



Voices United



Lifting Up Voices 2019





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VOICES UNITED

October 10, 2019

Agenda

Arrival and Registration

Welcome

Mairead Painter
State Long Term Care Ombudsman

Opening Remarks

Amy Porter
Commissioner of the Department of Aging and Disability Services

Keynote Speaker

Robert Blancato
National Elder Justice Coalition - Voices United for Justice

Award Presentations

Carol Rosenwald Spirit of Advocacy Award
Representative Michelle Cook

Brian Capshaw Rock Star Award
Byron D. Peterson

Legislative Update

Jeanette Sullivan-Martinez
President of the Executive Board of Presidents of Resident Councils

Effective Advocacy

Anna Doroghazi
Associate State Director for Advocacy and Outreach AARP CT

Resident and Staff Raffle

Lunch

Open Mic & Panel Discussion

Closing Remarks



National Elder Justice Coalition Voices United for Justice



Bob Blancato
National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition

Bob Blancato is the President of Matz, Blancato and Associates, the National Coordinator of the bipartisan 3000-member Elder Justice Coalition, and the Executive Director of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs. Bob has been newly appointed to the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services.

Bob has more than 20 years of service in the Congressional and Executive branches, including the senior staff of the U.S. House Select Committee on Aging and an appointment by President Clinton to be Executive Director of the 1995 White House Conference on Aging. Most recently, Bob is the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of the American Society on Aging and on the National Board of AARP.

He also serves on the Advisory Panel on Outreach and Education of the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services. He was recently selected by Next Avenue as a 2016 Influencer in Aging. Bob is a contributing blogger to Next Avenue, writing on aging issues. He holds a BA from Georgetown University and an MPA from American University. Bob has won numerous awards for advocacy, including being knighted by the Italian Republic in 2011.



Robert B. Blancato, National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition

Testimony to the House Appropriations Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee on behalf of the Elder Justice Initiative.

Chairman Kingston, Ranking Member DeLauro:

On behalf of the Elder Justice Coalition, a bipartisan 3000-member organization, we thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Department of Health and Human Services' proposed Elder Justice Initiative in the amount of \$25 million. My topic has been and must always be a bipartisan issue: preventing elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. Today, we ask this Subcommittee to provide the necessary funding in a bipartisan fashion as part of the solution to the national disgrace of elder abuse. Elder abuse in America is real.


There are more than six million victims of elder abuse, or roughly one of every ten persons over 60. Victims of elder financial abuse lose an estimated \$2.9 billion a year which can include entire life savings. Other data points to a 16% increase in reported cases. However, a New York State study said for every elder abuse case known to agencies, twenty-four were unknown.


We strongly support the \$25 million requested in the President's FY 2015 budget for an Elder Justice Initiative. This proposed funding level, if approved by Congress, would be the first direct appropriation for the bipartisan Elder Justice Act sponsored in the House by Congressman Peter King.

The funding request includes:

- \$13.8 million for Adult Protective Services, including an APS National Data System and Technical Assistance and national demonstration grants to both enhance APS data systems and development of program standards;
- \$1.2 million for a national evaluation of Adult Protective Services;
- And, \$10 million for research including elder abuse screening and to establish a better knowledge base about elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

We support the emphasis placed on data collection. The lack of good data has hurt the elder abuse field and our ability to target efforts to prevent abuse. Data often drives dollars. For elder abuse to compete effectively for resources, we must have a good system to collect and analyze data. This appropriation will also help assess who are the most likely perpetrators and victims and direct resources to those who are most vulnerable.





We support the development of APS program standards. Interventions for victims of elder abuse are far more complicated than for younger victims of abuse and family violence. To be effective, APS programs must have consistency and quality on a national basis. Elder abuse is happening in all states and districts and in some cases an older person can be victimized in more than one state.


This initial investment of \$25 million will allow existing federal resources to be used more efficiently while also responding to elder abuse with a systematic approach. A more coordinated use of other federal funds for elder abuse prevention and slowing future victimization is a solid return on investment.


