

North Central Elder Justice Council Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2023 -Teams Meeting

I. Welcome

A. Present: Jennell Huff, John Stevenson, Sabrina McQuinn, Lisa Baxter, Kathy Foley.

Absent: Mary Grossman and Al Ward.

B. Congratulations to Jennell Huff, Appointed Chair of the North Central Elder Justice Council by the Governor's office.

II. Review of previous minutes- Minutes Accepted.

III. Old Business

1. **Contacting other councils.** Jennell is having difficulty reaching one of her contacts at the South Central Council. Her time was spent ensuring a successful WEAAD event in Helena on June 15, 2023. Jennell will follow up with her other contact, Nancy Anderson. Jennell will also contact Mike Fanning to identify the chairs of the other 3 councils. This North Central council is new and members asked for feedback from the other councils regarding their projects. Our goal is to prevent duplication of work already completed (saving time). Mary Grossman developed a list of standard questions to ask each council (attached).

Sabrina McQuinn stated the Western Council is having monthly meetings since February 2023. Their focus includes the WEAAD event and development of educational materials.

2. **APS flyers.** Sabrina stated the FTC, AARP, DPHS, Alzheimer's Assoc and other agencies have different educational materials. Sabrina recommended this council chose a topic area to focus on. Sabrina will send out a list of available flyers and pamphlets from these agencies for our review. **Note-**Sabrina was able to email these flyers during this meeting. Lianna Waller sent an email at 11:44am listing the new chairs of each council.

3. **Needs Assessment.** Lisa Baxter stated the Eastern Council completed a pre Covid needs assessment via survey monkey. Lisa recommended obtaining a copy of their survey and results. If appropriate, we could send the same survey to the North Central area. This would save time and these post Covid results may identify new areas of focus. AL Ward served on the Eastern council 2 years ago. Jennell will contact Al to discuss and obtain a copy of their survey for our review.

IV. **NEW Business**

1. **Why Purple?** Jennell explained the color purple is associated with royalty, dignity, and respect; the same words we should be using to describe our elders. The Lilac has purple flowers and is a symbol of the need to take action to address harmful actions taken against the elderly.
2. **Recap of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.** Jennell is the Community Outreach Coordinator for Bank of the Rockies. They organized an event for WEAAD in Helena on 6/15/23. Speakers included Troy Downing (Commissioner of Securities and Insurance), Nancy Anderson (Montana AARP), Lianna Waller (APS Interim Bureau Chief) and others. Fraud survivor **Susan Bivens** told her compelling story. She lost \$200,000 from an online scam. Problems identified during her investigation included a lack of response from law enforcement, FBI and her local bank.
3. **Ideas for Advocacy.** Sabrina stated online scams are more prevalent now. They are difficult to investigate, the criminals are not in the US. Discussed getting Ms. Bivens story out to more people via radio show Aging Horizons and other ways to build awareness. Jennell and Lisa suggested can we build upon awareness of fraud and dive deeper into the process of investigation. Lisa mentioned current scams of home Covid Test kits.

Kathy Foley suggested inviting Chris Bansen (MT Elder Justice Investigator) to the next meeting. Jennell will contact Mike Fanning (MT Elder Justice Prosecutor) and arrange a meeting with both Mike and Chris. John Stevenson suggested inviting a local Great Falls cop. Several names were mentioned and John will follow up. These professionals will speak to the process of identifying and investigating fraud and abuse. Their knowledge will help North Central develop further action plans.

4. **Governor's Council on Aging.** Jennell stated the annual conference will be in Great Falls on October 3rd and 4th, 2023. Jennell stated each council may need to prepare materials for the conference. Jennell will reach out to her contact and clarify. Several members of this council will be attending.

V. **Public Comment**-No comment

VI. **Next Meeting**- July 20th, 2023 at 10am

VI. **Adjournment at 11:08am.**

Submitted by Kathy Foley