



# GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF Policy Innovation and the Future

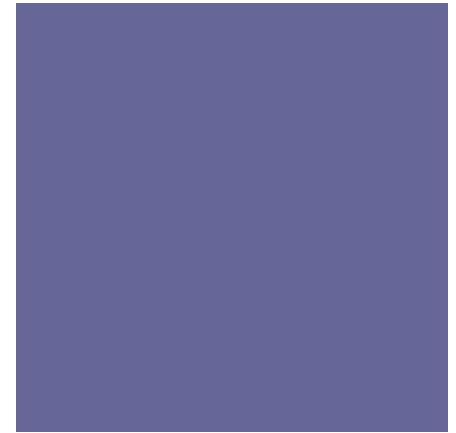




# Agenda

September 18, 2023 (by Zoom)

- Welcome
- Updates on Maine's Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership
- Overview of Maine's State Plan on Aging
- Cabinet Updates
- Next meeting: Scheduled for December 1, 2023



# Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap

Overview for the Cabinet on Aging



## What this presentation covers:

- Deep history of collaborative work in the elder abuse area in Maine
- Formation of the Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership
- Overview of the Elder Justice Roadmap
- Examples of recommendations in the Roadmap and implementation progress

# + Maine's History of Collaboration

- Regional elder abuse task forces have been in place for nearly two decades in some parts of the state (York County, the Augusta area and the Lewiston area)
- Formation of the Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention in 2011, which focuses on raising awareness and providing training and support for professionals who work with elder abuse victims
- In 2014, then Maine Attorney General Janet Mills formed a Task Force on Financial Exploitation of the Elderly which issued a report that resulted in several statutory changes addressing barriers to prosecution of these crimes



# EJCP History

- The EJCP was established by Governor Mills via Executive Order in October of 2019
- The initiative was inspired and modeled in part on the federal Elder Justice Roadmap published in 2014
- In 2019, LSE obtained support from the John T. Gorman Foundation support development of Maine's Elder Justice Roadmap.





# EJCP Membership

- See list of members at [Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership | Department of Health and Human Services \(maine.gov\)](#)
- Multi-disciplinary
- One of few efforts like this in the nation with such broad public and private membership

# + Structure and Purpose of the Roadmap

- The Executive Order charged the EJCP with:
  - Identifying challenges to the prevention of, detection of, and response to elder abuse
  - Developing strategic priorities across the public and private sectors to prevent and respond to elder abuse
  - Making recommendations regarding direct victim services, public and professional education, public policy, and data collection and evaluation



# + Desired results

- Decrease the incidence of elder abuse in Maine
- Increase the number of elder abuse victims that seek and receive help in stopping abuse
- Improve the multi-disciplinary response to elder abuse



# EJCP Process

- Survey of members and key stakeholders
- Identification of strengths, gaps and challenges, and best practices in the four areas of focus
- Development of concrete recommendations identified as Top Priority (15), Secondary (22), or For Future Study (7)

# + 4 Key Recommendation Areas

Direct  
Victim  
Services

Public and  
Professional  
Education

Public  
Policy

Data  
Collection  
and  
Evaluation

# + Examples of Progress to Date

- Recommendation: Examine the staffing capacity at Adult Protective.
  - ✓ *The FY 24-25 biennial budget included funding to create 10 positions statewide within Adult Protective Services.*
- Recommendation: Mandate training to mandated reports of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation.
  - ✓ *Completed*

# + Examples of Progress to Date

- Recommendation: Develop and expand wraparound support services, including case management services, for Adult Protective Services clients.
  - ✓ *The FY 24-25 biennial budget provided funding to make permanent the Elder Service Connections program to connect Adult Protective Services (APS) clients to services, allowing APS to refer clients to an Elder Advocate through the Elder Abuse Institute of Maine who can help with arranging services and setting client-centered goals.*

## + Examples of Progress to Date

- Recommendation: Publish an annual report of APS data and analyze data to identify trends and patterns
- ✓ *The Office of Aging and Disability Services recently released an APS Data Trends Report (PDF) covering SFY 2021 and 2022*

# + Recommendations in Progress

- Identify an assigned Elder Abuse Prosecutor within each District Attorney's office that works with the Elder Service Officers.
- Expand and enhance training of APS staff and partners
- Add an attorney's fee provision to the Improvident Transfer of Title Act (*slotted for action in 2024*)
- Restructure the Maine Elder Death Analysis Review Team (*staff now in place to move this forward*)



# + The Challenge

- While the EJCP has met three times since the publication of the Roadmap, there is no formal structure in place for sustained engagement.
- EJCP members have identified challenges in moving implementation of other key recommendations forward without an active and supported coalition structure.

## + Future Direction

- The Governor's Cabinet on Aging, with strong support of the EJCP members, applied for and recently received a grant through the National Center for State and Tribal Coalitions.
- Grant award of \$302,659.50 (October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025) funding a position to support the EJCP, assist with implementation of the Roadmap, measure progress, and support sustainability.
- Position to be housed in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, with the Cabinet Coordinator to transition into a co-chair role on the EJCP.



# Questions?