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NCEA Invites You to "Join Us in the Fight against Elder Abuse"

In the upcoming months, the NCEA is embarking on a campaign to encourage dynamic involvement from not only the aging services and affiliated networks, but also from the public at large to recognize elder abuse as a widespread societal issue and *to take action* in preventing it.

- May is Older Americans' Month, a month traditionally dedicated to focusing attention on elder rights issues.
- For four weeks beginning on May 22nd, the NCEA will run a 15 second elder abuse information piece featuring actor William Mapother on movie-screens throughout the U.S. This is the first time that one unified message regarding elder mistreatment will be echoed throughout the country.
- June 15th is the fourth annual observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), dedicated to raising global recognition of this universal phenomenon.

In and of themselves, each event is significant. Together, however, they converge to provide the elder abuse response network with an unprecedented opportunity to engage public attention, enlist public support, and generate activity and involvement at a grassroots level. In the next few months, to maximize this opportunity, the NCEA is aggressively enlisting action to find ways communities and individuals can affect long lasting changes in the lives of vulnerable seniors.

"We want the aging services network involved in organizing and mobilizing their communities. We also want individuals to know they can take personal action in addressing this issue," said Sharon Merriman-Nai of the NCEA.

See [NCEA INVITES](#), Page 2

Generating Awareness, Fostering Action, in the Fight Against Elder Abuse

In the NCEA movie theater elder abuse information piece, actor William Mapother asks viewers to "Join Us in the Fight Against Elder Abuse." The NCEA public will campaign echoes that sentiment. "Civic engagement is essential to the elder abuse campaign; it also reverberates with the tenor of the current administration," said Ms. Merriman-Nai. "After piloting the student arts competition last spring, many of the contestants bombarded us with questions about how to get involved. We also hear this from those who write to the NCEA.

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NCEA INVITES

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According to Dr. Karen Stein, project supervisor of NCEA public awareness activities, based at the University of Delaware, a 'public will' campaign targeting elder abuse must pivot on two major concepts. "First, the public needs to see the issue of elder abuse as one of significant, personal relevance. Just as importantly, they must also come to feel empowered to create change – to make a difference in the lives of vulnerable adults. " While these objectives may seem straightforward, the decades that elder abuse has remained hidden in the shadows suggests otherwise.

To capitalize on the upcoming opportunities, NCEA is urging the aging services networks – including Adult Protective Services, Area Agencies on Aging, coalitions such as Triads and SALT teams, among others – to "join us" by actively soliciting the involvement of their organizations and community members in this effort. The roll-out of the elder abuse information piece in movie theaters will amplify the theme piloted in the NCEA Student Arts Competition last spring: "Why Should I Care about Elder Abuse?"

Simply and directly, this tagline asks individuals across generations why the issue should matter to them personally. A new NCEA fact sheet of the same name also emphasizes that *every* aging individual can become vulnerable to mistreatment, and that *everyone* has a role to play in its prevention. (To access the fact sheet, go to the "Latest

Downloads" of the NCEA Home Page at <http://NCEA.acl.gov>

In preparation for these events, the NCEA is developing a "virtual press kit" designed for use by aging services and other professional and advocacy organizations to engage the public. The press kit will be available around April 22nd and include fact sheets for replication and distribution, talking points to help in working with the media, and other materials organizations can use in promoting awareness. In addition, NCEA will be hosting a web cast in late April on "Media Moxie" to provide tips on how to capture media attention (see "Generating Awareness" and web cast announcement in this newsletter).

We hope your communities and organizations will "Join Us" this year in what we hope to be a national effort of local communities simultaneously drawing attention to the problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and in recognizing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The featured articles of this month's newsletter will provide activity ideas that you or your communities can undertake, share examples of what some communities are already planning, and provide information on helpful resources. In the May and June newsletters, we plan continued coverage of public awareness events around elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

For more information on how you can join us in the fight against elder abuse, or to share your plans, please contact the NCEA at ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov or visit <http://ncea.acl.gov>.

How Will Your Community Observe WEAAD 2009?

