COLLABORATION WHEN SERVING ABUSE IN LATER LIFE SURVIVORS

OVW Abuse in Later Life Grant Program

• Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program

• Eligibility: Applicants are limited to States, units of local government, Indian Tribal governments or tribal organizations, and nonprofit and nongovernmental victim services organizations

• Demonstrated experience in assisting elderly women or demonstrated experience in addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.
Honoring the Survivors

Population age 65 and over and age 85 and over, selected years 1900–2010 and projected 2020–2050

NOTE: These projections are based on Census 2009 and are not consistent with the 2011 Census results. Projections based on the 2010 Census will be released in late 2012.

Reference population: These data refer to the resident population.

Abuse in Later Life

- Age: 50+
- Gender: Female and male
- Relationship: Ongoing with expectation of trust
- Forms: Physical, emotional and sexual abuse, neglect and financial exploitation
Intimate Partner Violence

• Long-term relationship
• New relationship
• Late onset

Other relationships

• Adult son, daughter, grandchild
• Caregivers & Care receiver as abuser
Abuse in Later Life: Power and Control
Created by the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), Madison, WI
This diagram adapted from the Power and Control/Equality wheels developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN
www.duluth-model.org

Lois
What tactics were used against Lois?

### Financial Exploitation

- Illegal or improper use of an older adult's funds, property or assets.
- Because not all older adults use the banking system, consider cash, gold, jewelry, antiques, and homes as assets.
Who Commits Financial Exploitation?

- Family members, partners, and trusted individuals
- Caregivers
- Faith leaders or members of a faith community
- Court appointed guardians or persons with powers of attorney
- Strangers who may become “friends” such as in “sweetheart scams”
What tactics were used against Anne?

What are some unique challenges when the abuser is an adult child?
Sexual Abuse in Later Life

- Victims: any age and range of ability
- Offenders: spouse/partner, adult sons, grandchildren, caregivers, family members and others. (least common: strangers)
- In private dwellings or facility settings

Sexual Abuse

- Hands on
- Hands off
- Harmful genital practices
Miss Mary

• What are some unique issues for older victims of sexual assault?
• What additional barriers may exist for an older victim reporting a sexual assault?
Generational Issues

- Retain strong beliefs about privacy and self-reliance
- Have traditional commitments to spouse, family, home, male/female roles
- Believe domestic/sexual abuse service programs only for women with children
- Historical trauma
Collaboration … Working Together

- Formal
- Informal

Informal Methods of Collaboration

- Joint interviews
- Case consultations
- Referrals and follow-ups
- Working on a project, fundraiser, or public awareness campaign together
Formal Methods of Collaboration

• Case review teams: (Interdisciplinary)
• Systems Change: (Coordinated community response councils or fatality review teams)
• Topic specific: (Financial exploitation)

A Community Responds
How did this communities collaboration benefit Miss Mary?

Benefits of Collaboration

- Victim safety & comfort
- More resources for victims
- New ideas about how to approach a case
- Shared ownership and responsibility for case outcomes
- Less “finger pointing”
Community Coordinated Response (CCR)

• Provide a seamless response across systems; no matter what entry point a victim uses, the response is consistent.
• Avoid unintended consequences in which one system’s response actually increases danger to victim

Primary Goals of a CCR

• Create a coherent philosophical approach centralizing victim safety and offender accountability
• Provide community leadership on issue
• Identify, evaluate and coordinate systems’ response
• Create a system to monitor effectiveness of system response and hold members accountable
Potential Work of a CCR

- Systems review (internal, among, and across systems)
- Educational efforts (i.e., cross-training)
- Community outreach
- Legislative advocacy
Role of Individual Members

• Commit to leadership on Abuse in Later Life issues
  – Within their own organization or agency
  – Within the community
• Commit to systems change
• Take responsibility for completing work
• Stay with it

What are the challenges that arise when working across disciplines?
Some Challenges

• Information sharing, confidentiality, mandatory reporting
• Lack of resources
• Lack of understanding of what other agencies can and cannot do
• Turf & Ego

Collaboration

• Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. —Helen Keller

• Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success. —Henry Ford
Questions?

Clip art throughout this PowerPoint by Isis International
http://www.isiswomen.org/

Ann Turner
Elder Victim Services & Advocacy Coordinator
NCALL
715-483-2521
annt@wcadv.org