

FEATURED SPEAKERS

OPENING PLENARY

Advocacy - Its Role in Changing Lives

Barbara Rankins, community activist, and Nicole Witherbee from Maine Center for Economic Policy will discuss the roles that advocates and advocacy have played in their lives.

LUNCHTIME FORUM

Advocacy - A View from the Trenches

Betsy Sweet of Moose Ridge Associates will talk about the importance of advocacy in affecting the political process. We can all get involved in advocating for the good of our communities.

WORKSHOPS

TANF, ASPIRE, PaS (a.m. only)

This session will provide an overview of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), ASPIRE and Parents as Scholars programs. We'll highlight any upcoming changes, and give you some tools that will help you advocate for clients who are participants in these programs.

Elder Issues (a.m. only) Seniors can face a number of complex issues. This session will provide some tools for you to assist your elder clients with issues such as MaineCare estate recovery, powers of attorney and living trusts, grandparent rights, and elder abuse and exploitation.

Health Care and Prescription Drug Resources for People Without Health Insurance (a.m. only)

This session will inform advocates about a variety of free or discounted health care and prescription assistance programs available to uninsured people with low income in Maine.

Advocacy: How to be Effective (a.m. only)

This session will help you improve your advocacy skills--both for your clients and for improving the system at-large. Through exercises, discussion, and case scenarios we will identify the components of effective advocacy.

Family Law (a.m. and p.m.)

This session will discuss family law issues including divorce, parental rights and protection from abuse orders. We'll look at how child support works and learn about the child protective system, as well as guardians ad litem and mediation. The court process can be particularly confusing--we'll help you understand it.

Housing: Tenant Rights and Issues (a.m. and p.m.)

This session will give an overview of tenants' rights and responsibilities in Maine. We'll look at the protections in place for tenants and the different rental assistance programs. We'll also explain the eviction process and provide information and resources available to help prevent foreclosures and homelessness.

Issues and Opportunities for Workers (p.m. only)

In these harsh economic times, it's important to know about financial and training resources for low-wage and unemployed workers and their families. This session will also review the current rules for unemployment benefits and explain employees' rights on the job.

Legislative Advocacy (p.m. only)

This session focuses on how public policy is made and how you can be a part of that process. We'll cover the steps from introduction of a bill to passage into law. We'll give some pointers as to how and when to voice your opinion most effectively on proposed legislation and how to work with your clients and colleagues to affect system change.

Medicare Coverage for Seniors and People With Disabilities (p.m. only)

Confused by the different options under Medicare for low-income seniors and people with disabilities? We'll explain who's eligible for Medicare and how the coverage is different than and sometimes works together with MaineCare. We'll learn about Medicare Part D, and the Medicare Savings Programs, known as QMB, SLMB, and QI.

Please note that the registration cost has been kept low in hopes that organizations will send multiple staff members. If your agency has active client members with low income who would like to attend but are unable to afford the registration fee, please contact us about a waiver of the fee.

!! ATTENTION !!

We will include a list in each conference packet of names and contact information for all registrants. If you wish to be omitted from the list, please be sure to check the box on the Registration Form.

Workshops will be limited to about 25 participants in each. We will try to put you in your choice of workshop. If it is already full, we will contact you by phone or email and let you know what is available. Please send your registration in early and be sure to give us your full contact information.

**DEADLINE
FOR REGISTRATION:
OCTOBER 15TH**

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME

ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

TELEPHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Please check if you **do not** wish to be included in the list of registrants provided to attendees.

Please choose two workshops. Select one each from the morning and afternoon offerings. Note that not all workshops are offered twice. My two workshop choices are:

MORNING WORKSHOP

AFTERNOON WORKSHOP

Registration fee: \$30.00.

Please make checks payable to:

MAINE EQUAL JUSTICE.

We are unable to accept credit or debit cards.

Please mail your registration form and check or purchase order to:

MAINE EQUAL JUSTICE
126 SEWALL STREET
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330

Are you interested in learning more about Maine's services and supports for families and individuals with low income?

Would you like to be a more effective advocate for your clients?

Do you want to help your clients advocate for themselves?

*Are you interested in networking with other social service providers in the Central Maine area, including **Kennebec, Somerset, Franklin, Androscoggin, Oxford, Knox, and Lincoln Counties**, to share ideas and information about resources?*

If yes, then please join us for a day of learning and networking at the Central Maine Advocacy Conference !

SOCIAL WORKER CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS WILL BE AWARDED BY NASW-MAINE CHAPTER

AGENDA

- 8:00-8:45 Registration/Networking
8:45-9:45 Welcome/Plenary
10:00-11:45 Workshops
12:00-12:45 Lunch/Networking
12:45-1:15 Speaker
1:30-3:15 Workshops
3:30-3:45 Wrap up

If you have questions or special needs, please contact Crystal Bond by phone at 1-866-626-7059, ext. 205 or by email at: cbond@mejp.org

Agencies are encouraged to send employees, as well as one or two members of your client population who have been particularly active with your organization.

PRESENTED BY:

Maine Equal Justice Partners

WORKING TOGETHER WITH:

Androscoggin Head Start
Legal Services for the Elderly
Maine Parent Federation

Southern Kennebec
Child Development Corporation
Spectrum Generations

Care Partners and
Lincoln County Health Care

WITH APPRECIATION TO OUR SPONSORS:

Bangor Savings Bank
Coastal Enterprises Inc.
Kennebec Savings Bank

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Fax: 621-8148
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CENTRAL MAINE ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

INSPIRING EFFECTIVE
ADVOCACY

OCTOBER 28, 2009

8:00 A.M. - 3:45 P.M.
AUGUSTA CIVIC CENTER
AUGUSTA, MAINE



PRESENTED BY

MAINE EQUAL JUSTICE PARTNERS