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October Observances Provide Opportunities to Address Elder Abuse

Autumn is ripe with opportunities to focus attention on elder abuse and elder rights issues. Throughout October we recognize the issue of domestic violence, and we also observe the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP).

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Throughout the US, October is observed as [Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#), a time to remind the public that intimate partner violence and sexual abuse can occur at any stage throughout the lifespan, and that many older individuals endure such mistreatment. It is also a time to reach out to professionals in healthcare, law enforcement, the justice systems, the clergy, and others who may not be alert to the possibility that elder abuse cases often share the same power

and control dynamics seen in domestic and intimate partner violence. In addition, practitioners may not realize how the needs of older abuse survivors can differ from the needs of younger people. (For a profile of a community-based organization dedicated to working with older survivors of domestic violence, see the Promising Practices article in this newsletter.)

The following organizations and internet resources are available to support public awareness efforts and professional training regarding these concerns:

- The [National Clearinghouse on Abuse and Later Life](#) (NCALL) provides a range of training and technical assistance addressing abuse in later life. The organization supports the efforts of professionals from domestic violence and sexual assault programs, the aging network, APS, criminal justice, health care, faith-based communities, and others. The website provides a wealth of information and tools for addressing the needs of older survivors of abuse, including several Spanish language publications.
- [Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Sexual Violence in Later Life](#) is an online collection of materials to support professionals across disciplines in their response to older victims. The collection is available on the [National Online Resource Center for Violence Against Women](#) (VAWnet) website.
- The [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#) (NSVRC) recently unveiled a new information packet, [Sexual Violence in Later Life](#). The packet, developed by Holly Ramsey-Klawnsnik, Ph.D., in conjunction with NSVRC, pulls together what is known about elder sexual abuse and was designed for use by professionals and advocates.
- The [Office of Victims of Crime](#) (OVC) recently released [In Their Own Words: Domestic Abuse in Later Life](#), a two-DVD training resource for victims services providers. The videos feature “the voices

of older victims to facilitate a dialog among a range of professions about the dynamics of abuse, the barriers these victims have to overcome to live free from abuse, and interventions and potential collaborations that may be effective in such cases.”

- The [Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly \(CANE\) Annotated Bibliography Series](#) includes several compilations on the themes of sexual abuse and intimate partner violence among elders. The bibliographies are available on the [NCEA](#) website, and abstracts of more recently published research articles have been included in the [CANE online database](#).

Domestic Violence Awareness Month is also a time to recognize the dedication of advocates who work to end domestic violence. The NCEA is honored to support this mission.

International Day of Older Persons Commemorations

October also marks the [20th Anniversary of the United Nations International Day of Older Persons \(IDOP\)](#). In 1991, the [United Nations \(UN\)](#) established IDOP and drafted the Principles for Older Persons (General Assembly Resolution 46/91) which created a platform for the protection and empowerment of older individuals. Several events and activities are scheduled this year in recognition of the observance:

- On October 7th, the [NGO Committee on Ageing/NY](#), in collaboration the United Nations (UN), will host [an event](#) reflecting upon progress towards the UN's eight [Millennium Development Goals](#) from the “perspective of empowerment of older persons, giving attention to their inclusion, their participation in society and promotion of a positive image of ageing.” Visit the Committee’s [website](#) for details on the event.

- Also on October 7th, the [International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse \(INPEA\)](#) is sponsoring the program, “Older Women, Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse: Recent Developments” featuring keynote speaker, Bridget Penhale. Ms. Penhale, a Reader in Gerontology at the Centre for Health and Social Care Studies and Service Development, University of Sheffield, UK, is the [2010 recipient of the Rosalie S. Wolf Memorial International Award](#). She is world renowned for her research and advocacy efforts in the field of elder abuse prevention and is the editor of the Journal of Adult Protection.

The event includes a reception and will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the AARP Conference Room, 33rd floor, at 780 Third Avenue in New York City. [Visit the INPEA website](#) for more information or to RSVP.

- The [National Council on Aging](#) observed IDOP in several ways. On October 1st, [Link TV](#) once again broadcast [An Age for Justice: Confronting Elder Abuse in America](#). The documentary, which was co-produced by NCOA and [WITNESS](#), features the voices of elder abuse victims, their family members, and prevention advocates. Link TV is an independent, non-commercial network devoted to global issues. It is available in 32 million U.S. households through DIRECTV and the DISH Network and is accessible on many college campuses and through internet streaming. The network had previously broadcast the video on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day this past June.