June 15th, 2009, is the fourth annual *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)*, intended to foster global recognition of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) will be hosting official World Elder Abuse Awareness Day events in Paris, France on July 5th, 2009 in conjunction with the International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics Conference. For more information on what is planned, please visit the INPEA website at <http://www.inpea.net>.

The NCEA would like to hear about your public awareness activities planned to observe *WEAAD*. In hopes of supporting this day, we encourage you to email us with your plans for the event, and send any public awareness materials you have created in connection with the event. We will feature these activities in upcoming newsletters for May, June, and July.

Here are some activities already scheduled to commemorate WEAAD:

Arizona Student Arts Competition: Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?

For the first time, the NCEA piloted theme "*Why Should I Care about Elder Abuse*" has been adapted for a statewide student arts competition. High school juniors in Arizona are invited to submit original posters, poems, or essays addressing the question. The competition is the result of collaboration among the

Arizona Attorney General's Office, the Arizona Elder Abuse Coalition, Free Arts of Arizona, and Wells Fargo.

"While my office has prosecuted and will continue to go after perpetrators of elder abuse, it is my hope that increased awareness of the issue will help stop abuse before it begins," said state Attorney General Terry Goddard when kicking off the competition.

The contest will run through March 31st, with entrants eligible for first, second, third place and honorable mention prizes. Contest results will be announced in April. In addition to prizes, winning entries will also be incorporated in a statewide outreach campaign scheduled to coincide with WEAAD this June.

During a press conference, Rachel Oesterle of Arizona Free Arts stated, "The arts can help bridge divides, and this contest gives youth the opportunity to be creative, raise awareness and make a difference in the lives of Arizona's seniors."

NCEA piloted the contest in Delaware in the spring of 2008 with high school students from the Cab Calloway School of the Arts. For more information on the project, visit: http://www.ncea.acl.gov/NCEAroot/Main_Site/Resources/Newsletter. Those interested in developing similar competitions are encouraged to contact NCEA at ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov. A replication manual is currently under development.

Tennessee Elder Abuse Conference

Marchell A. Gardner, Long-Term Care Ombudsman with the Northwest Tennessee Human Resource Agency in Martin, TN, sent us this notice of their plans to recognize WEAAD:

“Every year the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging and Disability host an Elder Abuse Conference for the Northwest Tennessee 9 county area. It has grown exponentially over the last 5 years. We continue to look for fresh new ideas to present and tools to help raise awareness of the plight of the victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation.”

New York City Elder Abuse Conference - “Safety in a Storm: Identification and Prevention of Elder Abuse”

Mara Schecter, LCSW, Queens District Director of Elder Abuse Programs out of Rego Park, NY, shared with us about their upcoming conference. This free multidisciplinary conference will be held in conjunction with WEAAD on June 2, 2009, at The New School, Tishman Auditorium, 66 West 12th Street, NYC, with NY CLE credits available to participating attorneys.

This New York area conference brings together experts in gerontology and advocates for the elderly. Panels and lectures at the various workshops will promote health and wellness-focused prevention and intervention strategies in the context of the current economic climate and its implications for mistreatment and exploitation of the elderly.

The conference is sponsored by: JASA, The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention; The Hebrew Home at Riverdale, The New School University, Fordham University, The City of New York’s Department for the Aging, The Human Resources Administration-Adult Protective Services, The Carter Burden Center on Aging. For complete program and registration information, contact ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov or telephone 718-286-1521.

Submit Your Community Activities and Ideas to the NCEA Newsletter

In future issues of the E-News, we will continue to profile the efforts of organizations to commemorate this day. We look forward to sharing your submissions and hope that they will inspire others to plan activities to raise awareness about of elder abuse and neglect.

To submit your community activities and ideas to be shared in the upcoming NCEA E-News, please click ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov.

For more ideas for observing WEAAD, please see the [“Community Guide to Raise World Awareness on Adult Abuse”](#) developed by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Upcoming NCEA Webcast: Media Moxie: Informing the Public About Elder Abuse

The NCEA recognizes that the media is a vital partner in raising awareness of elder abuse. The next NCEA webinar will focus

on how to engage the media to promote coverage of news and activities related to elder mistreatment. The purpose of this webcast is to help APS practitioners, elder abuse advocates, aging services providers, and other professionals learn the best ways to get information on elder abuse and available services to the public.

