

## Volume 13 No. 10 – May 2011

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## NCEA E-News Readers Highlight WEAAD and Public Awareness Events

Every spring, NCEA E-News highlights contributions from readers regarding community activities and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day events. We recently heard from advocates in California, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Virginia on their efforts to raise awareness:

### California

Santa Barbara County FAST Coordinator, Jeanne West, wrote to say that she is using the video, [An Age for Justice: Confronting Elder Abuse in America](#), as part of her presentations including the one she recently gave at the Annual Conference on Aging Services of California. The film, produced by the National Council on Aging and WITNESS, includes intimate stories of elder abuse, neglect,

and financial exploitation told by victims, their family members, and other advocates. Ms. West is also encouraging audience members and colleagues to use the video as a cornerstone for WEAAD and other public awareness events.

The Santa Barbara Elder and Adult Abuse Prevention Council will be sponsoring their annual conference, [Safeguarding Elders and Dependent Adults Against Abuse](#) at the Santa Barbara City College on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Featured speakers are Officer Robert Galletta and Patrick Arbore, Ed.D., and will cover issues such as fiduciary fraud, transient criminal groups, and the impact of depression, suicidal ideation, and substance abuse on elder abuse.

Ms. West included information on WEAAD in media materials on the conference. "We're trying to do our part to get the word out!"

Margarita Towe, Social Service Supervisor with the Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department, wrote to tell us of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kern County Elder Abuse Prevention conference, *Crimes Against Seniors*.

The conference will feature a guest appearance by legendary entertainer, [Mickey Rooney](#), who recently appeared before Congress to discuss his personal experience of elder abuse. Local experts and advocates will also be on hand.

The event will take place on May 12, 2011, at Hodel's Country Dining, Highway 99 and Olive Drive, in Bakersfield.

### Maryland

Deborah Zuckerman, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, contributed news on the event planned by The Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force of Montgomery County. The program will be held at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg,

Maryland. Registration begins at 1:30 and the event will run from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Councilman Phil Andrews, president of the Public Safety Committee of the County Council, will issue a proclamation declaring June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 *Montgomery County Elder Abuse Awareness Day*. Attendees can participate in an *Awareness Walk*, and then visit various booths to learn about a range of issues affecting seniors. Booths will include representatives from Adult Protective Services, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, and Family Justice Center. Brief videos on elder abuse, hoarding, and other issues (such as *Breaking the Silence, My Mother's Garden*) will run continuously throughout the afternoon. For additional information please contact: Susan Boettger 301-987-6101, [sboettger@asbury.org](mailto:sboettger@asbury.org), or Amanda Nocerino 301-987-6109, [anocerino@asbury.org](mailto:anocerino@asbury.org).

Barbara Korenblit, Chief of the Division of Individual and Family Services Baltimore County Department of Aging, provided details of community events scheduled in her area. The Baltimore County Restoring Elder Safety Today coalition (BC-REST), has arranged to have the county courthouse dome lit in purple.

AARP is sponsoring a *World Elder Abuse Awareness Rally* at the Towson Library, 320 York Road, on June 15, from 12:00 - 2:00 PM. The featured speaker is Robert Blancato, National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition. There will be entertainment, refreshments, and a gift for every attendee. For more info, call 410-887-4200.

## Massachusetts

Rose Mary Kennedy informed us about planned activities in Brockton, Massachusetts. In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Old Colony Elder Services will also host a screening of *An Age For Justice: Confronting Elder Abuse In*

*America*. This event will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

Elder abuse expert, researcher, and therapist, Holly Ramsey-Klawnsnik, PhD. and Pat Foley, Protective Service Intake and Outreach Specialist at Old Colony Elder Services will speak on recognition and reporting of elder abuse. This event is free and open to the public. If interested in attending please contact Phyllis Martin at 508 -584-1561 ext. 293 or email [PMartin@oldcolonyelderservices.org](mailto:PMartin@oldcolonyelderservices.org).

## Virginia

Elderly Services Paralegal Anne See reported on Virginia's statewide conference, [The Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference](#), to be held June 1-3 in Virginia Beach. Candace Heisler, JD, retired San Francisco Prosecutor and nationally known expert on elder abuse will be the keynote speaker and Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director of the National Adult Protective Services Association will also be speaking. The Conference will be held at the Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center.