In addition, NCOA hosted a Virtual Ideas Party on [The Exchange](#) to solicit input on how to strengthen elder justice throughout the U.S. The Exchange, managed by NCOA, is a new Web forum where everyone in the aging network can meet to share and advance new ideas.

Looking Ahead

Opportunities to engage professionals and the public in the response to elder abuse are ongoing throughout the fall. In November, we observe Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and National Family Caregivers Month, and the winter holidays will soon be here!

Healthcare Infrastructure Grant to Foster Elder Abuse Research among Chinese Americans

[Rush University Institute for Healthy Aging](#) in Chicago is collaborating with the [Chinese American Services League](#) (CASL) to design and implement healthcare infrastructure to strengthen research and community outreach efforts among older Chinese Americans. XinQi Dong, physician, researcher, and principal investigator of the grant, views this as an integral step to carrying out longitudinal population-based research on elder abuse and related healthcare issues within the Chinese community.

According to Dr. Dong, the Chinese American population is often isolated from the advances of science and technology that are often vital to wellness and disease prevention, including elder abuse prevention. The three-year grant, funded by the [National Institutes of Health](#), will draw upon the well-established roots of CASL to conduct community-based participatory research and promote best practices in healthcare.

"I see this as an essential cornerstone for conducting a longitudinal population-based study on elder abuse in the Chinese community," said Dr. Dong. He noted that the infrastructure initiative will also enhance research on issues with tremendous relevance to elder abuse, such as psychological well-being, social well-being, physical

disability, cognitive function, and co-morbid medical illnesses.

"The issues of elder abuse are extremely complex in this community and require a strong infrastructure to sustain longitudinal research. The long-term goal is to establish a sustainable program that fully integrates community-based organizations. There is a great deal of cultural and linguistic expertise that can be provided by our community partners to better inform researchers on how to conduct community-engaged research, how to frame the essential questions relating to elder abuse, which is a particularly sensitive subject," said Dr. Dong.

A unique and innovative element of the collaboration will be the design of bilingual software and the supporting technological platform, and the creation of a bilingual Data Resource Center. The project will utilize research participants' native language throughout the study so there will be no need for translation at any stage, from data collection to analysis. This will enable researchers to maintain the accuracy of data collected and capture the cultural nuances when conducting qualitative and quantitative studies within the Chinese community. The resulting bilingual Data Resource Center, which will be co-directed by the Institute and CASL, will be used in future epidemiological studies. It will hopefully serve as a model for work in other Chinese American communities.

Dr. Dong will spearhead the project with CASL's Esther Wong, executive director, and Bernarda "Bernie" Wong, co-founder and president. They will also establish the Chinatown Research Advisory Committee, composed of both academic professionals and community members, to provide guidance to accomplish the research and outreach objectives in Chicago's Chinatown.

Dr. Dong Named National Health and Aging Policy Fellow

Dr. Dong, who has worked extensively in elder abuse research and prevention, was recently named a [2010-2011 National Health and Aging Policy Fellow](#), a program sponsored by [The Atlantic Philanthropies](#). In this new capacity, he will work closely with the national policy makers alongside a group of national advisors on a variety of health and aging policy issues. Dr. Dong is the first Fellow named with a specific interest in elder abuse prevention and intervention.

A recipient of the [Paul B. Beeson Scholar in Aging Award](#) and the Nobuo Maeda International Aging and Public Health Research Award, Dr. Dong has had a longstanding interest in the study and prevention of elder abuse. In addition to examining cultural issues, his portfolio has focused on risk factors, adverse healthcare outcomes, and the relationship between psychosocial wellbeing and elder abuse.

Dr. Dong will first participate in a very intensive orientation to learn how health and aging policy is developed, and will then work closely with policy makers and/or federal agencies with interest in the issue of elder abuse prevention and intervention. He will also collaborate with other Fellows working on related issues.

Congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Dong for these new initiatives!

Promising Practices Programs: Highlights from Florida, Massachusetts, and California

This is the third article in a series featuring evidence-based promising practices that address elder abuse. Highlighting projects that incorporate

elements of evidence-based practices holds the potential for enhanced and targeted prevention and intervention efforts. We draw from examples of working programs from the NCEA's online [Promising Practice Clearinghouse](#), which includes self-reported promising practices programs from organizations and agencies all across America.