The presentation is scheduled for **Thursday, April 30, 2009, 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern Time**, to coincide with National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Moya Thompson, Public Information Officer at the U.S. Administration on Aging, Dan Baron, a former Chicago Tribune reporter and a not for profit communications consultant, are among the presenters, and Tracy Breton of the Providence Journal.

The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), in its capacity as NCEA grantee responsible for training initiatives, will host the quarterly event.

To register, please click here to go directly to the Webcast Registration Page at

<http://www.telspan.com/Registration/AnonymousLandingPage.aspx?EventNo=3643> . Registration information and details of the webcast are also available on the

NCEA Featured Events page http://www.ncea.acl.gov/NCEARoot/Main_Site/Library/Events_Webcast, and will be circulated through the NCEA Elderabuse listserv at http://www.ncea.acl.gov/NCEARoot/Main_Site/Resources/NCEA_Listserve.

GENERATING AWARENESS

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We need to harness that excitement and channel it into prevention efforts."

In order to capitalize on this enthusiasm, NCEA is compiling a comprehensive list of ideas that aging services and other professionals may use to cultivate public involvement. These activity prompts will be included in the virtual "Join Us" press kit. Some activities are for groups or organizations, others are ideas that individuals and/or families can carry-out on their own throughout the year. Ideas are presented for youths, adults, and older adults as well. The ideas also range in the degree of commitment required.

The following is a sampling of the activities to be included in the press kit. They can be coordinated with Older Americans Month, World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEADD), and the NCEA movie theater elder abuse information piece, but many of these ideas also may be used to generate long-term involvement.

Join Us at the Movies:

- To capitalize on the NCEA elder abuse information piece showing in theaters, organizations can ask theaters for permission to host a press conference at the venue featuring local officials or spokespersons for the cause, or for permission to distribute outreach literature on site.

- Dinner and a Movie: Why not suggest a partnering between a restaurant and a theater where it will be showing? Patrons who visit a movie theater showing the information piece can present a “golden ticket” to the participating restaurant to receive a free appetizer or a discount on their meal. A variation on this would be to have your local movie theater give a free small popcorn to patrons who mention the information piece.
- Or, create a “Dine Out Against Elder Abuse” event to raise funds and awareness for a local nonprofit organization that provides services to elders who have been victimized.

Organize a Group Event:

- Purple is the color that has been designated for elder abuse awareness by the International Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. Distribute purple ribbons to your staff, nursing home professionals, Adult Protective Service staff, law enforcement, and other community organizations and members, and encourage them to wear purple in recognition of WEAAD on June 15th.
- Sponsor a Clothesline Arts Show: Ask participants to create works on the theme of “Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse.” These shows can take place at community and senior centers, faith based organizations, shopping malls, or can be tied into senior health fairs. Local libraries and government buildings may also be

encouraged to display the created works.

- Ask local banks or utilities to include small elder abuse awareness inserts (that your organization supplies) in their May or June statements and bills reminding their customers of WEAAD and refer them to any “Join Us” activities your community is holding. You can find factsheets on the NCEA website <http://ncea.acl.gov> that you could use or modify for the inserts or flyers.

Reaching Out – Suggested Activities for Individuals and Families:

Isolation is a known risk factor for elder abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and isolation. Yet, reducing isolation and helping to prevent elder abuse is as simple as sparing a second to reach out to our seniors. On World Day, and throughout the year, each of us as individuals can do something simple and invaluable to help in the fight against elder abuse. For example:

- Write a letter to the Editor, or author a Guest Commentary for your local newspaper or community, college, alumni, parish, neighborhood, or professional organizations’ newsletters. Or, if feeling more ambitious, organize a letter writing campaign.
- Commit to visiting an older friend, family member, or neighbor who lives alone, or invite them to a family activity, such as a Little League Game. Or ask an older acquaintance to share their talents by teaching you

and your children a new skill, such as knitting, or how to bake their favorite recipe.

