SMP and Elder Abuse—An Important Piece in Prevention
WHAT IS THE NATIONAL CENTER ON ELDER ABUSE (NCEA)?

A national resource center dedicated to the prevention of elder mistreatment that engages and empowers older adults so that they feel capable of advocating for themselves and their communities.

Granted a permanent home at AoA/ACL in the 1992 amendments to Title II of the Older Americans Act.
OUR GOAL

To improve the national response to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation by (a) gathering, housing, disseminating current information, (b) stimulating and identifying new approaches, and (c) detecting and addressing gaps in the field.

We will be the entity others look to when they need state-of-the-art information and we will push the field forward.
Elder Abuse is increasing at alarming rates as our population ages and is vastly underreported. We need to travel together to stay on track.

Why Should You Be Involved?

WHO IS AT RISK?

Average age 78

67% of victims are female

50% of people with dementia are victims of some kind of abuse

ISOLATION: A MAJOR FACTOR IN EA

Occurs in many ways:

- Loss of visual cues
  - Ex-Macular Degeneration
- Loss of auditory cues
  - Can you hear me now?
- Limitations with Mobility
  - Wheelchairs/walkers
- Loss of drivers license
While physical distancing/quarantines/self-isolation is the new normal at the moment, we need to be prepared to assist older adults in many ways.

- Developing safe communication pathways
  - Elder Care Locator
  - Established Friendly visitor programs
  - Prepare clear concise information for dissemination

- Reaching out to creditable resources
  - We will review helpful resources with you at the end of the presentation.
TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

Multiple forms of abuse can occur at once.
Elder Abuse takes many forms

Elder abuse, the mistreatment or harming of an older person, is an injustice that we all need to prevent and address.

Elder Abuse occurs in both community and institutional settings and takes many forms, including:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional/Psychological abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect
- Financial exploitation

Elder Abuse is believed to be widely under-detected and under-reported.
Elder Abuse can occur when strong social supports are not in place to keep us connected as we age.

**How Does Elder Abuse Happen?**

- **Isolation & Location**
- **Communication**
- **Drug Use**
- **Anxiety**

Elder Abuse can be prevented if we work together to create a stronger society that values and supports all of us as we age.
SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

Physical Signs

- Broken bones, bruises, and welts
- Untreated bed sores
- Torn, stained, or bloody underclothing
- Sexually transmitted diseases without clear explanations
- Dirtiness, poor nutrition, or dehydration
- Poor living conditions
- Lack of medical aids [glasses, walker, teeth, hearing aid, or medications]
- Over/under medicated
SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE

Emotional & Behavioral Signs
- Unusual changes in behavior or sleep
- Fear or anxiety
- Isolation from friends or family
- Withdrawal from normal activities
- Sadness

Financial Signs
- Unusual changes in a bank account or money management services
- Unusual or sudden changes in a will or other financial documents
- Fraudulent signatures on financial documents
- Unpaid bills
OUR EXPERTS ON PHYSICAL ABUSE

• Adult Protective Services  
  http://www.napsa-now.org/

• Domestic Violence personnel focused on Abuse in Later Life  
  www.ncall.org

• Some trending in the medical field-  
  www.ncea.aoa.gov –research Dr. Laura Mosqueda
OUR EXPERTS ON FINANCIAL ABUSE

• Federal Trade Commission  
  www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov  
  1.877.382.4357

• Internet Crime Complaint-www.ic3.gov

• Consumer Financial Protection Bureau  
  http://www.consumerfinance.gov/
COVID-19 AND SCAMS

• Expect scams to be on the rise
• Scammers will prey on susceptible and isolated older people

• How will they do it?:
  – Incite fear
  – Make something sound urgent
  – Make claims that they have “the answer”
  – Pressure older people into providing access to:
    • Electronic devices
    • Identifying information
    • Banking, credit or investment account information
COVID-19 CONCERNS

Scenario #1:

An older person receives emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or experts saying that have information about the virus.
For the most up-to-date information about the Coronavirus, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
Scenario #2:

A person on the line claims to be calling from the local health department or hospital and exclaim that they have a miracle cure that they received special access to that hasn’t been shared with the public yet. They mention it just shipped to the United States from a French Pharmaceutical Company.
Ignore online offers for vaccinations. There currently are no vaccines, pills, potions, lotions, lozenges or other prescription or over-the-counter products available to treat or cure Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) — online or in stores.