Practices for this issue are featured because of their use of evaluation in evidence-based practice as well as their geographic distribution throughout the U.S. This month, we highlight three programs: The Elder Justice Center in Florida, The Greater Lynn Senior Services, Inc., Interagency Older Battered Women's Program in Massachusetts and Seniors Against Investment Fraud (SAIF) in California.

The Elder Justice Center (Florida)

Program Summary

The [Elder Justice Center](#) in Hillsborough County, Florida, is designed to remove barriers and enhance linkages between older adults; the court system; and medical, social, and legal services. They do so by providing:

- a designated facility to respond to the needs of the older adult;
- coordinated access to existing agencies who presently provide services to older adults;
- public education for older adults and those who work with them regarding the role of the courts in assisting older adults;
- appropriate short-term case management services to older adults;
- case management and court-monitoring services to the Court in the Guardianship Division; and
- training services, particularly in regards to family guardians.

Staff members from the Elder Justice Center deliver presentations throughout the year at various senior expositions and community forums regarding their services, strategies for avoiding guardianship, and the prevention of crime victimization. The Elder Justice Center has relationships with numerous community partners that help facilitate an older person's contact with the court system, and in many cases, help the person avoid unnecessary contact with the courts.

Program Evaluation

The center evaluates its efforts at every level using a variety of methods. All clients (victims, information and referral clients, and short-term case management clients) are given satisfaction surveys to complete. Surveys and evaluations are conducted after each training session, which are presented for both older adults and family members/legal guardians of older adults. The Center utilizes an electronic monitoring program to assess guardian compliance with Elder Justice Center recommendations as well.

The Center is a member of the local Fatality Death Review Team, which reviews the cases of any domestic violence fatality in order to assess what if anything could have been done differently, particularly by those agencies/programs involved. In addition, there are informal follow-ups through court file reviews to determine if the Center's involvement has led to an improvement of circumstance or decrease in compliance issues. Outside the Center, there is also an annual Town Hall meeting seeking feedback on services provided in the areas of both guardianship and guardian advocacy. The Center is also currently involved in an evaluative study with the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, The University of Kentucky, and the National Institute of Justice.

The Greater Lynn Senior Services, Inc., Interagency Older Battered Women's Program (Massachusetts)

Program Summary

[The Greater Lynn Senior Services, Inc., Interagency Older Battered Women's Program](#) in Massachusetts is a program of the Greater Lynn Senior Services (GLSS). Since 1976, GLSS, a non-profit agency, has served adults aged 60 and over and adults with disabilities and their families in the area surrounding Lynn, Massachusetts. GLSS' Older Battered Women's Program was designed to help bridge the gap in unmet needs of older survivors of domestic abuse (those over age 50), as their needs differ from those of younger adults. The program provides outreach, support, individual and group counseling, legal assistance, emergency shelter, crisis intervention, and supplemental services. Specifically, women become educated about domestic abuse, are helped with the development of a safety plan, are provided with a safe space, and are given support and friendship to help break their isolation. The success of the program is attributed to assistance from the community, ranging from the Elder Services Network, the medical community, law enforcement, through positive relationships the GLSS has established over the years.

Program Evaluation

The GLSS Older Battered Women's Program uses several evidence-based survey evaluations with its clients. Surveys are conducted twice a year with support group participants. These surveys include measuring their knowledge of domestic abuse, available resources, coping skills, safety plans, and their opinions on the support group itself. The survey is also mailed to clients who are unable to or who do not wish to attend the support groups. In this group, the survey is only mailed to those

who have given their permission and for whom it is safe to send.

Additionally, a brief survey is given to the women at intake and again six months later to assess each client's knowledge of abuse and resources, willingness to discuss her experiences, her safety plan, and her hopes for the future. The information gathered from these evaluations helps improve service delivery to clients and provides an evidence base when applying for additional funding. Through the use of these evidence-based evaluations, ongoing support services, sometimes over the span of several years, have been identified and targeted as a significant client need for this population. A consistent evaluative outcome has also been that the women tend to derive the most out of their experiences with the program when grouped with women their own age.