Daniel Sullivan of The Greater Augusta Coalition Against Adult Abuse wrote to share that the Coalition will be sponsoring a law enforcement training. The event will take place on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Plecker Workforce Center, Blue Ridge Community College, in Weyers, Virginia. Entitled [Successful Investigation and Prosecution of Elder Abuse](#), the event will feature nationally known expert and prosecutor, Deputy District Attorney Paul Greenwood of San Diego County.

Special thanks to Ms. See, Ms. Korenblit, Ms. Zuckerman, Ms. Kennedy, Ms. Towe, Mr. Sullivan, and Ms. West for contributing news of these events.

## The Countdown is On! What is Your Organization Doing for WEAAD 2011?

In recent months, there has been heightened national attention to elder abuse and its impact. [Older Americans Month](#) (May), Mother's Day and Father's Day, and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day create an extended window of opportunity to generate greater public and professional engagement.

WEAAD is not only a time to raise awareness of elder abuse, but also a time to highlight the valuable programs available that support older individuals and aid in elder abuse prevention. It is an ideal opportunity to enlist community members in volunteer programs such as *Meals on Wheels*, *Senior Medicaid Patrol*, and the *Long Term Care Ombudsman* programs.

NCEA E-News will continue to feature highlights of activities planned in support of WEAAD and other outreach activities. We urge you to [share news](#) of what your community or organization is doing to promote elder abuse awareness.

Creativity is contagious: *your* ideas may inspire others to take action!

For suggestions on how to get involved, download the NCEA tip sheets for [organizations](#) or [individuals](#).

Email news, suggestions, and ideas to: [ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov).

***Together, we have the power to prevent elder abuse.***

## WEAAD Resource: An Age for Justice

A year ago the [National Council on Aging \(NCOA\)](#) and [WITNESS](#) announced the nationwide release of the film [An Age for Justice: Confronting Elder Abuse in America](#). The video was produced to increase public awareness of elder abuse in America and to give elders and advocates a voice in effecting needed societal change.

To date, more than 1,000 DVDs have been distributed. The film has been screened at a wide variety of events for seniors; viewed by the judiciary; incorporated into training for law enforcement; shown in medical and law schools; and used by educators, social workers, offices of the States' Attorney Generals, APS, Area Agencies on Aging, and others. The stories are powerful, the cases diverse and seeing the victims and hearing them tell of the incidents in their own words creates an emotional impact on audiences.

The DVD is an excellent tool for WEAAD events; many [communities hosted screenings in 2010](#) and others will be hosting screenings for WEAAD 2011. The DVD includes a comprehensive screening guide with discussion questions.

To view the film online, access the screening guide, or organize a screening, [Click Here](#).

To order a copy of the DVD please: [Click Here](#).

Elder rights advocates and aging services professionals may use the coupon code: *elderjusticenow* to obtain the video at cost (\$7.00 plus shipping and handling). For those with extreme financial limitations, please contact the producers to arrange for your audience to view the film.

Special thanks to [Kelly Matheson](#), WITNESS Program Manager for the Americas and [Marci](#)

[Phillips](#), NCOA Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, for contributing this information.

## “Go Purple” for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day!

There are many ways to observe WEAAD, from hosting a rally, sponsoring a conference, or mounting a 5K walk. But one of the simplest ways to observe WEAAD and show solidarity and support for victims of elder abuse, and those who work to prevent it, is to wear or use the color purple.

Since writing about Janet Lamb’s effort to have the White House lit purple for WEAAD, advocates in Delaware and Maryland have arranged to join Tennessee to have select public buildings lit purple on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Many buildings are equipped with LED lights that can easily be programmed to light in different colors.

How many buildings, billboards, and other public spaces can we turn purple for WEAAD? [Let us know](#) how you will “go purple” this year.

## May is Older Americans Month

Since 1963, the month of May has been observed as a time to acknowledge the contributions of older individuals to American society and to honor these citizens. First known as Senior Citizens Month, [Older Americans Month](#) is celebrated throughout the US with ceremonies, events, and activities. The month also provides opportunities to challenge ageist stereotypes and reduce isolation of elders, efforts believed to reduce the risk of elder mistreatment.

Each year, the Administration on Aging (AoA) selects a theme for the annual observance. This year, the theme for Older Americans Month is *Older Americans: Connecting the Community*.