According to recent global news it is expected that vaccines make take upwards of a year to be made (in a method that they can mass produce).
RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION

• Our clients are, by definition, independent.

• They have the right to self-determination even if their choices do not serve their best interest.
WHAT LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN DO

• Respond to emergency calls
• Work with other first responders
  – paramedics
  – firefighters
• Observe, survey, and interview
• Recognize tell-tale signs of abusers
• Collect evidence to substantiate allegations
• Provide referrals to community resources
Introduction to

The Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement
**Background**

Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement

**Development**

EAGLE is a **FREE** tool that helps officers effectively identify and investigate potential elder abuse cases

- Supported by the Department of Justice and developed by elder abuse experts at the University of Southern California
- EAGLE was also cross tested by law enforcement departments across the country

**EAGLE Tools and Capabilities**

In addition to quick reference educational information on various forms of elder abuse, EAGLE also provides:

- Assistance in documenting a case for prosecution
- ZIP-code-based community resources locator
- State-by-state penal codes relating to elder abuse
Quick reference with definitions, signs, red flags, and actions for all forms of elder abuse

State specific elder abuse statues, charging information, consumer protection statutes and state mandated reporting

Printable and digital checklist detailing what needs to be collected on scene for a successful prosecution

Contact information for organizations such as Adult Protective Services (APS)
PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Elder abuse is preventable – and everyone has a role to play. It is up to all of us to build strong supports for one another and prevent abuse before it happens.

It is up to all of us to know the signs of elder abuse so we can immediately report any suspicions of abuse occurring in the community or long-term care setting.
REPORTING ABUSE

Report suspected abuse in the community to the local Adult Protective Services agency, and report suspected abuse in a nursing home or long-term care facility to the local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. For serious and immediate emergencies, call 9-1-1.

Report suspicions of abuse as soon as possible.

Adult Protective Services
https://www.napsa-now.org/

Local Law Enforcement
https://www.usacops.com/

Long-Term Care Ombudsman
https://ltcombudsman.org/about

To connect to a local or state reporting number, contact the Eldercare Locator at eldercare.acl.gov or at 1-800-677-1116 M-F 9AM – 8PM ET.
OUR WEBSITES

- National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA): https://ncea.acl.gov
- USC Center on Elder Mistreatment (USC CEM): https://eldermistreatment.usc.edu/
- Training Resources on Elder Abuse (TREA): https://treau.sce.edu/
- Elder Abuse Guide for Law Enforcement (EAGLE): http://eagle.trea.usc.edu/
KEEP THESE RESOURCES HANDY

• Consumer Protection Resources
  – Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) - Submit a complaint of a financial product or service online or call (855)411-2372
  – Better Business Bureau Scam Tracker - Report a business or offer that sounds like an illegal scheme or fraud to warn others and help investigate
  – Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)- Accepts online Internet crime complaints
  – Federal Trade Commission Do Not Call Registry - Register to stop receiving and report unwanted calls online or call 1-888-383-1222
  – U.S. Postal Inspection Service
    • Data & Marketing Association Registry - Register to reduce unsolicited commercial
    • Report Mail Fraud to U.S. Postal Inspection Service
  – National Elder Fraud Hotline- For those who have experienced elder fraud call (833) 732-8311
ANY QUESTIONS?
CONTACT THE NCEA

Call Us on our Information and Referral line:
1-855-500-3537 (ELDR)

Email Us:
NCEA@med.usc.edu