- Volunteer at a local chapter of Meals on Wheels – or pledge to commit to one day a month. Home-delivered meals can be helpful in preventing self-neglect. It also allows the volunteer to observe if the senior is managing well at home, or if he or she may need other assistance.
- Become a Senior Companion: Encourage those 60 or over to become a companion to a frail elderly individual to help them retain their independence. To learn more about this program, click here <http://www.seniorcorps.gov/about/programs/sc.asp>.

We hope these suggestions are helpful as you begin thinking about how you, your organization, and your community members can “Join Us” this year to address the problem of elder abuse. WEAAD, Older Americans Month, and the NCEA elder abuse information piece provide great vehicles for highlighting simple yet effective ways that anyone can become involved. The benefits to vulnerable seniors and the programs that serve them will last well beyond June 15th. Remember to visit the website of the NCEA after April 22nd for a more comprehensive list of activity suggestions for WEAAD, Older Americans Month, and throughout the year.

To submit an idea to generate public involvement, or to share feedback on your experiences, please email the NCEA at: ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov.

Special thanks to Carolyn Petrak of the Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly at the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service for contributing to this article.

Online Resources: NCEA Fact Sheet, NALC Pod Casts, and Journalism Styleguide

NCEA Fact Sheet: Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?

The NCEA has developed a new, 2-page fact sheet designed for the general public. The fact sheet was written for consumers (and professionals not currently knowledgeable of elder abuse) who have no background in the topic. The fact sheet covers basic questions such as:

- What is Elder Abuse?
- Who is at Risk?
- What Should I Do If I Suspect Elder Abuse?
- What Are the Warning Signs?
- What Can I Do to Prevent Elder Abuse?

The fact sheet reinforces the theme that elder abuse is an issue of personal relevance, and one that all members of society have a stake in preventing. In addition, it provides guidelines for obtaining reporting numbers and web resources. Please note that the fact sheet

is not intended for professional audiences or mandated reporters.

The fact sheet is free for downloading, reproducing, emailing, and/or distributing, and might be especially useful for public events such as conferences, senior information fairs, health centers, and other venues. It can also be included in home delivered meals, or as a special flyer/insert in other mailings, such as from utility companies or other agency communications. We encourage you to disseminate them to all contacts of interest.

- To access the fact sheet, visit the "Latest Downloads" box on the NCEA home page at: <http://ncea.acl.gov>.

Coming Soon: A Customizable, State-Specific Fact Sheet!

After April 22nd, the NCEA will also make available online a version of the above fact sheet that can be customized with state-specific information. The state-specific template of the "Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse?" will include guidelines on how state and local agencies can customize the fact sheet with information specific to your state, such as laws, definitions, statistics, resources, etc.

Free CLE Pod Casts from the 2008 National Aging and Law Conference

Selected workshops from the 2008 National Aging and Law Conference (NALC) are now available as recorded audio pod casts accessible from the American Bar Association Commission on

Law and Aging CLE web page at <http://www.abanet.org/aging/cle/home.shtml>.

The following new workshops have recently been uploaded:

- Florida's Model Approach to Statewide Legal Services: A Partnership That Works for Florida's Seniors
Presenters: Valerie Soroka, Maureen Kelly, Mary Haberland, Sarah Halsell, Carol Moody
- Power of Attorney Abuse: Strategies for Legislative Reform
Presenters: Lori Stiegel, Naomi Karp, Laura Watts, Linda Whitton

In all, seven pod casts from the 2008 and ten from the 2007 conferences are accessible online. Technical information for downloading the files is provided on the web, as well as information on obtaining continuing legal education credits. Funding for online access to the presentation was provided by the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Human Services. To access the workshop pod casts, <http://www.abanet.org/aging/cle/home.shtml>.

Media Takes: On Aging: A Styleguide for Journalism, Entertainment and Advertising

(Nicole S. Dahmen, Ph.D. and Raluca Cozma, editors. International Longevity Center-USA and Aging Services of California. 2009.)

