Successful Collaboration Between APS And Victim Services

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If you have technical difficulties during the webinar, contact Kaila Hough, who is providing technical support for this webinar. Her email address is Khough@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. We will address as many as possible throughout the webinar.
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.
You're fighting elder abuse on the front lines. We've got your back.

The mission of the Elder Justice Initiative is to support and coordinate the Department’s enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target our Nation’s seniors.

- **Outreach Materials**
  Get involved, get safe community presentations, pamphlets, and materials on all types of elder abuse.

- **Prosecutor Video Series**
  Training videos geared toward successful prosecution of elder abuse cases.

- **Elder Abuse Research**
  References to articles, books, and government reports on all types of elder abuse and financial exploitation topics.

- **MDT Guide & Toolkit**
  Start or grow a local elder abuse case review multidisciplinary team with this research- and resource-rich toolkit.

- **Financial Exploitation & Reporting**
  Learn about financial scams and find the right reporting agency.

- **Webinars**
  Webinars targeted to elder abuse professionals and those interested in elder abuse topics.

- **Elder Abuse Statutes**
  State statutes relevant to elder abuse cases.
PRESENTERS

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Executive Director, NAPSA
Successful Collaboration Between APS And Victim Services

Keeley Frank, Senior Services Specialist
VictimConnect Resource Center
National Center for Victims of Crime

Trudy Gregorie, Executive Director
National Adult Protective Services Association
The National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) was formed in 1985 as the Nation’s leading resource and advocacy organization for victims of all types of crimes and for the people who serve them.

- Advocates for stronger rights, protections, and services for victims.
- Provides critical training, education, and evaluation.
- Serves as a trusted source of current information on victims’ rights.
About NAPSA

Formed in 1989 as a national association for adult protective services (APS) professionals.

Strengthen APS via—

- Education
- Research
- Advocacy
About APS

- 64% of APS are state-administered, 15% are county-administered, and 21% are administered various other ways, including NPOs on contract.
- Serves as a victim-focused, social services response.
- Receives abuse reports and attempts to remedy or reduce abuse.
- Works with law enforcement, criminal justice, area agencies on aging, and other aging services.
APS ≠ APS: Variations Among States and Communities

- No common definition of who is served in each state nor what services they receive.

- Residence of victim – APS investigates in—
  - Community: 100% of states
  - Facilities: 50% of states

- Eligibility for APS response—
  - 42 states: all adults with disabilities age 18+
  - Some states: age 60+ only, or must be age 60+ and meet the state definition of “vulnerable”
Faced with ever-increasing caseloads, as well as increased case complexity, APS staff work hard to locate and access needed services for clients.

Multidisciplinary cooperation is at the heart of APS work, whether through formal multidisciplinary teams (MDT) or informally across community agencies and colleagues.

APS works closely with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors and courts, community-based aging services, and, more and more, with victim services.
Crime Interrelationship with Elder Abuse

- Homicide
- Assault & battery
- Sexual assault
- Domestic violence
- Institutional abuse, neglect & fraud
- Theft & fraud
- Identity theft
- Drugs
Basic Crime Victim Services

- Needs assessment
- Crisis intervention
- Emergency financial assistance
- Home safety checks
- Safety planning
- Social support enhancement
- Medical issues
- Mental health counseling
- Victim support groups
- Legal advocacy
- Referrals for social services
Why Collaborate?
Working with Older Victims and Survivors
Assisting Older Victims

- Multiple needs
  - Older persons’ abilities are along a continuum
- Multiple victimizations
  - Polyvictimization – abusers or forms of abuse
- May have long history of abuse
- Fewer personal alternatives
- Fewer community resources
- The victim may be dependent on the abuser or the abuser may be dependent on them
- May need help from multiple systems
Coordinated Community Response

- Religious Leaders
- Advocates
- Criminal Justice System
- Disabilities Community
- Adult Protective Agencies
- Health Professionals
- Judges & Civil Legal Professionals
- LTC Ombudsman
- Community Policy Makers & Legislators
Who Can I Call?

- Prosecutors and Courts
- Aging Services Network
- Crime Victim Services
- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Law Enforcement

(Courtesy of National Center on Elder Abuse)
“No Wrong Doors” Approach

(From National Center on Elder Abuse)

Informal Networks and Existing Relationships

APS or Law Enforcement Investigators

Community Services and Advocacy
Collaborating on Older Victims’ Rights and Services

- Information & referral services
- Implementation of victims’ rights
- Training & technical assistance
- Public policy initiatives
- Research initiatives & data collection
- Increase funding and awareness
Building Bridges

- Be proactive in building a bridge with your local APS and your local victim service providers.
- Find out where APS and victim services are housed in your community.
- Find out what types of vulnerable adult abuse is reported to APS under your state’s laws, how your services overlap, and where there are gaps.
- Find out where/how to locate aging services in your community.

*Working together is critical to serving abused vulnerable adults effectively!!*
How APS and Victim Services Can Better Interact

- Get to know how each other’s systems work.
- Create opportunities to cross-train.
- Invite each other to serve on local MDTs, coalitions, or task forces.
- Develop memoranda of understanding or interagency agreements for collaboration on older victim issues, individual case management, and elder justice.
Engaging Networks and Coalitions

Develop partnerships for—

- Public awareness activities (can link to victim-related commemorative observances and to WEAAD or Older Americans Month)
- Victim- and elder justice-related public policy development and implementation
- Committees and task forces
- Ongoing funding for mutual interests and issues
Why collaborate on strategic planning around elder abuse?

- Current environment, everyone must focus on making operations as efficient and effective as possible, including APS and victim services.
- Increasing demands for services, shrinking resources, and greater expectations.
- Strategic planning is a proactive tool to seek and manage change.
National Resource

Victim Connect resource center

Confidential referrals for crime victims 855-4-VICTIM

- Anonymous
- All crimes
- 200+ languages
- National & local referrals
Questions & Suggestions

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