event: Scams, falls and fire safety. Plan is to work with local organizations and community leaders.
 - d. We decided to select dates in early November and host the training twice – once in Topsham or Brunswick and one in Bangor working the Sheriff Troy Morton.
4. Seth: Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) update – test cases, collaborative effort as agencies (including APS) aren't always sure to whom they should refer someone in the case of financial exploitation. Also seeing increase in cases of neglect – another form of elder abuse.
5. Discussion re: issue of mandatory reporting and the resulting barriers. Smaller communities are loath to report as it feels like "airing dirty laundry" and a red tape policy. Discussion of cases around the state and the issues that can arise due to lack of reporting.
6. Finalizing details for the training – Joel to find facility and get back to the group for the Topsham/Brunswick training. Jane working with Sheriff Morton for the Bangor event.
7. Joel is also reaching out to colleagues in law enforcement regarding more coordinated efforts to collect unwanted/expired medications for safe disposal.

NEXT MEETING: September 16th at 9:30AM at the Topsham PD.

TOPIC: TRIADs in Maine – best practices, opportunities and efforts to expand.