Seniors Against Investment Fraud (California)

Program Summary

The [Seniors Against Investment Fraud \(SAIF\) Program](#) in California is a statewide outreach campaign under the California Department of Corporations (DOC), targeting those aged 50 and over. SAIF alerts and educates older Californians about financial and investment fraud, telemarketing fraud, common scams, and unfair business practices that commonly target seniors. The primary goal of the SAIF Program is to empower seniors to make informed financial decisions and recognize the signs of fraud. SAIF educates the elder population through presentations and materials at workshops, seminars, senior fairs and other community events. SAIF, along with the DOC, maintain a call center that verifies licensure of broker-dealers and investment/financial advisors, verify if disciplinary action has been taken against these

companies/groups and provide assistance to callers should they wish to lodge a complaint. The call center also provides educational material and referrals to the appropriate agencies for assistance should the call require further help outside the DOC jurisdiction. SAIF includes an advisory committee of state and local agencies, senior advocacy and consumer groups, and senior volunteers who work together to assist in the oversight and promotion of the program.

Program Evaluation

The SAIF program is evaluated in several ways. SAIF utilizes consumer satisfaction surveys after a presentation to measure efficacy of information delivery. These questions focus on content, presentation quality and directly ask if the participant has learned anything. The Call Center is monitored to identify if older adults have or have not decided to invest in or utilize a service after contacting the program to check on the status of a financial service, to identify patterns such as call regarding specific companies, and to track the progress of registered complaints. Since the program's inception, calls logged have verified millions of dollars saved. The program has been so successful that at least four states have adopted this model. (For more on SAIF, see the article in the [October-November 2009 NCEA E-News](#).)

Summary/Conclusion

These three programs highlight the importance of evidence-based practice. Each program addresses specific needs within the community, and each uses evaluative tools to establish efficacy and to make improvements when needed. The Elder Justice Center can pinpoint improved outcomes through case files, participant evaluations and Town Hall meetings. The GLSS Older Battered Women's program uses survey evaluations for both individual and group participation, assessing all levels of the program. SAIF has electronic

monitoring for finances and phone calls as well as consumer evaluations.

The results of assessments can improve awareness of these issues and provide resources for those who may be abused or exploited. These assessments can establish a model that can be replicated, as in the case of the SAIF program, and help outline areas for improvement as shown with the Elder Justice Center. Evidence-based programs can also provide a baseline to demonstrate efficacy when applying for additional funding, as demonstrated by the GLSS Older Battered Women's Program. Evidence-based practices have the potential to increase both the use of services such as these as well as improve their quality.

For more information on these programs, please visit the [NCEA Promising Practices Clearinghouse](#) or their individual websites.

Special thanks to Frances Vorsky of the University of Kentucky Graduate Center for Gerontology for submitting the Promising Practices Series.

Call for Promising Practices

The [NCEA Promising Practices Clearinghouse](#) is an online tool that helps locate program models and information resources around the country related to elder abuse prevention, intervention, and public education. The database is a work in progress, and the NCEA periodically updates existing programs and adds new ones. [The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse \(NCPEA\)](#), a grantee of the NCEA, is the entity charged with updating the database. The current focus for information concerns evidence-based practices, projects, or training that is based on research.

If your program is currently listed, we would greatly appreciate a review of the current posting.

If you have already done so, we thank you for your help. If you know of other programs that should be listed in this database, please [send us](#) their contact information and we will send them a Promising Practice Information template. If your organization has an additional program to include, or if your program is not currently listed, please [contact us](#) for an information template. (Please note that the information you submit via the template will be posted verbatim, with the exception of grammar, spelling, and punctuation edits.)

Thank you for your participation, and we look forward to hearing from you!

New Network Created to Address Violence Prevention throughout the Lifespan

The creation of the [National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence](#) (NPEIV) was recently announced. The coalition is an overarching network of state, regional, and national organizations and entities committed to making the prevention of interpersonal violence a national priority and encouraging healthy relationships by linking science, practice, policy, and advocacy.

In September, the network convened a think tank in San Diego prior to the **15th International Conference on Violence, Abuse, and Trauma**. Organizers met to develop a blueprint for action to establish interpersonal violence prevention as a national priority.

The network, which includes more than 170 partner agencies, organizations, and individuals, is led by psychologists Robert Geffner, Ph.D.. (Founder and President of the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute and the President of Alliant International University's [Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma](#)) and Jacquelyn White, Ph.D.. (Psychology Professor and Associate Dean for

Research in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro). The Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma is the fiscal and logistical arm of the NPEIV.

Susan B. Somers, Secretary of the [International Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse](#), co-chairs the NPEIV public awareness working group and encourages active participation from organizations working to prevent elder abuse. For more information, or to download a membership packet, visit the [NPEIV](#) website.