According to AoA, the theme “pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities. It also highlights the many ways technology is helping older Americans live longer, healthier and more engaged lives.”

AoA has sponsored two national initiatives in 2011. In conjunction with the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC), AoA has launched the [Community Connection Video Game Tournament](#), inviting senior center participants to stay fit and active by competing in Nintendo Wii bowling tournaments.

The [Connecting the Generations Video Challenge](#) contest solicited 90-second video submissions “featuring the roles our seniors play in connecting us all.” A panel of judges will select the finalists, and the public will vote for the winner.

For more information on Older Americans Month, and to download public awareness materials including this year’s logo, poster, and sample proclamation, visit the [AoA Older Americans Month web page](#).

## Colloquium Explores Sexual Rights and Sexual Abuse of Older Individuals

On May 6<sup>th</sup>, [The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention](#) hosted a groundbreaking colloquium at the Roosevelt House in New York City. Entitled *Exploring the Sexual Rights of Older Adults: Toward Healthy Sexuality and Freedom from Victimization in Later Life*, the event was co-sponsored by [The Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity](#) and the [NYC Elder Abuse Center](#).

Moderated by Joy Solomon, Director and Managing Attorney at the Weinberg Center, this thought-provoking summit considered a broad continuum



of issues including: ageism in health care; capacity to consent to sexual activity; the rights of privacy and sexual expression for residents in long-term care settings; and the insidious nature of elder sexual abuse and barriers to intervention.

### Ageism in Health Care

The conference opened with a session by the esteemed researcher, geriatrician, and professor at the Weill Cornell Medical College, Mark Lachs, MD. Dr. Lachs discussed screening biases that prohibit geriatricians and other physicians from addressing issues relating to sexual health among older patients. This is particularly significant as research conducted with adults aged 57 to 85 (Lindau et al., 2007) indicates that although sexual activity declines with age, a majority of older adults remain sexually active, and sexual inactivity is associated with poor health.

Ageism and a lack of attention to sexual health have negative consequences for the mental and physical well-being of older patients. For example, elders are not routinely counseled regarding sexually transmitted diseases, which is particularly dangerous given that almost a quarter of all individuals with HIV/AIDS in the US are age 50 and older ([National Institute on Aging Age Page, HIV, AIDS, and Older People](#).) Dr. Lachs also described a case of an older woman who attempted to disclose sexual abuse by an intimate partner to her doctor; he did not “hear” the patient, and did not follow her lead and pursue further assessment. Dr. Lachs also discussed a court case wherein a judge did not believe it was possible for a victim with memory impairment to suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Dr. Lachs overarching recommendation was that health care practitioners working with older patients had a responsibility to become educated and to routinely discuss issues of sexual health with their patients.

### Elder Sexual Abuse

Nationally recognized expert, researcher, and therapist, Holly Ramsey-Klawnsnik, PhD, emphasized a number of themes while presenting case scenarios of sexual abuse among elders living at home and in long-term care settings. She noted that elder sexual abuse involves a wide range of behaviors, from non consensual touching and fondling to extremely violent acts such as rape. Much like victims of undue influence, victims are often groomed and psychologically manipulated by their perpetrators. When victims do come forward, particularly if they have some degree of dementia, they are often not believed and are thus revictimized.

While the majority of victims are female, Dr. Ramsey-Klawnsnik warned against biases that may cause professionals and advocates to overlook male victims and provided a case example to illustrate this. In addition, she cited a national study of elder sexual abuse in care facilities that indicated approximately 22 percent of the perpetrators were female (Klawnsnik et al., 2008).

Although elder abuse in general is significantly under reported, elder sexual abuse may be even less frequently reported due to shame and embarrassment. Dr. Ramsey-Klawnsnik emphasized the need to use open-ended questions when interviewing elder victims, and following-up with additional open-ended, non threatening questions, such as, “Tell me about that,” or “Have other things happened?” This strategy allows the interviewer to get as complete a picture of the incident, or pattern of behavior, as possible.

Dr. Ramsey-Klawnsnik also emphasizes that all victims who allege or demonstrate symptoms of sexual abuse should be examined by an independent health care professional, preferably a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE), as soon as

possible. The alleged perpetrator should be ordered off the premises during the investigation (with additional appropriate actions taken if found guilty).

