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Elder Abuse Bytes

December, 2012

The newsletter of the National Center on Elder Abuse



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS: Seasonal Advice to Prevent Elder Abuse

Going home for the holidays? The National Center on Elder Abuse has partnered with the Eldercare Locator administered by The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) to produce a consumer guide, "Protect Your Pocketbook: Tips to Avoid Financial Exploitation" This guide can help inform older adults and their loved ones on elder financial abuse. The holiday season is a great time to make sure your elderly family members are safe in their homes.

Please feel free to download and distribute

http://www.n4a.org/pdf/n4a_Financial_Exploitation_Brochure_for_508.pdf

TECHNOLOGY: 368+ Smart Phone App for California Law Enforcement

368+ Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Guide for CA Law Enforcement is available for Droid devices, iPhone, iPad and mobile web! The app includes an easy-to-reference summary of Elder and Dependent Adult Penal Code 368 and other common crimes that can be used in conjunction with a PC 368 arrest. Other first responders may also be interested in the Warning Signs of Abuse and Neglect, as well as Agency Contacts for cross-reporting and providing assistance to the victim. This app is brought to you by a partnership between the [Institute on Aging](#) in San Francisco and the [Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse and Neglect](#) at UC Irvine. For a limited time, this app is available free of charge, thanks to supporters like The Archstone Foundation and UniHealth Foundation. To download your free app or to learn more, visit

<http://www.centeronelderabuse.org/368ElderAbuseCA.asp>

PREVENTION: Protecting Mom & Dad's Money

Consumer Reports has published an article for their January 2013 issue called, "Protecting Mom & Dad's Money: What to do when you suspect financial abuse." The article discusses financial elder abuse by strangers, acquaintances, and family members. The article also gives an update on the state of elder justice legislation around the country, and recommends ways that older adults and their loved ones can prevent exploitation. The NCEA and the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) are cited as references.

Read the full article:

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2013/01/protecting-mom-dad-s-money/index.htm>

RESEARCH: Stealing From Grandma: Up to \$1 Million a Day is Stolen from Utah Seniors

The Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services has recently conducted a study that showed that elder financial exploitation costs up to \$1 million daily and potentially costs Medicaid millions annually. The majority of this fraud is perpetrated by the children and grandchildren of Utah seniors. The Utah Division of Aging and Adult Services has created a compelling infographic to illustrate the full extent of the damage caused by financial exploitation, and to educate Utah residents on ways to prevent this heinous crime. Salient points include the fact that family

members were responsible for 57% of financial losses from elder financial exploitation. The infographic also advertises the fact that taxpayers end up paying for 11% of seniors' financial losses.

For the infographic:

http://www.dhs.utah.gov/pdf/Stealing%20from%20Grandma_infographic%20flier_v04.pdf

Utah Department of Human Services Homepage:

<http://www.dhs.utah.gov/>

FACT SHEET: Victim Services and Elder Abuse Coalitions

In a collaborative effort by the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA), the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), and the Academy for Professional Excellence, a fact sheet was created to summarize a webinar that was presented on November 8, 2012. The webinar explores the benefits and positive impact achieved when elder abuse coalitions, aging services, and crime victim services collaborate and share strategic planning to address elder abuse within the community. It includes tips, strategies, and resources for shared outreach and joint activities. It is presented by Trudy Gregorie, Senior Director of Justice Solutions in Washington, D.C.

Find the fact sheet here:

http://centeronelderabuse.org/docs/Collaborative_Partners_and_Stakeholders_for_Strategic_Planning.pdf

TOOLS: Online Database Allows Access to Nursing Home Inspections

The U.S. Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Fraud (CMS) began publishing their reports of nursing home inspections in July 2012 to a new online database called Nursing Home Inspect. ProPublica, an independent, non-profit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest, created an application that makes it easier for the public to access data regarding the inspections. ProPublica reports that the CMS database covers nearly 118,000 deficiencies at 14,565 homes since January 2011 and that future inspection reports added by CMS also will be added to the Nursing Home Inspect tool as they become available.