A new publication by the International Longevity Center and the Aging Services

of California addresses the “embedded...ageist attitudes” in media and marketing. This report defines the relevance of marketing and media to the senior population due to aging of the baby boomer generation and the increased lifespan of the average person. Media coverage of elder abuse and other issues concerning seniors is addressed, as well as ageism in entertainment, journalism, and advertising.

The media’s portrayal of older persons directly affects how older people view themselves and how they are viewed by others. The report includes statistics on the underrepresentation of older Americans in television and other forms of entertainment. It also describes the negative stereotyping and condescending nature of advertisements depicting seniors. While one extreme depicts older persons as “dependent,” “despondent,” and “curmudgeon,” the other extreme, which depicts older Americans as wealthy, active, and the “leisure class” perpetuates unrealistic expectations for what to expect later in life. The report concludes with recommendations for the accurate and balanced portrayal of aging in journalism, entertainment, and advertising sectors.

- To download Media Takes: On Aging: A Styleguide for Journalism, Entertainment and Advertising, <http://www.ilcusa.org/media/pdfs/Media%20Takes%20On%20Aging.pdf>.

Funding Opportunities

Following are recently announced scholarship, grant, and other funding opportunities.

Crime and Justice Research

As quoted from the web site, the National Institute of Justice “is seeking applicants for its Crime and Justice Research solicitation. This grant provides funding for social and behavioral research on, and evaluations related to, crime and justice topics relevant to state and/or local criminal and juvenile justice policy and practice....” *Predicting Crime, Emerging Crime, and Improving the Criminal Justice System: Prosecution and Defense* are three of the priority research topics identified for FY 2009.

- **Application deadline (extended):** April 9, 2009
- **For more information click here:** <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl000869.pdf>.

Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program: State Solicitation

The Bureau of Justice Assistance will be “making awards to assist state, local and tribal efforts to prevent or reduce crime and violence.... Applicants are limited to states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. To view the eligibility list, click here: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/recoveryallocations.html>.

- **Application deadline:** April 9, 2009
- **For more information:**
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/JAGrecoveryState.pdf>.

Recovery Act: Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Formula Program: Local Solicitation

The Bureau of Justice Assistance will be “making awards to assist local and tribal efforts to prevent or reduce crime and violence....” Applicants are limited to units of local government appearing on the Recovery Act JAG allocation list. Visit the JAG web site for definitions of “units of local government.”

- **Application Deadline:** May 18, 2009
- **For More Information:**
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/recoveryJAG/recoveryjag.html>.

Research and Evaluation on the Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Elderly: Individuals and Residents of Residential Care Facilities

As quoted from the web site, the National Institute of Justice “is soliciting proposals for Research and Evaluation on the Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Elderly Individuals and Residents of Residential Care Facilities. Applicants should base their study on individuals older than 60. Proposed evaluations that include measurements of program fidelity and implementation, those with multiple units of analysis and multiple measurements, and those that include cost-benefit analysis will be given priority....” Identified priority areas include the identification of forensic

markers of abuse; the use of medication as a form of elder abuse; evaluation of programs addressing elder abuse; examination of risk and protective factors; and the study of typologies of abusers and abusive situations.

- **Application deadline:** April 10, 2009
- **For more information:**
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl000863.pdf>

Borchard Foundation 2009-2010 Fellowship In Law and Aging

The Borchard Fellowship in Law & Aging affords one year for two law school graduates interested in, and perhaps already in the early stages of pursuing, an academic and/or professional career in law and aging, the opportunity to pursue their research and professional interests.

The fellowship is \$40,000 and intended as a full-time position only. Fellows must be either U.S. citizens or legal residents of the U.S. The period runs from July 1st to June 30th each year, or for the calendar year beginning the month after completion of a state bar examination. Details on the fellowship requirements, application process, and application forms are available from the Borchard Foundation website at <http://www.borchardcenter.org>.

- **Application deadline:** Applications must be postmarked by **April 15, 2009**; selections will be made by June 1, 2009.

For more information: contact Mary Jane Ciccarello 801-598-5810 or by

email at: mjcr@xmission.com, or visit the Borchard Foundation website at <http://www.borchardcenter.org>.