## Other Relevant Concerns

Barriers to and strategies for effective prosecution of elder sexual abuse cases were further illustrated throughout the day by panelists and participants. A theme that emerged was the remarkable resiliency of older victims who survived horrific incidents of abuse, yet came forward to tell their stories and fully participate in the justice system. This challenges another ageist stereotype: elder victims do not make poor witnesses.

There was lively debate on balancing the right to sexual expression among older adults residing in long-term care settings while protecting them from non consensual sexual activity. Factors to be considered when determining capacity to consent were also debated, as were the perspectives and responsibilities of surrogate decision-makers. The Hebrew Home, an innovative institution in many ways, has created policy guidelines for addressing these complex issues; however, most facilities lag behind in this area.

The conference concluded with a wrap-up by elder rights advocate and policy analyst Marie-Therese Connelly, Director of the Life Long Justice Initiative and Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Ms. Connelly elaborated on the need for policy, education, and research on these and other aspects of the highly complex subject.

Though the conference generated more questions than answers, this groundbreaking event provided a strong foundation for the ongoing dialog needed as issues regarding elder sexuality become increasingly significant among our aging population.

## Online Resources

[Sexual Violence in Later Life Information Packet \(2010\)](#), Holly Ramsey-Klawnsnik, PhD, in conjunction with the National Sexual Violence Resource Center

[CANE Annotated Bibliographies](#) - [National Center on Elder Abuse](#):

- [Elder Sexual Abuse \(2004\)](#)
- [Elder Sexual Abuse - An Update of the Literature \(2007\)](#)

(Additional recent references are available by searching [CANE](#) online.)

## References

Lindau, S. T., et al. (2007). *A study of sexuality and health among older adults in the United States* *New England Journal of Medicine*, 357(8).

[National Institute on Aging, Age Page, HIV, AIDS, and Older People](#) (2009).

Ramsey-Klawnsnik, H., et al. (2008). *Sexual Predators Who Target Elders: Findings from the First National Study of Sexual Abuse in Care Facilities*. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 20(4).

Teaster, P., et al. (2007). *From behind the shadows: a profile of the sexual abuse of older men residing in nursing homes*. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect* 19 (1/2).

## Department of Justice Honors Dr. Laura Mosqueda and the Elder Abuse Forensic Center

Every April, the Office for Victims of Crime recognizes extraordinary individuals and programs serving crime victims as a prelude to *National Crime Victims' Rights Week*. This year, Dr. Laura

Mosqueda and the [Elder Abuse Forensic Center](#) were honored with the *2011 Award for Professional Innovation in Victim Services*.

The Center, based in Orange County at University of California-Irvine (UCI), was one of 10 organizations and individuals recognized for outstanding work on behalf of crime victims. Established in 2003 by Dr. Mosqueda and UCI geriatrics faculty, it was the first forensic center dedicated to the prevention, intervention, and prosecution of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Since its inception, the Center has assessed over 750 cases of elder mistreatment, and has been modeled in other jurisdictions.

Dr. Mosqueda is the director of UCI's geriatrics program, interim chair and professor of family medicine, and Ronald Reagan Chair in Geriatrics. As a practitioner, educator, and researcher, she has long been an advocate for elder abuse victims, and the vulnerable elderly.

Accepting the honor on behalf of the Center, Dr. Mosqueda acknowledged the tremendous contributions of the multidisciplinary members of the Orange County team as well as support received from the Archstone Foundation and the UniHealth Foundation for elder abuse initiatives.

Congratulations to Dr. Mosqueda and the entire Elder Abuse Forensic Center Team!

## Revised Diagnostic Guidelines for Alzheimer's Disease

In April, the [National Institute on Aging](#) and the [Alzheimer's Association](#) published revised clinical [diagnostic guidelines](#) regarding Alzheimer's disease.

The new guidelines hold significant implications for the diagnosis of preclinical stages of dementia,

notably mild cognitive impairment. This is particularly significant to the development of elder abuse prevention strategies as dementia has long been associated with increased risk for elder mistreatment. (Coyne, et al., 1993; Dyer, et al., 2000; Fitzgerald, et al., 2010). Specifically, mild cognitive impairment, a condition associated with increased vulnerability to elder financial exploitation. (Widera, et al., 2011).

To read more about the new Alzheimer's diagnostic guidelines, [Click Here](#).