View the ProPublica App here: <http://projects.propublica.org/nursing-homes/>

FEDERAL FUNDING: Elder abuse grants announced

On World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2012, The Administration for Community Living revealed that their Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program would provide funding to States and Tribes to test interventions designed to prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This initiative helps to implement the Elder Justice Act, which was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. The Administration for Community Living recently announced the recipients of the cooperative agreements totaling \$5 million.

Read the press release:

http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/Press_Room/News/2012/ElderAbusePreventionGrants.pdf

SURVEY: Adult Protective Services Finds Older Adults “Increasingly Vulnerable”

The National Adult Protective Services Resource Center (NAPSRC) and its partner, the National Association of States United for Aging and Disability (NASUAD) have completed the first comprehensive look at Adult Protective Services (APS) in over a decade. The report highlights differences in services offered and populations served between states, and also draws some similarities. For example, 35 APS Programs serve all vulnerable adults age 18 and above; two serve only persons with disabilities aged 18-59, and seven serve older victims only. All APS programs investigate abuse in community settings, but almost half also investigate in nursing homes. Alarming, 87% of programs have seen the number of reports and caseloads increase, but almost half of the reporting states have had reductions in staff in the past five years.

Read the full report here: <http://www.apsnetwork.org/research/BaselineSurveyFinal.pdf>

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: Screening and Preventive Brief Interventions for Alcohol and Medication Misuse/Abuse

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Administration on Aging (AoA) have partnered to support the planning and coordinating of aging and behavioral health services for older adults in states and communities. Given the overlap between substance abuse and elder abuse, these resources will be of interest to our network. Through this collaboration, SAMHSA provides technical expertise and tools, particularly in the areas of addressing suicide, anxiety, depression and alcohol and psychoactive medication misuse and abuse among older adults. The issue briefs that the two organizations have produced can be used to prevent and shed light on substance abuse in older adults.

Read more on AoA’s Behavioral Health initiatives:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/HPW/Behavioral/

FEDERAL LEGISLATION: Antipsychotic Use in Nursing Homes

Nursing homes would be required to issue monthly reports on antipsychotic drug use under a new Senate measure (S3604) introduced September 20, 2012. The bi-partisan lawmakers who proposed the Improving Dementia Care Treatment in Older Adults Act claim that this legislation “provides some straightforward and common sense steps that will help decrease the improper, dangerous and costly use of antipsychotics and accelerate the shift toward the broader use of safer alternatives.”

For the full bill, and to view the status and summary:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/112/s3604/text>

SKILLED NURSING: Almost a fifth of SNF nursing aides charged with abuse and neglect had prior convictions, OIG says

An Affordable Care Act-mandated analysis of skilled nursing facility background checks for nursing aides by the Office of the Inspector General found that, out of the 1,611 nursing aides charges with abuse, neglect, or property theft in 2010, 300 had at least one prior criminal conviction. The most common prior convictions involved charges of burglary, shoplifting and writing bad checks. Additionally, “nurse aides with substantiated findings of either abuse or neglect were 3.2 times more likely to have a conviction of crime against persons than nurse aides with substantiated findings of misappropriation,” the report stated. This report sheds light on the issue of requiring background checks for paid caregivers of older and vulnerable adults.

McKnights article:

<http://www.mcknights.com/almost-a-fifth-of-snf-nursing-aides-charged-with-abuse-and-neglect-had-prior-convictions-oig-says/article/263087/?DCMP=EMC-MCK> Weekly

Full report from the Office of Inspector General:

<https://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-07-10-00422.pdf>

LAW: Institute on Aging’s Civil & Criminal Guide

The Institute on Aging (San Francisco) has created a Civil and Criminal Resource Guide, which contains information to help navigate the often-intertwined jurisdictions of the civil and criminal legal systems in California. Topics covered include the development of California’s Elder Financial Abuse Law, the law of civil elder financial abuse, the context of elder financial abuse cases, and the challenges of overlapping substantive areas. The purpose of this guide is

to promote understanding between prosecutors and victims' lawyers with the expectation that this will lead to greater cooperation and thereby reduce elder financial abuse.