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand Grants

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand awards grants to improve outreach to, and services for, crime victims. Grassroots, nonprofit, community-based, and faith-based victim services organizations are among those eligible to apply.

- **Application deadline:** Open, dependent upon available funding.
- **For more information:** <http://www.ovc.gov/fund/expandingoutreach/welcome.html>.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week: "25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act"

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime and the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) annually collaborate to promote victims' rights, and to honor crime victims and their advocates through a nationwide observance. This year, April 26th through May 2nd has been designated National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

As a prelude to the weeklong commemoration, the Office of Victims of Crime will sponsor two events in Washington, D.C.:

- Thursday, April 23, 2009, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Eastern Time

National Observance and Candlelight Ceremony
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
1615 H Street NW., Washington, D.C.

- Friday, April 24, 2009, 1:30–3:00 p.m. ET
National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony
Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium
1301 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, D.C.

To promote community involvement during National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and to support and sustain public awareness efforts throughout the year, the NCVC has produced the 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week Resource Guide
<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ncvrw2009/welcome.html>.

Not only is the resource guide a valuable tool for commemorating the weeklong observance, members of the aging services arena will find the guide useful in generating and planning events to commemorate WEAAD.

For more information on National Crime Victims' Rights Week visit:
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>

State News – Updates on Innovations, Projects, and Programs

Every few months, the NCEA E-News highlights innovative projects and programs from various states. This

month, we feature news from Delaware, Hawaii, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. The next "State News" feature is scheduled for July 2009. Please email the NCEA at ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov if your state has an innovative or exciting project or program that you would like to share with others!

Delaware: Senior Protection Task Force Initiatives Training Event

The Delaware Senior Protection Task Force, established in October 2008 by State Attorney General Joseph R. "Beau" Biden, III, has targeted two major areas of activity: training and public awareness. Within its first six months, the coalition has made significant strides to addressing the first of these initiatives. During the first week in April, it will provide a free, two-day training event for first responders and others involved in elder abuse prevention, response, and prosecution.

The training will be led by Special Investigator Lester Johnson, Delaware Department of Justice and Social Services Administrator Pamela Williams, Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) APS. Both have participated in the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) Elder Abuse Instructor Training Program, and attendees will receive a certificate of completion from FLETC. Approximately 90 participants are currently registered, including several from surrounding states. For those in the area who may have missed the initial conference, the team plans to present the training in each of the state's three counties.

The team is comprised of approximately two dozen representatives from the fields of APS, law enforcement, criminal justice, home health care, the banking/financial industry, guardianship, victims' services, and education and research. Now that the training initiative is underway, the team has set its sight on mounting a WEAAD activity to engage community members in elder abuse awareness.

The training is being sponsored by the task force, the Delaware Department of Justice, DHSS, WSFSbank, and Bayada Nurses and is being hosted by the New Castle County Police Department.

Hawaii Anti-Fraud Conference: PROTECT, DETECT, REPORT - Keeping Hawaii Safe for Our Kupuna

The State Executive Office on Aging and Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) of Hawaii, in conjunction with the City and County of Honolulu's Elderly Affairs Division, are sponsoring an anti-fraud conference on Saturday, April 25, 2009, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for consumers. The conference will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Presenters will provide tips on how to:

- PROTECT elders from fraud;
- DETECT different types of fraud; and how and to whom to REPORT fraud.

The event will focus on the exploitation of seniors in fraudulent healthcare and financial schemes. Featured speakers include Mary Twomey, Co-Director of the Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect at the University of California at

Irvine, and Dr. Kimo Alameda, Director of the Office of Multicultural Services, Adult Mental Health Division, Hawaii State Department of Health. Presenters will also include representative of various state, county, and federal agencies, and community organizations.

The conference requires advanced registration. Fees are \$10 for seniors (60 years of age and over) and \$30 for non-seniors. The deadline to register is April 20, 2009. For more information, Click Here:

<http://hawaii.gov/health/eoa/Docs/FraudConf.pdf>.