Why else is this an investment? According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, the direct medical costs associated with elder abuse now exceed \$5 billion. Victims often end up having to turn to other federal programs, especially Medicare and Medicaid, and for financial abuse victims they may require other assistance including income support. Some of this can clearly be avoided and savings achieved for these programs if we make this investment today.

Elder abuse victims are household names like Mickey Rooney or the late Brooke Astor. We testify for them today but also for those who are not household names. The voices we don't hear are the ones who need a voice that you can listen to today. I said that elder justice is a bipartisan issue. Leaders have included Senator Hatch, Representative King, as well as former Senator Lincoln and Representative Emanuel to name a few. Again, on a bipartisan basis this Congress reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act.

The reality is that elder abuse is a women's issue. The average victim is an older woman living alone between 75 and 80. In fact, many are so vulnerable to abuse with the Census reporting that almost 50 percent of all women now live alone. We must act now to get resources into elder abuse prevention.

If one in ten seniors in your District were victims of crime, you would likely respond by seeking more support for law enforcement as first responders in the fight against crime. Elder abuse hits one out of every ten seniors. Let us give needed support to Adult Protective Services who are the first responders for elder abuse. Our Coalition also supports funding the Social Services Block Grant at the level proposed in the President's budget, the only funding source for Adult Protective Services today.





Today we ask for at least \$25 million for elder justice, just as 40 years ago witnesses came to this Subcommittee seeking initial funding for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1974. What is common? A victim of child abuse, like a victim of elder abuse, is never the same. The role of government should always be to help the vulnerable of all ages.

Elder justice warrants considerably more than the requested \$25 million. The Elder Justice Act deals even more comprehensively with elder abuse with increased support for long term care ombudsmen assisting nursing home residents to funding forensic centers important to the prosecution of abusers. Since these are not included, please view the \$25 million as a floor to build on, not a ceiling. We look forward to working with you on ensuring that this first-time appropriations for elder justice provides us with the best possible value and positive outcomes



Carol Rosenwald Spirit of Advocacy Award

*“You Must Hold onto Your Ideals and Always Have the
Courage to Speak Your Mind” ~ Carol Rosenwald*



History of the VOICES Forum

In September of 1996, nursing home resident and activist Carol Rosenwald, with assistance from the Ombudsman Program, began organizing residents across the state to advocate for improvements in the long-term care system. Carol envisioned a time when the “VOICES” of nursing home residents could be heard “beyond the walls” of their facilities. She became the founder of the Statewide Coalition of Resident Councils and the driving force behind the first “VOICES” Forum in 1997. As a large group of voting constituents, residents were able to speak directly with political leaders and public officials about important issues affecting their quality of life.

VOICES 2019 marks the 23rd anniversary of Carol's vision and of this historic event. Our heartfelt thanks to the many courageous residents who have attended VOICES over the years and to all of you attending today who inspire systems change in long term care. You have our deepest admiration and respect.

~The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

**This year we are pleased to award the
Carol Rosenwald Spirit of Advocacy Award
to
Representative Michelle Cook**




Michelle Cook is the State Representative for the 65th Assembly District serving Torrington. She was first elected in 2008 and is currently serving her sixth term in office and her second term as a Deputy Speaker. Representative Cook serves as a member of the Education, Human Services, Legislative Management, and Public Health Committees.

Representative Cook has been an outspoken supporter for issues involving children and families. In 2010, she was part of the first sweeping effort to reform Connecticut's domestic violence laws since 1985. The legislation, [Public Act 10-144](#), increased protections for domestic violence victims by strengthening protective orders on offenders, requiring greater information sharing between agencies and providing employment protections for victims, among others.

In 2013, Representative Cook was also named chair of the Restraining Order Task Force, which aimed to study policies, procedures, and regulations related to the service of restraining orders to offer opportunities for improvement. She has also been a fierce advocate for children's education and increasing their opportunities at both the state and local levels.

