

## **JAC Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2024**

Francine started the meeting at 9:00am.

Roll Call was done by Derek - It was noted that we had quorum.

The minutes from the last JAC meeting were reviewed and approved.

### **Presentation on Elder Abuse – Candice Simeoni**

Derek introduced Candace, highlighting their collaboration on addressing elder abuse in Maine.

Candace was invited to give a presentation on her experiences and thoughts regarding the pilot project. Derek provided background information on previous attempts to secure grants for a pilot project addressing elder abuse.

Derek thanked Candace for joining the meeting and invited her to share her screen for the presentation.

- Officer Candice Simeone, President of the York County Elderlies Task Force, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak and acknowledged her limited time.
- She introduced herself as a law enforcement officer at the Kennebunk Police Department and the founder of the York County Elderlies Task Force in 2005.
- Candice shared her journey in law enforcement, starting as a patrol officer in Kennebunkport in 2004, where she felt compelled to protect older adults from exploitation.
- Despite the various career paths available in law enforcement, Candice remained committed to addressing the mistreatment, abuse, and exploitation of older adults in Maine.
- Witnessing the vulnerabilities of this population firsthand and recognizing the lack of resources and knowledge within the profession drove Candice's motivation to make a lasting impact.
- She emphasized her dedication to advocating for the protection and welfare of older adults and expressed her ongoing commitment to this cause.

Question on the amount of funding needed for the pilot project from Lisa Bosse.

Candice stated that they would need \$150,000 to fund the investigator. This figure represents both the salary and fringe benefits.

### **Current Activity on Grants:**

Lisa Bosse provided a summary on the current activity of grants the DPS is working on. Summary is provided as a separate document to these minutes.

### **Byrne/SCIP Grant**

Derek stated that there had been 3 meetings involving the Crisis Intervention Advisory Board. They will move forward with the strategic plan “as is” because they can modify it if necessary. They will be submitting a new plan in July. He asked if anyone has any suggestions for spending the funding to contact him or Francine so they can share the suggestions with the Crisis Intervention Advisory Board.

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### New Business/Items for Discussion:

- Question pertaining to the ability of the JAC members to vote between quarterly meetings from Lisa Bosse. Lisa explained that the PSN task force is allowed to vote via email and would like to know if the JAC has anything like that. It would be helpful for time sensitive issues that arise between the JAC Quarterly meetings.

Lisa Marchese stated that she would work with Kent Avery to review the by laws to see if this type of situation would be allowable. Derek stated that he would provide a copy of the by laws to Lisa Marchese and Kent Avery for their review.

- Derek asked if the JAC could talk through Candice's pilot project on Elder Abuse as a group. He wanted to discuss whether the JAC is comfortable considering funding the 2-year pilot project. He added that many of the federal grants will not cover payroll for a law enforcement investigator. He stated that there is a 5-year strategic plan in place that can be modified.

Lisa Bosse added that the strategic plan ends in 2026.

Derek noted that he is hopeful that by funding this project with JAG funds it will help leverage other federal funding for the pilot project.

- Question pertaining to MDEA funding from JAG from Lisa Marchese. She wanted to confirm that MDEA is funding from Byrne JAG.

Derek answered that MDEA currently has 6 Agents is funded by JAG and this is in accordance with the current JAG Strategic Plan.

- Lisa Marchese then asked that if the JAC funded the Elder Abuse project with JAG funds, would the funding for MDEA be reduced?

Derek explained that in the long term, the MDEA funds could be reduced if we can't find other funding sources for the Elder Abuse project.

- Jack Peck asked how long the MDEA has received funding from the JAG grant?

Derek said he doesn't know but will get the information.

Jack added that he supported some of the JAG funding for the Elder Abuse project.

- Question pertaining to the sustainability of the Elder Abuse project from Shira Burns. Would this trained investigator report to the Attorney General's office and their specialized unit or the line ADAs in the counties who don't have the specialized training?

Derek said he doesn't have the answer to this and will ask Candice.

- Heather Putnam raised question about JAG funds going out for RFP?

Derek said that there has been discussions about the JAG funds going to RFP. He said that we need to finalize this with the federal manager as to what is appropriate. It is his belief that when we put together that 5-year plan as a committee and submit it to the federal government, we are stating that this is how we plan to spend the funding. Certainly, if there

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are additional funds beyond that that we don't spend, then perhaps the RFP process is most appropriate. If his interpretation is incorrect, then we should get that final answer. Lisa and he will work on that part. He stated that they are discussing using the older JAG funds for the pilot project, 2022 and 2023 funds.

Lisa Bosse added that the strategic plan mentions funding MDEA, there are always extra funds from counties that have departments that don't want to participate. Those funds are very minimal, only a few thousand dollars, so it is usually put into the big pot of money. She doesn't believe there is a federal requirement to go out for RFP, not that we can't do it but maybe when we amend the strategic plan in 2026, we can consider the funding left over after counties and MDEA can go out for RFP.

Elizabeth Ward Saxl it has been an insider's game with MDEA and she doesn't believe that this looks good. She said that MDEA should be funded with state funds. She believes that the various governors haven't funded the MDEA because they believe the JAC will continue to pick up the tab. She said it isn't a sustainable way to fund programming and she is concerned about the Elder Abuse project for the same reasons.

Francine stated that funding the pilot project is consistent with previous conversations they have had about moving away from 100% JAG funding going to MDEA but nobody else was invited to discuss their need for JAG funds. She brought up the state money attached to Violence Prevention and the Opioid crisis. She believes there are a lot of potential funding opportunities. She supports Candice's work but wants to see an actual proposal. If the JAC is to approve this project they need to see an actual proposal to make an informed decision.

Derek said that there is a plan that has been developed that Candice would be happy to share. He stated that the JAC needs to iron out which is more appropriate, moving forward following the 5-year JAG Strategic Plan that is in place or amending this plan and putting funds out to RFP.

- Brian Scott stated he would like to see the JAG Strategic Plan and what funds are remaining so that he could weigh in.

Francine stated that most members on the JAC are new and have not seen the JAG Strategic Plan. She would also like to see how much is available in remaining funds.

Heather Putnam motioned that everyone reviews the 5-year plan and available funds before making a decision.

Motion passed.

- Derek will email the 5-year JAG Strategic Plan and the JAG available funds to everyone.

Alicia Hunter would like to know when the grants end and which ones can be extended.

- Lisa Bosse asked if the motion affects FY2022 or the years going forward.

It was determined it would be for JAG FY2023 going forward. The motion was not to interrupt/delay the work that is currently in progress for the F2022 JAG Grant.

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- Francine asked if we should schedule another JAC this summer to address this.

Derek stated that he believes it can wait until the September meeting.

### **Next Meeting:**

Date: September 9th

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Zoom Meeting

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30.