## References

Coyne, A.C., et al. 1993. *The relationship between dementia and elder abuse*. American Journal of Psychiatry, 150(4).

Dyer, C., et al., 2000. *The high prevalence of depression and dementia in elder abuse or neglect*. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 48.

Fitzgerald, W., et al., 2010. *Screening for abuse and neglect of people with dementia*. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, 58(3).

Widera, E. et al., (2011). *Finances in the Older Patient With Cognitive Impairment: "He Didn't Want Me to Take Over"* JAMA, 305 (7).

## A Suggestion from the NCEA In-Box: Volunteerism, Faith-Based Communities Can Foster Elder Abuse Prevention

Throughout the year, NCEA receives many emails from concerned individuals regarding elders who are experiencing mistreatment or self-neglect, or who are at risk for abuse. Increasingly, we are also hearing from concerned citizens who want to join

in the fight against elder abuse. Sometimes these writers ask for suggestions on how to get involved. But sometimes our writers *provide* suggestions for preventing elder abuse.

NCEA recently heard from Ms. Sandra Boletchek, a 72-year-old resident of an assisted living facility in Manassas, Virginia, who took the time to write regarding how elder volunteers and others can help reduce isolation for at risk individuals.

Ms. Boletchek has been in frequent contact with the Prince William County Area Agency on Aging Director, Courtney Tierney, regarding how concerned elders can help to prevent elder abuse. Although the Friendly Visitor program can be quite effective, costly criminal background checks to train volunteers are prohibitive at this time. Instead, Ms. Boletchek and Ms. Tierney talked about how volunteers can participate in telephone reassurance programs and Meals-on-Wheels deliveries to help reduce isolation of homebound individuals.

Ms. Boletchek has engaged her local priest to publish information in the parish bulletin on elder abuse prevention and volunteer opportunities through the Area Agency. She hopes to generate civic engagement through this faith-based community of more than 19,000 members.

“What I am reading is to be proactive...to spotlight elders in their homes to prevent elder abuse from happening in the first place. Studies state the worse the economy, the worse the abuse of elders from their adult children. Sad....Director Tierney has a great handle on this concept of stopping abuse before the abuse begins....Abusers want isolation and darkness to work their toxic acts.

“We can do this, one person at a time, together.”

Special thanks to Ms. Boletchek for contributing this story, and for fostering elder abuse awareness

and prevention in her community. For more information on volunteer opportunities in your community, contact your local [Area Agency on Aging](#).

## Requests for Presentations

### NAPSA and AATI Conference

The [National Adult Protective Services Association](#) (NAPSA) and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services’ Adult Abuse Training Institute (AATI) will host the joint conference, *Stemming the Tide Of Adult Abuse: National Perspectives*. The conference will be held September 20-23, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Buffalo/Niagara Falls, New York.

As quoted from the 2011 call for submissions, conference organizers “are focusing on increasing the number of presentations concerning aging and sexuality, self-neglect, interviewing skills, and outcome measures. We are requesting only a limited number of proposal submissions for the 2011 conference.”

- Submission Deadline: May 18, 2011
- Acceptance Notification: June 16, 2011
- For more information: [Click Here](#).

Suggested presentation topics include:

- Myths on Aging and Sexuality
- Aging Adults: Intimacy and Sexuality
- New Approaches on Working with the Self-Neglector
- Successful Hoarding Interventions
- Interviewing Skills
- Effective Outcome Measures
- Innovative/New Projects (*Show and Tell*, short presentations on a wide variety of topics)



## The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care Annual Conference

The [National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care](#) is now accepting proposals for the 2011 Annual Conference and Meeting, being held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 25-28, 2011.

Citizen advocates, ombudsmen, researchers, and others involved in advocacy for long-term care consumers are encouraged to submit. Individual resident rights, effective systems advocacy, and educational programs are topic areas of particular interest. Submissions on advocacy strategies throughout the entire long-term care continuum (including nursing homes, assisted living, and home and community based services) are welcome, particularly those that address the successes as well as barriers.

Submission Deadline: May 27, 2011  
Acceptance Notification: June 30  
For more information: [Click Here](#).

## Responding to Crime Victims with Disabilities

The National Center for Victims of Crime will be presenting [Responding to Victims with Disabilities National Training Conference](#), December 13-15, 2011, at the JW Marriott Orlando Grand Lakes in Orlando, Florida.