Locally, she serves a member of the Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative, an organization committed to enhancing the quality of early childhood education. In 2002



she founded the Torrington High School Parent Teacher Organization. Until 2012, she served as the Director of Public Relations for special events for Torrington's collegiate summer baseball team.

She has volunteered as a Girl Scouts leader and served as a board member for the Girls Scouts of Connecticut. Rep. Cook has also been a softball, baseball and basketball coach for many years.

In 2013 Representative Cook was named chair of the Municipal Opportunities Regional Efficiencies (MORE) Commission's Special Education working group, which aims to improve special education in Connecticut. Currently, the task force's research is being used to guide special education legislation.

Representative Cook has also been a longtime advocate on behalf of seniors and persons with mental health and substance abuse issues and has championed efforts to address the skyrocketing costs of health care.


She is a member of the Medicare Managed Care Committee and has served as chair of the Primary Care Medical Home (PCMH) Subcommittee since 2011. PCMH is a program for health care providers and families seeking quality and affordable health care.


Representative Cook serves on the advisory council for Prime Time House, which assists adults with serious mental illness find employment, education and housing. She has also worked to classify and ban salvia and synthetic marijuana as controlled substances. Representative Cook is also a member of the Litchfield County Opiate Task Force, which is led by the McCall Center for Behavioral Health and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital to combat opioid addiction and overdose.

Representative Cook also serves on the Torrington Coalition to Reduce Youth Substance Use, which addresses youth substance use and the opioid epidemic affecting residents younger than 18 years of age.

Her work also extends to Connecticut's emergency responders. In 2019, Representative Cook was appointed vice-chair of the Firefighter and EMS Caucus and fought for the passage of legislation to establish a fund to benefit municipal and volunteer firefighters who are diagnosed with certain cancers as a result of their service. In 2019, Representative Cook was appointed to become a State Director for the Women in Government (WIG) organization. WIG is a national, non-profit, non-partisan organization that is made up of women state legislators and provides leadership and networking opportunities, and educational resources.

She holds a B.S. in Sociology and Psychology from Missouri Baptist University and has completed coursework towards a Master's Degree in Special Education at Central Connecticut State University.





Representative Cook is married to Christopher Cook and has four children: Ryan, Katlyn, Ashlynn, and William.

During her time in the Connecticut General Assembly, Representative Cook has been recognized as a passionate advocate for numerous legislative initiatives. Most notably:

- Connecticut State Award for Nurse Practitioner Advocate Excellence, *American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 2019
 - Outstanding Leadership Award, *Home Care Association of America, Connecticut*, 2019
 - Children's Champion, *Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance*, 2018, '16, '15, '13, '12, '10, '09
 - Affordable Utilities Champion, *AARP*, 2018
 - Patient Hero Award, *Radiological Society of Connecticut*, 2018
 - Oral Health Champion, *Connecticut Oral Health Initiative*, 2017
 - Friend of the Family, *CT Family Resource Center Alliance*, 2016
 - Legislator of the Year, *The Uniformed Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut*, 2016
 - Legislative Leadership, *Radiological Society of Connecticut*, 2016
 - Track Division- Distinguished Track and Field Facility Award, *American Sports Builders Association*, 2015
 - Legislative Leadership Award, *Connecticut Association of Optometrists*, 2015, '13
 - Legislator of the Year, *Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance*, 2014, '11
 - Legislative Advocate, *Visiting Nurses of Connecticut*, 2014
 - Legislative Leadership Award, *Connecticut Chiropractic Association*, 2014
 - Advocate for the People Award, *Communications Workers of America, Local 1298*, 2013
 - Legislative Achievement Award, *AARP*, 2013
 - Centennial Gala Women of Merit Trail Blazer, *Girl Scouts of Connecticut*, 2012
 - Legislative Advocacy Award, *Community Mental Health Affiliates Substance Abuse Action Council*, 2012
 - Legislator of the Year, *Northwest Regional Mental Health Board*, 2011
 - Legislative Hero, *Connecticut Public Housing Resident Network*, 2010
 - Legislator of the Year, *Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice*, 2009
- 