View the full guide here (PDF):

http://www.ioaging.org/documents/aging/CivilCriminalResourceGuide_0512.pdf

JOURNAL: *Generations* blog by the American Society on Aging

The American Society on Aging publishes a quarterly journal called *Generations*. The October 2012 edition puts a well-deserved emphasis on elder abuse prevention and intervention. The *Generations* blog features many entries highlighting recent stories on elder abuse and neglect. Articles include well-written pieces by such authors as Dr. Xinqi Dong, associate director for the Rush Institute for Healthy Aging; Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Administration on Aging; and Robert Blancato, national coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition.

View the *Generations* blog here:

<http://asaging.org/blog/content-source/15>

STATE LEGISLATION: CA requires money transmission companies to report suspected financial elder abuse

Governor Jerry Brown of California has signed Assembly Bill 1525, legislation by Assembly member Michael Allen enacting another layer of protections against the financial abuse of elder and dependent adults. AB 1525 requires money transmission licensees to provide their contracted agents with training materials to help those agents recognize, and respond to elder or dependent adult financial abuse by April 1, 2013. The bill also requires money transmission licensees to provide newly appointed agents with elder and dependent adult financial abuse training material within one month of the new agent's appointment. AB 1525 newly designates people engaged with money transmission as mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse of elder and dependent adults.

View the full text here:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201120120AB1525

TRAINING: National Center on Elder Abuse teams with QuantiaMD

The National Center on Elder Abuse, in a partnership with QuantiaMD, has released a 9-minute training video on elder abuse, which aims to educate clinicians on recognizing and reporting elder abuse. NCEA co-director, Dr. Laura Mosqueda, provides an interactive presentation of red flags that clinicians can learn to recognize when treating older patients. Dr. Mosqueda

emphasizes the importance of integrating the topic of elder abuse into interviews with patients and their caregivers.

Register for free to view the training here:

<https://secure.quantiamd.com/player/yamzjuydr?cid=1465>

WIDESPREAD FRAUD: Better Business Bureau warns of senior citizen emergency scams

The Better Business Bureau has released a statement, warning older adults and their loved ones of a recent increase in the trend of targeting older adults in financial scams. Criminals often try to fool older adults into thinking that their grandchild is hurt, arrested or stranded, and in need of money. The Better Business Bureau encourages families to communicate travel plans clearly before leaving the state or country, share contact information, and know the red flags of common scams.

Read more here:

<http://www.westfieldrepublican.com/page/content.detail/id/519104/Better-Business-Bureau-warns-of-senior-citizen-emergency-scams.html?nav=5066>

COLLABORATION: Research to Practice (R2P) Brief

The National Adult Protective Services Resource Center, in conjunction with the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the National Council on Crime & Delinquency, is pleased to release a new Research to Practice (R2P) Brief. The R2P series links cutting-edge research with everyday practice in adult protective services. The brief is available on the new [Research to Practice Page](#). This brief is a summary of a recent NAPSRC webinar. The original webinar is available on our [webinars & webcasts page](#).

Research to Practice Page:

<http://www.napsa-now.org/resource-center/research/putting-research-into-practice/>

Webinars & Webcasts page:

<http://www.napsa-now.org/resource-center/training/webinars-webcasts/>

CURRENT EVENTS: The NCEA Newsfeed Archive

Have a vague memory of an interesting newsfeed article from a few weeks ago? Did you know that you can access an archive of the NCEA twice-weekly newsfeed? If you are looking for a

past newsfeed item, you can access the NCEA Newsfeed archive by visiting <http://nceagov.posterous.com/>

The NCEA Newsfeed is a compilation of current events related to elder abuse, gathered from around the world. Topics covered include the full range of types of elder abuse, including elder financial exploitation, neglect, and undue influence. The NCEA Newsfeed is sent to the NCEA listserv, a forum for professionals working in the area of elder mistreatment to share and solicit information to improve prevention and response efforts for elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. To be added to the NCEA listserv (must be a professional in the field of elder abuse), go

to: www.ncea.aoa.gov/ncearoot/Main_Site/Resources/NCEA_Listserve/How_to_Subscribe.aspx

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The NCEA provides information about the following funding opportunities related to elder abuse, adults with disabilities, aging, violence prevention and related topics as a service to the elder justice movement.

