A Community Approach for Abuse and Exploitation of Older Citizens
Introductions

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• Sheri Gibson, PhD. Staff psychologist at the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)
• Kathryn Chacon, LCSW, APS Supervisor
• Detective Chuck Szatkowski, CSPD, Crimes Against the Elderly Unit
In 2000, A Fairly “Young” World . . .

Percent of Population Age 60+
2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
... An Aging World by 2025

Percent of Population Age 60+ 2025

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Community Statistics

• The Colorado State Demography Office projects that the 65 and over population in the Pikes Peak Region will increase from 68,000 in 2010 to 176,500 in 2040. This 160 percent increase is triple the 53 percent increase of the total population.

• The 85 and over population in the Pikes Peak Region will more than triple, growing 337 percent from 7,550 in 2010 to 33,000 by 2040.
Two sides of the Longevity Coin

• For many:
  – Good health and independence

• For some:
  – Chronic illness and increased medications
  – Depression
  – Dementia
  – Change in quality/quantity of social support or situation
Cognitive Impairment

- Risk of cognitive impairment increases greatly with age.
- By 2030, 7.7 million adults in the U.S. over the age 65 will have dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease.
- By 2050, over 15 million affected.
- Dementia places individuals at risk for abuse and exploitation.
Association between Dementia and Victimization

- Higher prevalence of elder abuse among people with dementia (Cooper et al., 2008)

- Research findings:
  - Nearly 50% of persons with dementia experience some form of abuse (Cooper et al., 2009)
  - 47% of persons with dementia had been mistreated by their caregivers (Wiglesworth et al., 2010)
Elder abuse: A fast-growing problem (NCEA, 2007)
19.7% Increase

Reported cases / Million

- Prevalence Rates of elder abuse

1996
2004
Incidence rates unknown

- No national mechanism for recording or analyzing reporting data.
- Inconsistent definitions across states
  - Limits detection, investigative, and prosecution processes
- Observational Research
  - Perpetrator and victim characteristics
  - Develop theories of elder abuse
  - Understand risk factors for abuse
National Elder Mistreatment Study
(Acierno et al., 2009)

Results: \( N = 5777 \) respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prevalence Rate</th>
<th>Type of Abuse</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>Financial abuse by family member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>Potential neglect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>Emotional abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
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1 in 10 respondents reported emotional, physical, or sexual mistreatment, or potential neglect in the past year.

Most consistent correlates = low social support and previous traumatic event exposure
Definitions – Types of Abuse

• Physical Abuse
• Sexual Abuse
• Emotional Abuse
• Neglect
• Self-Neglect
• Financial Exploitation
Psychological Component: Undue Influence

- The misuse of one’s role and power to exploit the trust of another
- UI plays a significant role in elder abuse
- Risk factors for undue influence:
  - Isolation, Cognitive deficits, Major life transition

Undue Influence is *not* an event – it’s a process
Why is Community Collaboration Important and Why Should You Care?

- Despite increased awareness at the local, state, and national levels, the professional response remains inadequate.
- Services are scarce, fragmented, of varying quality, and poorly understood by the public.
- In many communities, coordination among law enforcement, social service agencies, courts, health care providers, and others is poor.
- Few perpetrators are brought to justice, and many victims do not receive needed compensation, services, or treatment.
- The time is ripe to bring together a diverse group of committed partners to raise awareness, educate, and better respond to cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
The Benefits of Multi-disciplinary Teams

• Provides a venue for
  – Resolving difficult abuse cases.
  – Identifying service gaps.
  – Updating members about new services, resources, and legislation.
  – Revealing systemic problems to identify opportunities for new services, resources, legislation, and information about new developments.
  – Access to legal expertise.
It is the mission of Silver Key to serve in partnership with our stakeholders to support quality of life for seniors - allowing them the choice of safely aging in place with dignity and independence.
Silver Key Services

• Transportation
  – Assisted/Unassisted

• Nutrition
  – Meals on Wheels
  – Congregate Meals
  – Food Pantry
Silver Key Services

• Case Management
  – Short term intervention
  – Guardianship
  – Senior Reach
  – Elder Abuse Advocacy
PACE and UCCS

• Rocky Mountain Program of All-Inclusive Care (PACE)
  – Mission: To keep individuals as highly independent as possible by delivering exceptional care to enrich the lives of our participants and empower them to live vibrant, independent lives.

• University of Colorado, Colorado Springs Aging Center
  – A community-based non-profit mental health facility and primary practicum training site for the APA accredited clinical psychology Ph.D. program.
  – Services: Neuropsychological assessment, comprehensive psychological assessment, and treatment services to persons 55+ and caregivers.
Colorado Adult Protective Services

• Research, Evaluate and Determine: RED Team
  – Small group, focusing on triaging cases from PD and the community.

• Adult Protection Review Team: APRT
Joint Investigations Information Sharing

• Coordinate services
• Memorandum of Understanding
• Confidentiality form
• Tracking the Life of a Case
  – RED team
  – APRT
Confidentiality Agreement

The purpose of the Pikes Peak Elder Abuse Staffing Team (PPEACST) is to conduct a full examination of suspected elder abuse, neglect, mistreatment, or exploitation. In order to assure a coordinated response that fully addresses all systemic concerns surrounding these cases, PPEACST must have access to all existing records on each person’s elder abuse. This includes any social services reports, court documents, mental health records, hospital or medical related data, and any other information.

