



CEJC Coordinating Council Meeting Notes

10/2/2024

10:00 AM -11:30 AM

In attendance: Erin Leavitt-Smith, Laura Snow Robinson, Alison Dvorak, Mairead Painter, Kathleen Titsworth, Nancy Becker, Michael Martone, Lara Stauning, Dorian Long, Nancy Becker, Joann Peterson, Kelli Lefler, Inez Diaz-Galloza, Liliya Pantus, Regina Stankaitis.

Group Discussion:

The meeting began with an introduction and feedback session on the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event, held on June 14th, 2024. Members shared their thoughts on the event's strengths, areas for improvement, and suggestions for next year:

- Positive feedback was received from attendees.
- A recommendation was made to consider organizing a post-event "happy hour" for continued networking.
- Another suggestion was to clearly announce when the "grab and go" lunch is available if we opt for a brown bag lunch again. Alternatively, serving hors d'oeuvres instead of a sit-down meal was proposed.
- The event's station-based structure was praised for facilitating networking and providing easy access to information.

The Attorney General's office provided an update on the Elder Abuse Hotline, explaining the current process:

- The Hotline screens calls and directs individuals based on their unique situations.
- There is a misconception that the AG's office prosecutes cases directly when, in fact, the Hotline's role is to provide guidance rather than legal representation or prosecution. Improved messaging is needed to clarify the Hotline's purpose to the public.
- The AG's office has faced challenges in getting timely responses from Protective Services for the Elderly (PSE) after making referrals.
 - **Dorian Long** responded that PSE is overwhelmed with calls and understaffed, leading to delays. Additionally, PSE can only act on reports made by the victim, or those that were not submitted anonymously, PSE cannot follow up with those, which often leads to duplicate inquiries.

Members agreed on the importance of clear messaging to the public to ensure that individuals understand both the role of the AG's office and PSE in handling abuse reports.



Elder Justice Roadmap Project Update:

The group was briefed on the Elder Justice Roadmap project, which aims to support older adults in Connecticut, particularly those affected by financial exploitation. Two surveys are being developed to gather data on the roles, gaps, and challenges involved:

- **Survey #1** targets organizations like law enforcement, the Department of Consumer Protection, the AG's office, Area Agencies on Aging, and the Department of Banking. Its goal is to identify roles, gaps, and challenges in addressing financial exploitation.
- **Survey #2** is aimed at older adults who have been victims of financial exploitation, family members and individuals assisting victims on the types of exploitation encountered, challenges faced, and resolutions achieved.

The surveys will be distributed via JotForm, QR codes, paper forms, and through senior centers and AAAs. The data will be used to create a public-facing visual roadmap and a detailed guide for professionals, outlining the services available and identifying key gaps.

Coalition Members will be called on to assist with distribution of the surveys and to complete surveys themselves to share their experiences. Coalition Steering Committee members were also invited to participate in this project and advise to contact L.Stauning or L.Pantus if interested. A.Dvorak agreed to assist.

Charter and By-laws:

Members reviewed the draft Charter and provided feedback, but time ran out before discussing the By-laws:

- **Liliya Pantus** and **Michael Martone** will incorporate the suggested edits and present the final version of the Charter at the next meeting in January.
- Liliya will also send out a Doodle Poll to schedule a virtual meeting for reviewing the By-laws.
- Both the Charter and By-laws will be finalized for approval at the January meeting.

Confirmed Meeting Dates for FY2025:

- January 8
 - April 2
 - July 9
 - October 1
- Time:** 10:00 - 11:30 AM