

Elder Issues Partnership

Purpose

The Elder Issues Partnership is a partnership of Maine organizations concerned with advocating, educating, and communicating the value of older Maine citizens and their needs.

Participant Organizations

- AARP
- ALDA-Maine
- Alpha One
- Alzheimer's Association – Maine Chapter
- Community Concepts, Inc.
- Community Counseling Center
- Consumers for Affordable Health Care
- Disability Rights Center
- Eastern Agency on Aging
- Eastern Maine Health Care
- Global Wellness and A Woman's Touch
- Home Care and Hospice Alliance of Maine
- Home Care for Maine
- Joint Advisory Committee on Select Services for Older Persons
- Keeping Seniors Home, a program of Western Maine Community Action
- Legal Services for the Elderly
- Lutheran Social Services
- Maine Adult Day Services Association
- Maine Alzheimer's Association
- Maine Assisted Technology Program
- Maine Association for Community Service Providers
- Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging
- Maine Association of Retirees
- Maine Center for Economic Policy
- Maine Council of Senior Citizens
- Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
- Maine Equal Justice Partners
- MaineHealth's Partnership for Healthy Aging
- Maine Long-term Care Ombudsman Program
- Maine Personal Assistance Services Association (PASA)
- Maine State Employees Association
- Maine State Nurses Association
- Maine Women's Lobby
- National Senior Service Corp of ME (NSSC)
- Office of Elder Affairs, Portland Health and Human Services Department
- OneMaine.org
- PROP (People's Regional Opportunity Program)
- Residential Resources
- Sandy River Home Resources
- Senior Spectrum
- SeniorsPlus, Agency on Aging
- Southern Maine Agency on Aging
- Tri-County Mental Health Services
- Village Elders
- Washington Hancock Community Agency

Guiding Principles

1. We value and support vitality in people as they age.
2. We support the development of a competent workforce to meet the needs of Maine's older citizens.
3. We value contributions by older citizens to the workforce as leaders, wage earners, and volunteers.
4. We support the commitment of adequate resources and funding for services for older Maine citizens.
5. We support the identification of needs of Maine's older citizens.
6. We support efforts of early recognition and prevention of elder abuse.
7. We support a strong office of elder services within the department of DHHS that closely collaborates with service providers.
8. We support continuity of support services that provides equitable distribution of resources for consumers.
9. We support development and maintenance of a comprehensive plan for delivery of long term services.

2007/2008 Strategic Priorities

- Elders Count Data Book
- Elder Issues Principles
- 5-10 Year Plan to address needs of elderly
- Advocacy

2007/2008 Advocacy Priorities

Our top priority is advocating for home care for the elderly.

Other priorities

- Support for the critical role of the Office of Elder Services
- Establishment of elder abuse assistance committees in each county
- Helping seniors remain in their homes through funding for support services including home care, meals on wheels, home modifications and other support services
- Increasing direct care worker wages and benefits
- Support for funding for the system of long term care services

2006/2007 Achievements

- Influenced the following:
 - Increased funding for homecare coordination services
 - Increased heating oil assistance
 - Expanded CNA Registry to include direct care workers
 - Increased protections against predatory lending
 - Increased capacity of the Office of Elder Services
 - Defeat of TABOR

- Heard from 12 outside speakers on the following topics:
 - LIHEAP Oil Pricing
 - Proposed sale of Verizon to Fairpoint
 - Home care coordination services
 - 2-1-1 social services hotline
 - Maine Community Foundation's new initiative to engage senior citizens
 - Proposed tax reform measures and how they would affect seniors
 - Financial exploitation of elders
 - Predatory lending
 - Issues being addressed by the Office of Elder Services
 - Heating oil and other energy issues affecting elderly

- Wrote several advocacy letters to the Governor, House and Senate leadership, and members of the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee

- Held an event at the State House Hall of Flags to generate awareness among legislators about elder issues

- Made a special presentation to the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee

- Provided a monthly forum for organizations to update each other on state and federal initiatives that affect elderly

Get Involved

If you support our mission please join us! Our electronic mailing list and our meetings are open to all interested parties except state employees. We meet monthly in the Augusta area. Check out our website at www.ElderIssues.org

If you have questions, please contact:

Craig Freshley, Secretariat, Good Group Decisions, 98 Maine Street, Brunswick, ME 04011
ElderIssues@GoodGroupDecisions.com www.ElderIssues.org

January 18, 2008