Special thanks to Ms. Somers for submitting this information.

Advance Notice - Second Opportunity for National Background Check Program Funding

In June, 2010, the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services](#) (CMS) issued a solicitation for federal matching grants to all States and the U.S. Territories for a multi-year **National Background Check Program for Patient Protection** for direct patient access employees of several long-term care facilities and providers. Although a number of states were able to meet the initial deadline, other states indicated that they were still interested but required more time to engage all responsible parties to submit an application or to resolve additional issues.

In response to this feedback, CMS plans to issue a second solicitation to allow those States that did not have adequate time to complete their application an opportunity to submit proposals for this grant. According to a CMS notification, "We encourage all States that have not applied, but may be interested in doing so, to take this opportunity to continue their planning efforts. We also plan to work individually with those States that are interested but have identified issues that would

impact their ability to implement the program, so that together we might resolve those obstacles and road blocks." CMS plans to announce the second solicitation in early October, 2010.

More information about the National Background Check Program will be posted on the CMS website in early October. Additionally, States may wish to review [the initial solicitation, the Questions and Answers document, and the Pilot Evaluation](#) posted on the CMS website. The revised solicitation is expected to be nearly identical to the initial solicitation. The program runs through September 2012 as stated in section 6201 of the Affordable Care Act.

[Email questions to the Background Check Program.](#) mailbox.

Elder Abuse Awareness Campaign Receives 2010 National Mature Media Award

The Elder Justice Now video advocacy campaign recently received the Gold Marketing Communications Award for Consumer Public Relations Campaign. The campaign was produced by the [National Council on Aging](#) (NCOA) and [WITNESS](#), an international organization that uses video to promote social justice.

The cornerstone of the grassroots campaign is the documentary, [An Age for Justice: Confronting Elder Abuse in America](#), which features the voices of elders who have been victimized, their family members, and advocates. The video was broadcast nationally on Link TV as part of the 2010 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observance and in conjunction with the International Day of Older Persons. It has also been screened at many state and community events to promote awareness of elder abuse. The grassroots project was supported

by the Elder Justice Coalition, the Elder Financial Protection Network, OWL, and many elder rights organizations.

[An Age for Justice](#) is currently available for anyone interested in hosting a screening. For a profile on the Elder Justice Now grassroots initiative, read the [November 2009 NCEA E-News](#).

Congratulations to NCOA and WITNESS on this prestigious honor!

Calls for Presentations

The 2011 Academy on Violence and Abuse Scientific Conference

The 2011 Academy on Violence and Abuse (AVA) Scientific Conference will be held April 14-16th, 2011, in Minneapolis, Minnesota with the theme: *The Developing Science of Violence and Abuse: Toward a New Understanding*. AVA is now soliciting proposals for long papers, short papers, poster presentations, and breakfast roundtables.

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

Proposal deadline: October 15th, 2010.

2011 NAELA Elder and Special Needs Law Annual Meeting

The National [Academy of Elder Law Attorneys](#) will be hosting its annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 19th - 21st with an introductory workshop on May 18th. Conference organizers are currently soliciting proposals for presentations on the Fundamentals of Elder and Special Needs Law that answer one of the following questions:

- What are you doing in your practice that works and how is it unique?
- What traditional methods are you using in a non-traditional way?

Proposals under consideration must “provide substantive information with practical application that attendees can take away from the conference. Materials in addition to any Power Point Presentation will be mandatory for every session.”

For more information or to download a proposal form, visit the [NAELA Calendar of Events online](#).

Proposal deadline: November 15th, 2010.

Requests for Nominations and Recognitions

American Society on Aging Leadership Awards

The [American Society on Aging](#) (ASA) is now accepting nominations for the organization's Leadership Awards which will be presented at ASA's Aging in America conference in San Francisco, April 26th-30th, 2011. These awards are open to anyone and include:

- Graduate Student Research Award
- ASA Award
- ASA Hall of Fame Award
- Gloria Cavanaugh Award for Excellence in Education and Training

In addition, individual sections of the ASA are soliciting nominations for honors.

The deadline for submissions is October 27, 2010. For more information or to submit a nomination, visit [ASA](#) online.