Brian Capshaw Rock Star Award



The Coalition of Presidents of Resident Councils and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program are pleased to announce the Brian Capshaw annually award recipient. Brian is remembered for his incredible advocacy both in Connecticut and at the national level. In 2012, Brian participated in the Consumer Voice Conference in Washington, DC. He represented Connecticut nursing home residents with a strong voice and with the incredible advocacy that only one who has “walked the walk” can bring to the conversation. He was the resident representative on the Long-Term Care Advisory Council, he testified at countless hearings and he went door to door at the capitol talking with legislators about all the issues so important to quality care and services for nursing home residents: improved staffing levels, video monitoring, personal needs allowance, to name just a few. Brian also worked on national advocacy: he was appointed to be the Chair of the Leadership Council of the Consumer Voice, he was interviewed numerous times by the national media and participated in a wide variety of state and national workgroups. Brian was invited to the White House to participate in the 2015 White House Conference on Aging.

Brian loved sports, his family and friends, getting into his van to meet friends for concerts and various activities. He thoroughly enjoyed his rock music! Brian, in every fashion, was an inspiration and a joy to all who knew and admired him. We miss him dearly.

**This year we are pleased to award the
4th annual Brian Capshaw Rock Star Award
to
Byron D. Peterson**



This year we honor Brian Capshaw, his spirit and advocacy both in Connecticut and at the national level. **Byron D. Peterson** is one of the nation's leading AARP Fraud Watch volunteers. He joined the AARP volunteer ranks in the fall of 2012 serving in several appointed positions. He is a member of the AARP Advocacy team where he supports the legislative and advocacy efforts of AARP in the community, state and federal level. He was a member of the AARP Connecticut Executive Council, an all-volunteer body that helps advise and set priorities for the state office. He is the current volunteer leader for Connecticut AARP's Fraud Watch Network.

Byron Peterson was Vice President of Human Resources for Branson Ultrasonics Corporation, located in Danbury, CT. He joined Branson, a subsidiary of Emerson Electric, in 1997. Prior to Branson, his years in Human Resources included being the Director of Human Resources for Advo, Inc. in Windsor, CT; Vice President of HR for Save the Children in Westport, CT; Manager of HR for the Schick Razor division of Warner Lambert in Milford and Industrial Relations Manager for GTE Corporation.

As the Vice President, he was responsible for Branson's worldwide Human Resources activities and programs. These responsibilities included Employee Relations, Labor Relations, Compensation & Benefits, Global staffing, management development/succession planning, etc. Additionally, he was the Ethics officer, the Good



Government representative and the Data Protection officer for this Emerson division. Upon his retirement he became the Senior Advisor and consultant to Emerson.

Byron was a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for the Danbury School and Business Collaborative (DSABC) that, among other things, oversees the mentoring program for the Danbury school system. He also participated with the United Way of Northern Fairfield County, the Industrial Relations Directors Council (IRDC), the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM), and several local and regional personnel associations. He is a past member of the Board of Directors for the Greater New Haven Urban League and had served as the Board Chairman. He was the former Chairman of the Allocation Committee for the United Way of Milford and past President of a local NAACP chapter. He had served on the Board of Ethics for the city of Shelton, CT. He has received commendations and letters of achievement including being named "Black Achiever in Industry" by the Harlem branch of the New York YMCA.

Byron holds a B.A. degree from Michigan State University. He has also received management certifications from Rutgers University, the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business Administration and the Management School of MIT.

He and his wife reside in Shelton, Connecticut.