1. I understand that the information received as a member of the Pikes Peak Elder Abuse Coalition Staffing Team is confidential in nature. As such, I also understand that I am subject to the applicable federal, state and local laws, rules and regulations regarding release of this information to unauthorized persons.

2. I understand that any violation of these confidentiality requirements may subject me to prosecution under the applicable laws, rules and regulations.

3. I will not divulge confidential information discussed during reviews to any unauthorized persons and will follow the procedures adopted for discussion of all confidential information by the Pikes Peak Elder Abuse Coalition Staffing Team.

4. I understand that the confidentiality requirements continue even if I no longer serve on the Pikes Peak Elder Abuse Coalition Staffing Team.

Date: ________________________________.

Signature: ____________________________.

Organization: ________________________.
Colorado Spring Police Department

• Two detectives and one civilian administrative position.
• Investigate crimes against persons (assaults, sexual assaults, caretaker neglect) and some exploitation case.
• Victims 60 and older or all I/DD adults.
PD Reporting Trends

• Before mandatory reporting PD received an average of 80 calls per month.

• During the first year we averaged 437 calls per month; 45% of the calls resulting in case reports and 80% of the victims being 70 or older.
TRADITIONAL RESPONSE
Pre-Coordination

• The case of Dr. R
Our Community’s History

- 2005 Coalition on Abuse in Later Life (CALL) was developed
- Coalition was informed by prior community efforts focused on domestic violence.
- APS and other agencies needing to understand what community partners could and could not do;
- CALL was “owned” by multiple agencies.
- Original mission of CALL:
  - “To reduce abuse and neglect of people in later life in Pikes Peak region through improved community understanding, coordination, and response.”
Subcommittees were formed to increase education and outreach to agencies and professional communities.

Office of Violence Against Women grant: 3 year - $425,000.00 grant which was managed by CSPD
- Grant monies focused on delivery of multidisciplinary training to law enforcement officers and community partners.

Grant to place a Silver Key Advocate at PD.
Transitional Moments that influence collaboration

- Mandatory reporting law triggered new energy and new focus;
- Police department took over;
- Police department experienced changes;
- Evolved from monthly to quarterly meetings;
More transition

• In 2012, Crimes Against Elders Unit was developed secondary to the grant and collaborations maintained through the CALL mechanism.

• CALL transitioned to Pikes Peak Elder Abuse Coalition adopted case presentation and consultation.

• Leadership returned to Silver Key.
Training and Education

• Conducted Train the Trainer sessions for coalition members.
• Offered training to community: financial institutions, hospital, care facilities, faith-based organizations, neighborhood organizations, professional organizations.
• World Elder Abuse Awareness events.
• Website
  http://dhs.elpasoco.com/Pages/AdultElderAbuse.aspx
Stop And Prevent Elder Abuse

The El Paso County Pikes Peak Elder Abuse Coalition was created to empower and educate our community, older adults and caregivers. Our main functions are to provide information on services, policies and trainings for preventing elder abuse. Elder abuse appears in many different forms, including physical abuse, emotional abuse, undue influence, sexual abuse or exploitation, financial exploitation, denial of critical care and self-neglect. Meetings are held quarterly, the next meeting is Friday, 8/21/15 at 10am, at Silver Key Senior Services, located at 2250 Bott Ave, Colorado Springs, CO 80904. For more information please call Silver Key Senior Services at (719) 884-2352.
CLIENT FOCUSED APPROACH
Post-Coordination

• Another case with Dr. R
Bumps in the Road: Lessons Learned

- Dearth of money.
- Community needs survey.
- Emergency housing pilot program.
- Changes in organizations’ leadership.
- Lessons learned: Too broad, target one or two goals at a time.
- Challenges to community collaboration: staff turnover, burnout.
What it takes to succeed

• Promote a strong commitment to purpose
• Determine vision, mission and values
• Create a results-oriented approach
• Build an inclusionary coalition membership
• Effective Leadership
• Monitor Performance
• Equal Voice of all agencies
• Dedicated point of contact within each agency
What it takes to succeed

• Commitment from each organization’s chief executive officer.
• A dedicated coordinator position.
• Participation in the coalition written into each organization’s mission.
• Participation written into the job description of those who work in the field.
The Dream Model: An MDT approach

• Law enforcement officer with special training in elder abuse/exploitation.
• DA or DA investigator with special training in elder abuse/exploitation.
• APS caseworker
• Geropsychologist
• Geriatric Nurse Practitioner
• Senior Service Organization
The Dream Model

• Elder law attorney
• Financial institution
• Guardian/Conservator

• MDT Goals reflective of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging Agenda:
  – Developing a knowledge base for prevention and intervention.
    • Grant-writing; research; dissemination of knowledge.
  – Creating a comprehensive network of service options.
  – Forging a coordinated policy approach
What we can all strive for:

• Commitment to the cause by attending regular meetings, sharing work, reaching decisions, respectful debate, acknowledging and correcting errors.
• Passion, Purpose, Perseverance.
• Identification of the population and geographic area your network will serve.
• Staying client-focused rather than agency-focused.
Definition of An Elder

An Elder is a person who is still growing, still a learner, still with potential and whose life continues to have within it promise for, and connection to the future. An Elder is still in pursuit of happiness, joy and pleasure, and her or his birthright to these remains intact. Moreover, an Elder is a person who deserves respect and honor and whose work it is to synthesize wisdom from long life experience and formulate this into a legacy for future generations.

The Live Oak Project

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