Conference organizers are currently soliciting *Field-Generated Workshop Proposals*. As quoted from the web site:

“The conference will feature 35 to 40 workshops, 90 minutes in length. Presentations should equip participants with new or advanced skills and focus on how to enhance services for crime victims with disabilities from various perspectives (advocacy, law enforcement, mental health, disability services, etc.). Presentations that integrate or highlight the

point of view for law enforcement are highly desirable.”

- Submission Deadline: June 24, 2011
- For more information: [Click Here](#).

Organizers are also accepting Applications for Scholarships for Community Teams. “Teams must consist of at least three representatives from victim services, disability services, and law enforcement, though a much broader team of practitioners is encouraged.” [Applications](#) for scholarship teams are due August 1, 2011.

## Online Resources from SAMHSA, AARP, and NCVS

### Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) recently launched an online toolkit for suicide prevention in senior living communities. Designed for staff, it includes recommendations for incorporating suicide prevention into ongoing programming. The toolkit includes action steps and activities, training materials, and fact sheets and information for residents and family members.

To access the toolkit, [Click Here](#).

### New AARP Public Policy Institute State Data Center

The [AARP Public Policy Institute \(PPI\)](#) provides analysis and research on a broad range of information on state-specific data relating to Americans aged 50 and over. There is now a centralized web portal for accessing this state specific data, including information on: the impact of the recession on long-term services and

supports; state estimates of the economic value of family caregiving; health facts; state economic, demographic, and fiscal indicators; profiles of long-term care and independent living; state housing; etc.

To access the PPI State Data Center, [Click Here](#).

PPI recently released the following new reports:

- [Home and Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports for Older People](#)
- [Multigenerational Households Are Increasing](#)
- [Improving Advanced Illness Care: The Evolution of State POLST Programs](#)

Visit [PPI home page](#) to review the research and its implications for older individuals, along with other reports.

### **NCVC Publication to Enhance Crime Victims' Restitution**

With support from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC), recently released [Making Restitution Real: Five Case Studies on Improving Restitution Collection](#). The publication “provides real-world examples of efforts to improve the collection of victim restitution.” Experts in the field highlight efforts to increase restitution collection, examines challenges to the process, and report on lessons learned.

The report details the following programs:

- Michigan's Trial Court Collections Project
- The Vermont Model
- Restitution Enforcement Court Superior Court Maricopa County
- Project Payback
- California's Enhanced Collections Unit

To download the report, visit the [NCVC Public Policy](#) page.

### **May is Mental Health Month**

The mental health problems of older individuals are often overlooked or viewed as a normal part of the aging process. However, many elders and their families stand to benefit from a variety of therapies including counseling, psycho-education, and medication.

The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) has produced many publications and online resources (such as the [suicide prevention toolkit](#) described above) for use with older clients. Search the SAMHSA website using the term *older adults as audience* to identify resources on depression, anxiety, substance abuse, ageism, and other topics.

The [Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly](#) has produced annotated bibliographies on the issues relating to mental health and substance abuse among older individuals. To access these bibliographies, visit the [CANE Bibliography Series](#) on the NCEA website. To search for more recent abstracts on the topic, visit CANE online.

### **Funding Opportunities**

#### **US Administration on Aging**

##### ***Accelerating Adoption of Participant Direction Philosophy and Models in the Aging Network***

As quoted from the announcement: “The intent of this 3 year grant opportunity is to bolster the Aging Network’s capacity to provide participant directed services as well as increase access to such services for all individuals they serve through the development and implementation of a workforce training system that identifies core competencies

for key occupations, includes a workforce assessment tool, curriculum tied to competencies, and ongoing technical assistance....”

- Deadline for Submission: May 19, 2011.
- For more information: [Click Here](#).

#### ***FY 2011 Lifespan Respite Care Program***

As quoted from the announcement: “The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) is providing this competitive grants opportunity to assist eligible state agencies to implement the requirements of the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-442). Eligible State agencies receiving funding under this Announcement will work through aging and disability resource centers and in collaboration with state respite coalitions or other state respite organizations to enhance and expand the availability of Lifespan respite services in the state....”

- Deadline for Submission: May 20, 2011.
- For more information: [Click Here](#).