E-Board 2019 CT Legislative Session End Executive Update

Jeanette Sullivan-Martinez

President of the Executive Board of Presidents of Resident Councils

Key E-Board Interest Bills Passed by Both House and Senate

SB 375 – Nursing Home Staffing Levels-Ensure Adequate Reporting - requires additional staffing information to be posted at the beginning of each shift including APRN, RN, LPN, and CNA staffing hours; minimum required hours per DPH; exclude transportation aide hours if not provide direct care for primary portion of shift; requires DPH website or internet link to be posted to report any violations; no discrimination or retaliation allowed against resident or staff for reporting staffing concerns, Public Act 19-89, Governor Signed 7/1

SB 804 - LTCOP To Investigate HCBS Complaints - State Ombudsman and DSS Commissioner to submit report by 1/1/20 to Aging and Human Services Committee outlining persons to be served, types of services to be offered, and appropriations-budget needed to staff up, Special Act 19-18, Governor Signed 7/1

SB 827 - Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Training Best Practices - specific Alzheimer's disease diagnosis and treating training for physicians required; Commission on Women, Children, Seniors and Equity will convene a working group to review the task force recommendations based on earlier bill and make recommendations for any additional best practices; working group includes the State Ombudsman and Department of Aging and Disability Services Commissioner among many members, Public Act 19-115, Governor Signed 7/1

SB 832 - Registries of Persons Found Responsible for Assault of Abuse, Neglect, Exploit, Abandon Elderly of Persons Who Are Disabled - Commission on Women, Children, Seniors and Equity will have a portal established on its website with links to publicly available background databases; Commission will convene a working group; bill specifies disqualifying offenses, Public Act 19-116, Governor Signed 7/1

SB 1088 - Participation By a Resident of A Nursing Home Facility or Residential Care Home Resident In A Receivership Proceeding - also includes right of responsible legal party to testify at receivership court hearing without having to file an appearance as a party to the proceeding, Public Act 19-42, Governor Signed 6/21

HB 5004 - Increasing the Minimum Fair Wage - to \$15/hour by June 1, 2023 and incremental increase each year till then, Public Act 19-4, Governor Signed 5/28

HB 7163 – Implementing Governor's Budget Recommendations for Department of Aging and Disability Services, and Meals on Wheels – new department name and increases Meals on Wheels funding, Public Act 19-157, Governor Signed 7/8





HB 7424 - State Budget for Biennium Ending 6/30/21 - Appropriations Therefore and Implementing Provisions of the Budget - includes section on nursing home closures and DSS rate adjustments. Public Act 19-117 Governor Signed 6/26.

E-Board 2019 CT Legislative Session End Update

(continued)

LTCOP Program-Related Bills Passed By One Chamber Only

HB 7166 – Nonemergency Medical Transportation for Medicaid Beneficiaries - timely performance requirements and appeal rights, passed by House only

SB 829 – Task Force on Voluntarism for Ombudsman Program - passed by Senate only

Selected LTCOP Program-Related Bill Topics That Did Not Pass Either Chamber

Increase PNA to \$72/Month; Permit Video Camera Installation, and Nursing Home Falls

Selected Other Bills That Passed Both Chambers This Session

SB 1 - Paid Family and Medical Leave, Public Act 19-25, Governor Signed 6/25

SB 945 - Innovative Incentive Program for Non-Profit Providers of Human Services – establishes a pilot incentive program for certain revenue level non-profit human service providers that contract with the state, Public Act 19-127, Governor Signed 7/1

SB 1052 - Expanding Medicaid Coverage of Telehealth, Public Act 19-76, Governor Signed 6/28

SB 1091 - Designating Various Days and Weeks including April 16 Advanced Directive Awareness Day, 1st week of September kidney disease awareness week, February 22nd encephalitis day, June 3 clubfoot day, May 6 moyamoya cerebrovascular disease awareness day, and establishment of Centennial Commission on Women’s Suffrage, Public Act 19-152, Governor Signed 7/9

HB 7198 - Concerning Social Workers - limitations and requirements for use of social worker title, Public Act 19-164, Governor Signed 7/9



Effective Advocacy Messaging for Change



Anna Doroghazi Associate State Director for Advocacy and Outreach AARP Connecticut

In that role, she advocates for policies and practices that support family caregivers, ensure that people have adequate access to health care, and help people choose how they live as they age.

