



Fill in the Blanks

Starting and Running an Elder
Abuse Case Review MDT – A
Coordinator's Perspective

APRIL 24, 2017

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ElderJustice
INITIATIVE



OVCTTAC
OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME Training and Technical Assistance Center



TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

- ▶ If you are experiencing any technical issues with the audio for this session, please let us know in the feedback box. Please make sure you are dialed into:
 - ▶ International toll: 1–913–312–0828
 - ▶ United States/Canada toll free: 1–866–398–2885
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- ▶ If you have technical difficulties during the webinar, contact Jason Adams, who is providing technical support for this webinar. His email address is jadams@ovcttac.org.
- ▶ Today’s session will be recorded and made available on the training website.
- ▶ If you have questions, type them in the feedback box, and we will address as many as possible toward the end of the webinar.

AGENDA

- ▶ About the Elder Justice Initiative (EJI)
- ▶ About the MDT TAC
- ▶ MDT Guide and Toolkit Overview
- ▶ Introduction of Speakers
- ▶ Exploring MDT Structure and Development
- ▶ Common Barriers and Challenges
- ▶ Defining Success
- ▶ Q&A
- ▶ List of Tips

ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The **mission** is to support and coordinate the Department of Justice's enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target older adults.

The Initiative does so by—

- ▶ Promoting justice for older adults.
- ▶ Helping older victims and their families.
- ▶ Enhancing state and local efforts through training and resources.
- ▶ Supporting research to improve elder abuse policy and practice.



Home

en Español

SAFE EXIT

Elder Justice Initiative Home

- ▶ Victims, Families, & Caregivers
- ▶ Financial Exploitation
- ▶ Prosecutors
- ▶ Law Enforcement
- ▶ Victim Specialists
- ▶ Research & Related Literature
- ▶ EJI Outreach
- Contact Us

ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE (EJI)

REPORT ABUSE OR FIND HELP

Find elder abuse training, resources, and protocols

LAW ENFORCEMENT



1 2 3 4 5 6 7



Promoting Justice for Older Americans



Helping Older Victims and Their Families



Enhancing State and Local Efforts Through Training and Resources



Supporting Research to Improve Elder Abuse Policy and Practice

POLL QUESTION

POLL QUESTION

ABOUT THE MDT TAC

- ▶ A new project from the Elder Justice Initiative
- ▶ Our mission is to provide tools, resources, and individualized consultations to facilitate the expansion of elder abuse case review multidisciplinary teams across the nation.

SERVICES

- ▶ Responding to requests for materials (e.g., toolkits or research)
- ▶ Phone consultations to discuss problem solving (e.g., confidentiality issues)
- ▶ In-person consultations for communities needing a more hands-on approach
- ▶ Educational opportunities such as webinars
- ▶ **Newly launched MDT Guide and Toolkit**

INTRODUCING THE MDT GUIDE AND TOOLKIT

- ▶ Purpose
- ▶ Living document
- ▶ Welcome feedback and collaboration!

Menu

► Chapters

Toolkit Items

List of Professionals Code of Ethics

Chapter 5 (with Citations)

Chapter 5: Summary

There are a number of issues your MDT will need to discuss as the framework for the MDT begins construction. The decisions associated with these issues are then formalized in written protocols, which are simply a compilation of the MDTs procedures. Protocols are important in that they provide structure, predictability, and accountability for the MDT. Confidentiality is a topic that engenders considerable debate and passion, but by no means is an insurmountable barrier to information sharing.

Issues to Discuss

At this point, your community has discussed a number of meta-issues such as organizational structure and MDT members. In this chapter, more micro-level issues are raised for discussion, including cultural competency (see Exhibit 1). Ultimately, these decisions will form the foundation for writing protocols that will articulate members' responsibilities and ensure consistency in their work, but for now, your community can discuss the various options associated with each of the issues listed in the Toolkit item: Issues for Initial MDT Discussions.

Take the Time

Be prepared to spend considerable time up front discussing these issues. This process takes more time than many anticipate and it may become frustrating for some members of the MDT. However, this groundwork is crucial for the functioning of the MDT.

Translating Decisions into Protocols

Eventually, your community may want to formalize decisions made about the issues discussed by writing protocols, which are documents that contain information about how the MDT is going to operate, i.e., the procedures. (For examples see the Toolkit item: Sample Protocols and Policies). Procedures describe the steps taken to complete a specific function in the day-to-day operations of the organization and are critical to well-functioning MDTs. Protocols should be somewhat flexible. Too much specificity contained in the protocols can be used against the MDT under certain circumstances.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Interagency Agreement (IAA)

Having recruited members for the MDT, many communities then use a memorandum of understanding (MOU) or an interagency agreement (IAA) to formalize the MDT.

MOUs are formal agreements between two or more parties that outline the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of each party, a document that is typically signed annually. MOUs generally are developed to ensure that the participants understand the scope and boundaries of their relationship to one another (see Toolkit item: Sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), for examples).

Kelli Burnett



Allison Granata



DEVELOPING AN MDT – Structure and Function



DEVELOPING AN MDT-STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION

Can you describe the structure and function of your team?

COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT

- ▶ Composed of 17 team members representing the following agencies/organizations
 - Commonwealth Attorney's Office (prosecutor's office)
 - Richmond Police Department
 - Richmond APS
 - Victim Witness (housed within the prosecutor's office)
 - Senior Connections (community organization)
 - Virginia Center on Aging at Virginia Commonwealth University
 - City Attorney
 - Attorney General's Office – Medicaid Fraud Unit
- ▶ Meetings held quarterly
- ▶ 15 cases (on average) presented at each meeting
- ▶ Meetings last 1-2 hours

FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS)

- ▶ Teams started with a core group of professionals, including:
 - Office for the Aging
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Sheriff's Office
 - District Attorney's Office
 - Local civil legal service provider
- ▶ Each team also has the ability to access a forensic accountant and a geriatric psychiatrist
- ▶ Size of team and frequency of meetings vary to meet the needs of the community

DEVELOPING AN MDT

How did your team get started?

COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT

- ▶ A supervising Commonwealth Attorney was the driving force for the formation of the MDT (Champion)
- ▶ Modeled after a well-established child abuse MDT (Inspiration)

FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS)

- ▶ Stemmed from the Finger Lakes Area Elder Abuse Coalition and recommendations developed during the NYS Elder Abuse Summit
- ▶ Lifespan piloted the use of a forensic accountant with financial exploitation cases, which led to the concept of enhancement of elder abuse MDTs

DEVELOPING AN MDT

How long did it take to hit your stride?

COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT

Inherited a strong team!

FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS)

The keys were:

- more frequent meetings
- having strong relationships between the agencies

DEVELOPING AN MDT

Does your team have designated funding?

COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT

- ▶ No designated funding
 - A paralegal within the prosecutor's office helps coordinate the team

FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS)

- ▶ Started with federal funding through the Elder Abuse Prevention Initiative grant from the Administration for Community Living in 2012
- ▶ Then secured state funding

DEVELOPING AN MDT

How are cases referred to your team, and what is a typical meeting like?

COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT

- ▶ APS is mandated to cross report to LE. The prosecutor's office is copied on those emailed cross reports. The MDT reviews all of those cases.
- ▶ Meetings are facilitated by the prosecutor's office.
- ▶ Case presentations are given by APS and law enforcement.

FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS)

- ▶ Any professional working on a case of financial exploitation can make a referral to the E-MDT coordinator
- ▶ Cases are presented to the team by the professional who has a direct working relationship with the victim

ADAPT TO YOUR ENVIRONMENT



COMMON BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES



POLL QUESTION

COMMON BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

ENGAGEMENT

Do you have any tips for engaging team members?

TIPS – COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT

Crossover with organizations of similar purpose

- ▶ The VCPEA (Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse) has an annual conference that any/all can attend.
- ▶ One of our members leads the Central Virginia Task Force of Domestic Violence in Later Life as well as the Metro Richmond Adult Fatality Review Team.

TIPS – FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS)

Ways to increase engagement

- ▶ Reference similar models
- ▶ Ask ‘reluctant agencies’ to host a meeting
- ▶ Don’t be afraid to name drop!

COMMON BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES

CONFIDENTIALITY

How has your team dealt with confidentiality concerns?

COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT

- ▶ Prosecutor's office maintains records and uses password protection
- ▶ Utilization of confidentiality agreements
- ▶ Statute mandates information sharing

FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS)

- ▶ Utilization of confidentiality agreements
- ▶ NYS APS have guidelines that allow for information sharing

SUCCESS



SUCCESS

What does success look like
to your team?

COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT - SUCCESS

STRONG COLLABORATION!



COMMONWEALTH OF VA MDT - SUCCESS

- ▶ What are the goals of the team?
 - Share information efficiently
 - Review what could have been done better
 - Make system changes or changes in the way an agency worked a case that could have resulted in a better outcome.
- ▶ How does your team measure success?
 - The team does discuss positive outcomes
- ▶ Opportunity for growth
 - This team would like to grow toward being more data driven

FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS) - SUCCESS

- ▶ Putting an end to elder abuse
- ▶ Minimizing risk
- ▶ Perpetrator arrested
- ▶ Perpetrator prosecuted

FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS) - SUCCESS

THE FORENSIC EFFECT!



FINGER LAKES NY E-MDTS (7 TEAMS) – CASE EXAMPLE

Victim: 85 year old female

Suspected Perpetrator: Adult child (POA & HCP)

- Initial referral to Adult Protective Services for self-neglect
- Assessment determined criteria for placement in assisted living
- Preliminary overview of bank statements shows \$10,000 in questionable transactions

Q

&

A



DEVELOPING AN MDT

TIPS:

- Start where you are
- Assess the needs of your community
- Build trusting relationships
- Be the champion or find a champion
- Define success
- Do the ground work
 - Building a strong foundation is essential. Define terms, agree upon common language, work through confidentiality issues, develop MOUs, agree upon contributions from all agencies, develop protocol, agree upon your mission and objectives, celebrate your successes, talk to each other, rinse and repeat.

CONTACT THE MDT TAC

- ▶ For consultation referrals or to collaborate, contact:

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QUESTIONS & SUGGESTIONS

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