Nevada: Elder Abuse Online Training Proposed

On March 18, Assemblywoman Kathy McClain, Democrat-Las Vegas, proposed AB260 to state lawmakers. The measure would require professionals who interact with seniors to complete online training designed to aid them in recognizing warning signs and symptoms of elder abuse. The course would be an annual requirement.

Approximately 30 disciplines are targeted for the training requirement, including professionals who traditionally work with older individuals, such as health and social service professionals, and caregivers in nursing home settings. In addition, dentists, podiatrists, marriage and family therapists, coroners, and first responders, among others, are also named in the proposal. Course content would cover issues such as bruising as an indicator of potential physical abuse (versus the result of accidental falls,

etc.) and medication mismanagement. Assemblywoman McClain plans to draw upon existing elder abuse training curricula to develop course content.

Pennsylvania: Schuylkill County District Attorney's Elder Abuse Unit

In February, Schuylkill County District Attorney James Goodman announced the creation of a special elder abuse unit to address crimes against seniors. At a press conference, the DA stated that the unit was launched to fight "for those who cannot fight for themselves."

The development of the unit was triggered by an escalation in financial exploitation cases in the county. Notably, a recent case involving the theft of \$200,000 from an 88 year old resident of Schuylkill Center Nursing Home, who suffers from dementia, prompted the DA to take this action. Prosecutors indicate that this is the greatest amount in a case of financial abuse in the area, and charges have been filed. Twenty-four percent of the county population is comprised of citizens aged 60 and over.

The Unit will be headed by Assistant District Attorney Thomas J. Champion who is also a certified public accountant and will prosecute cases involving alleged financial exploitation of elders. Assistant District Attorney Allyn M. Starry will lead prosecution of cases involving alleged physical and mental abuse. The unit will also include representatives from law enforcement and social services. A primary goal will to be increase awareness and encourage prevention strategies, in addition to increasing prosecution of these crimes.

To submit news on your state's latest project or program, email NCEA: ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov.

Editorial Note

State News, Elder Abuse Research and Literature, and the Federal Legislative Update are quarterly postings. On schedule for upcoming E-News:

- May 2009 - Federal Legislative Update
- June 2009 - Elder Abuse Research and Literature
- July 2009 – State News

Calendar of Events

April 24-25, 2009

Academy on Violence and Abuse 2009 Scientific Conference: *Sowing Seeds of Academic Change, Nurturing New Paradigms*

Holiday Inn Select & Suites Minneapolis International Airport-Mall of America Minneapolis, Minnesota
Web site: <http://www.avahealth.org/>

April 26 – May 2, 2009

National Crime Victims' Rights Week National Weeklong Observance
Web site: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>
Telephone: Tel: 202-973-8715

May 14 – 16, 2009

Equal Justice Conference
Double Tree Hotel Universal Orlando Orlando, Florida
Web site: <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/ejc/>

June 2, 2009

Fourth Annual New York City Elder Abuse Conference - Safety in a Storm: Identification and Prevention of Elder Abuse
The New School Institute for Retired Professionals
12 West 66th Street
New York, New York
Email: nyc%20elderabuseconference2009@gmail.com

June 22 – 24, 2009

National Center for Victims of Crime National Conference
Hyatt Regency Washington Capitol Hill Washington, DC
Web site: <http://www.ncvc.org>

July 19 – July 22, 2009

N4a Annual Conference and Trade Show: Highlighting INNOVATIONS in Aging
Minneapolis, MN
Web site: <http://www.n4a.org>

September 21 - 26, 2009

Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma: 14th International Conference on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma
Town and Country Resort and Convention Center
San Diego, California
Email: ivatconf@alliant.edu
Web site: <http://www.ivatcenters.org>

October 27 – 30, 2009

20th Annual NAPSA Conference/26th Annual Texas APS Conference
El Tropicano Holiday Inn
San Antonio, Texas
Email: APSConference@dfps.state.tx.us
Web site: <http://www.dfps.state.tx.us>
Telephone: 210-223-9461

August 24-26, 2009

2009 Florida Conference on Aging
Trade Winds Island Resort
St. Pete Beach, Florida
Web site: <http://www.fcoa.org>
Telephone: 850-222-8877

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