Anna came to AARP Connecticut from Albany, where she worked on nonprofit policy issues for the Governor's Office and the New York State Division of the Budget. Prior to her work in New York, Anna was the Director of Public Policy and Communication for Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services (now known as the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence). She has a Master's Degree in Human Rights from the London School of Economics.

**Biographies
of
Executive Board Members**



Jeanette Sullivan-Martinez

Jeanette joined the SCPRC in July 2014 and currently serves as its President. Jeanette is an advocate committed to making a difference for the residents in her home and for all residents living in Connecticut nursing homes. Jeanette joined the E-Board with valuable skills as a secretary, teacher and assistant office manager. Jeanette has been a strong voice in nursing home staffing and personal needs allowance legislation and has testified during CT Public Hearings on staffing and PNA bills. Jeanette was also part of the Long-Term Care Advisory Committee and currently sits on a VEYO transportation committee with the aim of bringing the nursing home perspective to transportation issues. Jeanette is extremely active in her home and makes herself accessible to residents and families. She regularly meets with Department heads to ensure concerns are addressed and resolved. In addition to her interest in advocating for others, Jeanette is an avid reader and enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles.

Brad Parkhurst

Brad was born and raised in Norwich. Brad graduated from Norwich Free Academy and began working in construction, specifically home construction and remodeling.

Brad was elected Resident Council President at his former Home, Harbor Village South, two months after becoming a resident. This came as an honor and a surprise because he wasn't trying to run for a Council position. Brad became Resident Council President and an Executive Board member to help residents get better care in nursing homes. Harbor Village South closed in December 2017. Brad was the last resident to leave the home and this was done at his own choosing. Brad wanted to be at the Home as long as possible to support other residents as they left the building.

Brad is the first Executive Board Member to transition to his own apartment under the Money Follows the Person program. It wasn't easy for Brad to be alone in his own place after being surrounded by other people all day and night. However, it has gotten better with time and he enjoys having the freedom to come and go when he wants. Having his own care team at home makes it easier to maintain his health and so far, he is happy with the services he receives. Brad recently added two kittens to his family, and they have been a great comfort and support to him when he has difficult days.




Gregory Brooks

My name is Gregory Brooks and I am a resident at Quinnipiac Valley Center in Wallingford. I am the Resident Council President and beginning my fourth term. Like the Allman Brothers song, I was born a rambling man I suppose. After graduating high school, I enlisted in the Army, and served as a first sergeant in a parachute infantry regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. After I left the service, I traveled the country.

I've walked remote logging roads in northern Maine, rode air boats in the everglades in Florida, dipped my feet in the headwaters of the Mississippi, and netted shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico. I have swum in both oceans, rode dirt bikes in Death Valley and the Baja, camped in the bottom of the Grand Canyon and hiked sections of the Appalachian trail solo. I've witnessed two space shuttle launches close-up, and visited national Battlefields from Gettysburg, to the Little Big Horn. I've ridden my motorcycle to major rallies in Daytona, Laconia N.H., and Sturgis S.D. to name a few. I attended trade and vocational schools in Conn. and Florida. I was a metalsmith, welder and fabricator. I owned three different shops over the years, specializing in custom motorcycles and hot rods. I was also a Health and Safety director at a major hot tub manufacturer. I love the outdoors and am a little bit of an artist I'm told. I was involved in a motorcycle vs. car accident and am confined to a wheelchair as a result. But I never give up and I want to be an advocate for the residents here and elsewhere in the state while I'm still able to physically and mentally. I am a quick learner and look forward to working on the Eboard and perhaps bringing some fresh ideas and different approaches to achieve our common goals.