- **December 18:** Health (United States)
 - Brief proposals for grants through the **Public Health Services and Systems Research project**, administered by the **National Network of Public Health Institutes** with support from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**. Grants will support studies that improve the performance and health of the public health system. Comprehensive studies will be awarded up to \$450,000 each and short-term studies up to \$200,000 each.
 - Who may apply: nonprofit organizations that are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and are not private foundations of non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organizations. The foundations will give preference to proposals submitted by multidisciplinary teams that include state, local, and/or tribal public health agencies; nonprofit organizations; or academic institutions.
 - Contact: Erica Johnson, National Network of Public Health Institutes
1515 Poydras Street, Suite 1490
New Orleans, LA 70112
phssr@nnphi.org
<http://nnphi.org/program-areas/research-and-evaluation-phssr/calls-for-proposals/phssr-annual-solicitation-2012>
- **December 31:** Volunteerism (United States)
 - Nominations accepted for the **Stand and Deliver Awards** given by **Merz Aesthetics**, a division of Merz Pharma Group. The awards will go to women who

are changing their communities one day at a time through their support of a nonprofit organization classified as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Three finalists will be chosen through online voting open to the public, with one woman winning \$10,000 for the charity of her choice.

- Contact: Merz Aesthetics
<http://www.asclera.com/standanddeliver>
- **January 7:** Other (District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia)
 - Applications for ***The Washington Post* 2013 Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Management**, administered by the **Center for Nonprofit Advancement** and sponsored by ***The Washington Post***. The award recognizes outstanding management at nonprofit organizations in the metropolitan Washington area. One group will receive \$10,000 and a scholarship to the Georgetown University Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership. Up to four groups will each receive honorable mentions and \$2,500. Additional information is available on the center's Web site.
 - Who may apply: organizations in the metropolitan Washington area that are classified as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - Contact: Center for Nonprofit Advancement
1666 K Street, N.W., Suite 440
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 457-0540
<http://www.nonprofitadvancement.org/PostAward2013>

UPCOMING ELDER ABUSE CONFERENCES/TRAINING EVENTS (in chronological order):

- ☑ **The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP)** released their famous **2012 Tool Kit on dementia education** on November 1, 2012.
<http://www.nccdp.org/staff-education-week.htm>. For the fifth year, they will host Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week **February 14-21, 2013**
- ☑ Registration is now OPEN for the **2013 Aging in America Conference** in Chicago, **March 12-16, 2013**.
View the announcement here:
<http://viewer.epaperflip.com/Viewer.aspx?docid=c5a26c77-860b-4aad-a5ef-a1000deb6e5>
Register here: <http://www.asaging.org/registration-information>
- ☑ **The 6th Annual Forensic Investigations Conference** to be held from **May 15-17, 2013** at the Kansas City Convention Center in Kansas City, Missouri. Seminars will focus on a broad array of emerging forensic practices in sexual assault, interpersonal violence, child and elder abuse in both an urban and rural environment. For more information
<https://www.saintlukeshealthsystem.org/event/forensic-conference-1>

Quote of the quarter:

In Praise of Crazy, of a Certain Kind

By Mary Oliver

*On cold evenings
My grandmother,
With ownership of half her mind-
The other half having flown back to Bohemia
Spread newspapers over the porch floor
So, she said, the garden ants could crawl
As under a blanket, and keep warm,
And what shall I wish for myself,
But, being so struck by the lightning of years,
To be like her with what is left, that loving.*



For regular news articles, research updates, and to connect with colleagues, be sure to “LIKE” the National Center on Elder Abuse on [FACEBOOK!](#)

To submit an item for Elder Abuse Bytes, please write to centeronelderabuse@uci.edu.

This newsletter was completed for the National Center on Elder Abuse (Grant Number 90-AB0002) and is supported in part by a grant from the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Grantees carrying out projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Therefore, points of view or opinions do not necessarily represent official Administration on Aging or DHHS policy

National Center on Elder Abuse

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click [here](#) to subscribe to the NCEA listserv (professionals only)