



Successful Collaboration Between APS And Victim Services

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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.
- ▶ If you have technical difficulties during the webinar, contact Kaila Hough, who is providing technical support for this webinar. Her email address is Kough@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.

ELDERJUSTICE.GOV

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.



PRESENTERS

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Successful Collaboration Between APS And Victim Services

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National Center for Victims of Crime**

**Trudy Gregorie, Executive Director
National Adult Protective Services Association**



About NCVC

- 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.

TEAMWORK

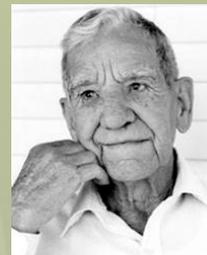


About NAPSA

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”



Multidisciplinary Approach

- 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

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Why Collaborate?

Working with Older Victims and Survivors



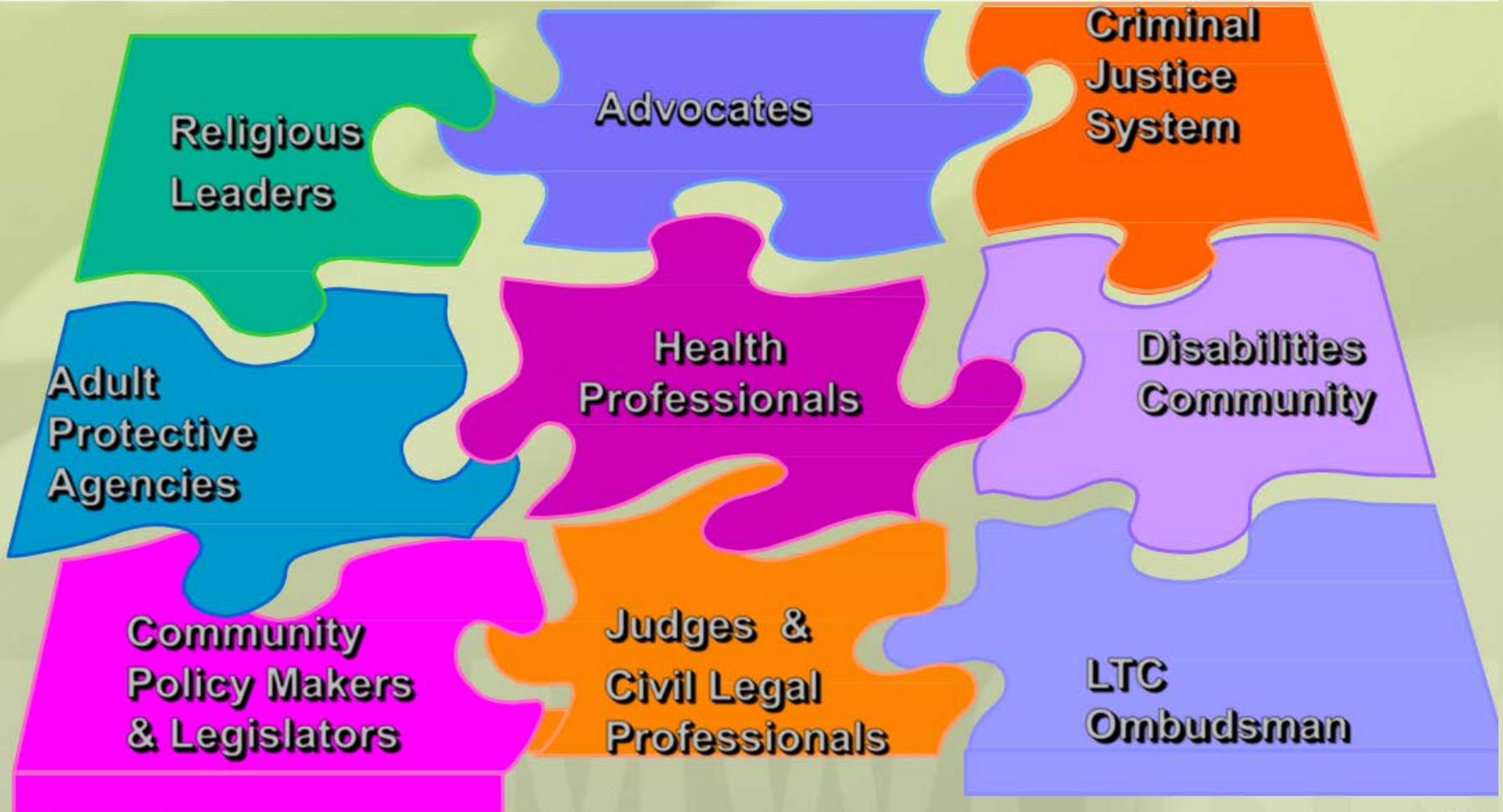
HEALTHY WORK



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





Who Can I Call?

**Prosecutors
and Courts**

**Aging
Services
Network**

**Adult
Protective
Services
(APS)**

**Crime
Victim
Services**



**Law
Enforcement**

**Long Term
Care
Ombudsman**



“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

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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.

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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.

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National Resource

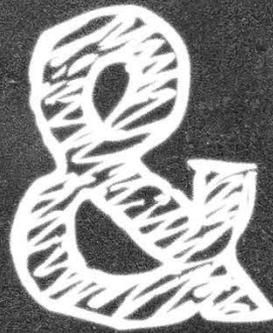
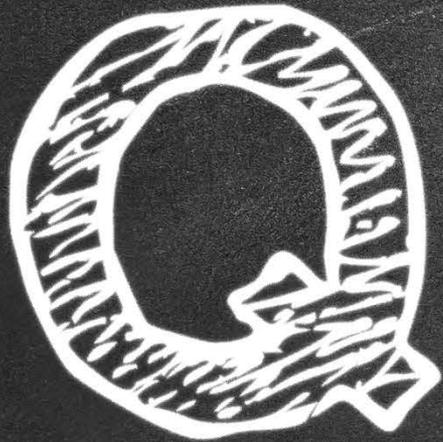


Confidential referrals for crime victims



855-4-VICTIM

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



Questions & Suggestions

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