Rita Wissink

Rita was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. Rita completed her education in Johannesburg and received an undergraduate degree in Art and English and a Master's in linguistics. Rita then moved to the United States and lived in the suburbs of Philadelphia for ten years. In Pennsylvania, Rita worked as an artist and completed a 6 by 8-foot mural which was on display at Women's Center for the National Bicentennial. Rita also sat on the editorial board for a two-volume history set on the Bicentennial. Rita and her family then moved to Connecticut where she set up her own business. Rita cultivated David Austen English roses and sold them to Manhattan wholesalers. Rita was placed in the Who's Who among American Women and in the 2000 Most Prominent Women in America for her work in pioneering a new generation of roses. Rita is looking forward to contributing her artistic talents to the E-Board as well as continued advocacy on increasing nursing home staffing levels. Rita would also like to ensure that art and creativity are fundamental components to nursing home resident care.





Thank You!

**To our Resident Advocates who
selflessly volunteer their time
advocating on behalf of nursing
home residents.**

Northern

Linda

Joan

Richard

Jack

Kathleen

Betsy

Roy

Southern

Bob

Mary Frances

Joyce

Ann-Marie

Western

Judith

John

Kathy

To Contact the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

**TOLL FREE
1-866-388-1888**

**WESTERN
INTAKE NUMBER 203-597-4181**

**SOUTHERN
INTAKE NUMBER 860-823-3366**

**NORTHERN
INTAKE NUMBER 860-424-5221**

You can also e-mail us: ltop@ct.gov

Mairead Painter - State Long Term Care Ombudsman



Western	Northern	Southern
Tasha Jackson-Erskine	Brenda Foreman	Dan Lerman
Sylvia Crespo	Brenda Texidor	Patricia Calderone
	Lindsay Jesshop	Dan Beem



Mission

Coalesce and leverage a multi-disciplinary, statewide group of private and public stakeholders to prevent elder abuse and protect the rights, independence, security, and well-being of vulnerable elders.

Our Coalition

The Coalition of Elder Justice in CT ~ A multi-disciplinary, statewide group of private and public stakeholders working together to prevent elder abuse and protect the rights, independence, security, and well-being of vulnerable elders.”

Our History

The Coalition for Elder Justice in CT was formed by the State Department on Aging in 2013 to lead and convene public and private stakeholders addressing elder justice issues in Connecticut. Governor Dannel Malloy recognized the Coalition and authorized the active participation by various state departments to collaborate and protect elders from multiple forms of elder abuse as illustrated in Executive Order 42. Since that time, the Coalition has hosted annual Seminars and Coordinating Council sessions and our partners have increased two-fold. A number of Action Teams have also been working on such issues as Financial Exploitation, Bank and Faith-Based training, and partnering with AARP Fraud Watch. With the recent award of an Administration of Community Living grant, support will be provided for Conservator Web-based Training, Law Enforcement training, and Elder Abuse Awareness.

Steering Committee

While the day to day coordination and operations are executed by Co-Chairs, presently State Unit on Aging lead staff, the Steering Committee is comprised of five key, member organizations with distinct expertise in elder abuse. Together they provide support, guidance and oversight of progress on behalf of the Coalition.



Coordinating Council

The Coordinating Council, an appointed body, is comprised of approximately twenty-five member organizations from within and outside of state government whose role is paramount in aging, disability, advocacy, elder rights, law enforcement, finance, education, insurance, victim services and business. The Council oversees the general operations of the Coalition.

[View Members](#)

Coalition Members

The Coalition is a multidisciplinary, statewide network of agencies and organizations that are partnering to achieve the vision and goals of the Coalition. Membership is open to all interested stakeholders at no cost. Members receive information and updates and have opportunities to attend seminars and the annual meetings and participate in Action Teams.

Action Teams

The Coalition works to fulfill its mission through action teams of members who have identified concerns that impact the state's ability to support an adequate public-private infrastructure and the resources needed to be in a place to prevent, detect, treat, understand, intervene in and, where appropriate, prosecute elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Interested in joining the Coalition

Please Visit

<http://elderjusticect.org/>

Click on Join the Coalition tab and fill out the membership form.

Coalition For Elder Justice In Connecticut

Mimi Peck-Llewellyn, JD, LLM

Mairead Painter, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Co-Chairs

Coalition for Elder Justice in Connecticut

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