#### ***Lifespan Respite Care Program - Competing Program Expansion Supplements***

As quoted from the announcement: “The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) is providing this competitive program expansion grants opportunity to assist current FY 2009 and FY 2010 Lifespan Respite Care Program grantees to further implement the requirements of the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-442). Eligible State agencies receiving funding under this Announcement will be required to build upon the work begun work through aging and disability resource centers and in collaboration with state respite coalitions or other state respite organizations to enhance and expand the availability of Lifespan Respite services in the state....”

- Deadline for Application: June 15, 2011.

- For more information: [Click Here](#).

#### **Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Office of Victims of Crime**

##### ***Identity Theft Victims Network Project***

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc., through an OVC grant, is seeking proposals for up to nine subawards of up to \$50,000 each to create or support regional, statewide, or community coalitions to better assist identity theft victims. The project's goal is to expand the outreach and capacity of victim service programs to serve victims of identity theft.

- Deadline for Submission: June 15, 2011.
- For more information: [Click Here](#).

#### **Editorial Note**

Throughout most of the year, NCEA E-News features the following columns on a rotating basis: *Research Highlights*, *State News*, and *Federal Legislative Updates*. In the spring and early summer, we suspend our routine to highlight World Elder Abuse Awareness events and other public awareness activities. The routine features will resume later this summer.

## Calendar of Events

### **May 1-31, 2011**

#### [Older Americans Month](#)

Older Americans: Connecting the Community  
National Observance

### **May 11 – May 15, 2011**

#### [2011 Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Geriatrics Society \(AGS\)](#)

Washington, DC

### **May 12, 2011**

Kern County Elder Abuse Prevention Conference:  
“Crimes Against Seniors”  
Hodel’s Country Dining  
Bakersfield, CA

### **May 19-21, 2011**

#### [National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Elder and Special Needs Law Annual National Conference](#)

Wynn Hotel  
Las Vegas, NV

### **May 25-27, 2011**

#### [Sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team \(SART\) Training Conference](#)

The Austin Hilton  
Austin, TX

### **May 26, 2011**

#### [Safeguarding Elders and Dependent Adults Against Abuse](#)

FeBland Auditorium, Santa Barbara City College  
Santa Barbara, CA

### **June 1-3, 2011**

#### [Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse 17th Annual Conference](#)

Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center  
Virginia Beach, CA

### **June 1-3, 2011**

#### [“The Trusting Elder” - Investigating Elder Financial Exploitation](#)

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport Westshore  
Tampa, FL

### **June 6, 2011**

#### [Successful Investigation and Prosecution of Elder Abuse](#)

Plecker Workforce Center, Blue Ridge Community College  
Weyers Cave, VA

### **June 15, 2011**

#### [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)

Global Observance

### **June 15, 2011**

#### [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Rally](#)

Baltimore County Library, 320 York Road  
Towson, MD

### **June 15, 2011**

#### [World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Toronto: International Forum on Sexual Safety of Older Women – A Human Rights Approach](#)

International Federation on Ageing  
Toronto, Canada

### **June 17, 2011**

#### [6<sup>th</sup> Annual INPEA International Commemoration of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)

Exchange House  
London, United Kingdom

### **June 20-22, 2011**

#### [National Center for Victims of Crime 2011 National Conference](#)

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill  
Washington, DC

### **July 6-8, 2011**

#### [2011 Elder Rights Conference](#)

Westin River North Downtown Chicago  
Chicago, IL



**August 22-24, 2011**

[Florida Conference on Aging: Aging Through a New Lens](#)

TradeWinds Hotel  
St. Pete Beach, FL

**September 20-23, 2011**

[The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Adult Protective Services Association Conference and The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual New York State Adult Abuse Training Institute: Stemming the Tide of Adult Abuse: National Perspectives](#)

Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center  
Buffalo, NY

**October 25-28, 2011**

[Consumer Voice 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and Conference](#)

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel  
Grand Rapids, MI

**December 13-15, 2011**

[National Training Conference on Responding to Crime Victims with Disabilities](#)

JW Marriott Orlando Grand Lakes  
Orlando, FL

## Credits and Contact Information

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### Contact Us:

National Center on Elder Abuse  
c/o Center for Community Research and Services  
University of Delaware  
297 Graham Hall  
Newark, DE 19716

Website: <http://www.ncea.aoa.gov>

Email: [ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov](mailto:ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov)

Telephone: 302-831-3525

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