National Association of Legal Services Developers “Elder Rights Advocacy Hall of Fame”

The National Association of Legal Services Developers (NALSD) is seeking nominees for induction into the Elder Rights Advocacy Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame was established in 2007 to recognize “those who have advanced the legal rights of our nation’s over-sixty population, or a significant segment thereof. Those who have advocated on behalf of the poor, disadvantaged, socially needy, and vulnerable elderly are given special consideration.” Nominations are accepted in one of two categories: lifetime achievement or significant contribution.

Induction into the Hall of Fame will be held at the NALSD Annual Meeting on December 11th, in Alexandria, Virginia, following the closing session of the National Aging and Law Conference.

According to the NALSD: “Advancing the legal rights includes, but is not limited to: providing or obtaining legal advice or representation; assisting elders in understanding and exercising their rights; assisting elders, particularly those at risk of inappropriate guardianship, in maintaining their legal rights; advocating for either state or federal legislation that advances elder rights; and ‘improving the quality and quantity of legal assistance available’ to this population. Nominations are open to all professional disciplines; however, current members of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Legal Assistance Developers (NALSD) are ineligible.”

Nominations must include the following information:

- name and current occupation of the nominee;
- category for which the nomination is made;
- a description of the nominee’s contributions based on the category in which they are nominated;
- background information or résumé of the nominee;
- supporting documentation such as letters of support, list of accomplishments, list of publications, etc.

Nominations must be received by October 25th, 2010. For more information, or to nominate an advocate, contact:

[William T. Graham](#)

P.O. Box 45

Groveland, NY 14462

E-Mail: esquire@nycap.rr.com

Funding Opportunities

Office of Victims of Crime

2011 NCVRW Community Awareness Project

The National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators is currently soliciting proposals “for innovative and collaborative projects to raise public awareness of victims’ rights and services in local communities during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW), April 10-16, 2011.”

For more information and an application, visit the [NCVRW Community Awareness Projects](#) website.

Application deadline: October 22, 2010

U.S. Administration on Aging

Grants for Native Americans and Native American Caregiver Support Program

As quoted from the program announcement: "...The goal of these programs is to increase home and community based services to older Indians, Alaska Natives and native Hawaiians, that respond to local needs and are consistent with evidence-based practices....This program assists families in caring for an older relative with a chronic illness or disability. The program helps tribes provide multifaceted systems of support services for family caregivers of elders and for grandparents caring for grandchildren...."

Application kits are available by writing to:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration on Aging,
Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and
Native Hawaiian Programs,
Washington, D.C. 20201

or by calling Cecelia Aldridge, telephone: (202) 357-3422.

A [detailed description of the funding opportunity](#) is also available online.

Application deadline: November 30, 2010

State News: Updates from Delaware, Louisiana, and North Carolina

Delaware Enacts New Durable Personal Power of Attorney Act

Delaware's new [Durable Personal Power of Attorney Act](#) was implemented on October 1st, 2010. The act was based on the Uniform Power of Attorney Act drafted by the [National Conference of](#)

[Commissioners on Uniform State Law](#) (NCCUSL) in 2006. The Act provides for more robust requirements to protect principals in several ways. The document must be signed by the principal, notarized, and witnessed by a "disinterested" party - an individual not related to the principal, and not entitled to any part of the principal's estate. The Act also authorizes the use of an optional one-page notice to be executed by the principal that outlines the purpose and underscores the significance of naming an agent. The new form requires the principal to designate each of the general and specific categories of powers for which the agent will have authority. The Act also requires an agent's certification that states the agent understands his or her responsibilities.

Special thanks to Judge Susan Del Pesco, Director, Division of Long Term Care Residents Protection, Delaware Health and Social Services for contributing this information.

Louisiana: Conducting Outreach through Higher Education

On November 18th, the [St. Tammany SALT Council](#) will provide an elder abuse training program as part of the curricula for the Occupational Therapy Masters Degree program at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. The presentation will be based on the continuing education (CE) training that the Council provides for social workers, and will cover such topics as: state statutes and reporting requirements; personal criminal and civil liability; vicarious and organizational liability; recognition and identification; and legal issues relating to Louisiana medical powers of attorney and end-of-life legal documents.

Ralph O'Neal, who heads up the St. Tammany SALT Council and coordinates the area's elder justice coalition, noted that the request to provide the

training was a direct outgrowth of the Council's annual elder abuse conference held on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Mr. O'Neal and fellow advocates in the region are also looking to create or adapt existing outreach materials for elementary and high school students in order to engage young people in elder abuse prevention.

Special thanks to Mr. O'Neal for contributing this update.

North Carolina: Surviving Abuse in the Senior Years Curricula

The [Center for Family Violence Prevention](#) (CFVP) and the Violence in Aging Council (VIAC) have created the ***Surviving Abuse in the Senior Years (SASY)*** program. The curriculum, which is designed for use with groups of seniors, was unveiled on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with an audience of 80 participants at the Pitt County Senior Center.

The curriculum uses a variety of creative vehicles to capture attention, present content, and engage discussion including Elder Abuse Bingo, skits and dramatic readings, music, word searches and puzzles, and other exercises.

According to Sara Bergdolt-Munzer, SASY project coordinator and program administrator for CFVP, the curriculum has been distributed to senior centers and assisted living facilities throughout eastern North Carolina.

“At least one assisted living facility is also using it to train staff. When I have presented the curriculum to senior center groups, it always seems to stimulate discussion on this topic with the participants. We have also heard senior center participants discussing among themselves, after

our presentation, what they would do if they were a victim of abuse,” observed Ms. Bergdolt Munzer.

The project was funded by the Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation. In addition to the project team (which included representatives from aging services, law enforcement, clergy, and long-term care) volunteers and students from East Carolina University and Salem College also participated. This is not the first time that CFVP has collaborated with community partners to raise awareness of elder abuse in a creative manner; they sponsored an elder abuse quilt show in observance of the 2008 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. (For more on this, see the [August 2008 NCEA E-News](#).)

For questions on SASY, please email [Ms. Bergdolt-Munzer](#). Special thanks to Ms. Bergdolt-Munzer for contributing this update.

Editorial Note

The NCEA E-News features the following columns on a rotating basis: State News, Federal Legislative Updates, and Research Highlights. The November NCEA E-News will include Federal Legislative Updates.

Calendar of Events

October 1 -31

[National Domestic Violence Awareness Month](#)

National Observance

October 5-7, 2010

[Prosecuting Elder Abuse Cases](#)

Inn at USC

Columbia, SC

October 6-8, 2010

[State Bar of Michigan Elder Law and Disability Rights Section Annual Conference: Changes and Choices](#)

Crystal Mountain Resort

Thompsonville, MI

October 19-22, 2010

[35th NCCNHR Annual Meeting and Conference](#)

Caribe Royale All-Suite Resort & Convention Center

Orlando, FL

October 21, 2010

[30th Annual Mental Health and Aging Conference](#)

Let's Break the Silence - Substance Abuse Among Seniors: The Hidden Epidemic

"Medication, Alcohol Substance Abuse & Depression"

Elks Lodge #6

Sacramento, CA

October 26-29, 2010

[27th Annual Texas Adult Protective Services Conference: Empowering, Enriching, Protecting Lives](#)

Holiday Inn Select San Antonio International Airport

San Antonio, TX

October 27-30, 2010

[International Association of Forensic Nurses 18th Annual Scientific Assembly](#)

Omni William Penn Hotel

Pittsburgh, PA

October 27-31, 2010

[20th Annual Multi-Disciplinary National Conference on Domestic Violence](#)

Gaylord National Resort and Conference Center

Washington, DC

October 27-29, 2010

[2nd International Conference on Violence in the Health Sector](#)

De Meervaart

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

October 28-30, 2010

[Canadian Conference Elder Law: Developing an Anti-Ageist Approach to the Law](#)

Delta Chelsea Hotel

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

November 1-30, 2010

[National Family Caregivers Month](#)

National observance

November 4-6, 2010

[National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Fall Institute](#)

Sheraton San Diego

San Diego, CA

November 6-10, 2010

[American Public Health Association 138th Annual Meeting and Expo](#)

Colorado Convention Center and the Hyatt Regency Denver

Denver, CO

November 8-10, 2010

["Healing the Culture of Abuse"](#)

21st Annual NAPSA Conference in partnership with the University of California, Irvine

Westin Gaslamp Quarter San Diego
San Diego, CA

November 9-10, 2010

Office of Victims of Crime Training
[Compassion Fatigue/Vicarious Trauma](#)
Albuquerque Marriott
Albuquerque, NM

December 9-11, 2010

[2010 National Aging and Law Conference: The Changing Face of Aging](#)
Westin Hotel
Alexandria, VA

December 9-11, 2010

[National Indian Nations Conference: Justice for Victims](#)
Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel
Palm Springs, CA

Credits and Contact Information

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