

Elder Abuse Community Outreach Report

A Program of the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee Office on Aging

Issue 5

September 2017



Victim Service Provider Trainings

Another major component of the elder abuse victim service grant is training for elder abuse victim service providers. This 8-hour training is designed for system advocates (such as those working at Family Justice Center, with law enforcement, or with the DA's Office); community advocates (such as those working at Helen Ross McNabb Center and other community-based advocacy organizations); and the aging network (such as Adult Protective Services, Office on Aging, Area Agency on Aging & Disability, and the medical community). The collaboration between these partners is essential to ensure

that survivors have the tools necessary to move on with their lives, that the criminal justice system has the support it needs to be able to focus on their job, and so that a victim-centered response can be maintained throughout the entire process.

Three victim service trainings were offered in Knoxville with 75 being trained. These trainees represented several organizations across the county, both public and private sector. For a 1 hour condensed training on elder abuse, contact joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org.

First Call Exercise

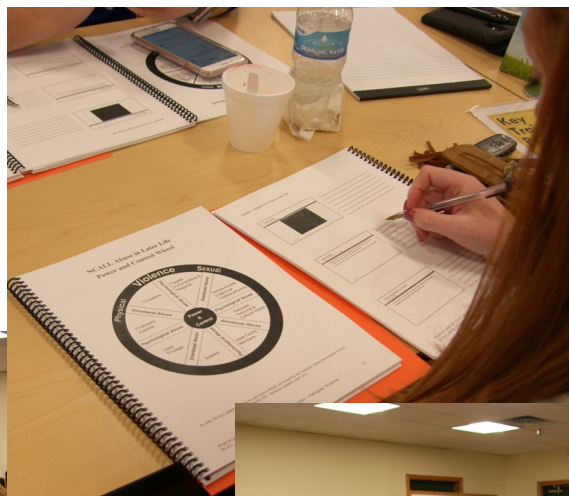
If you were a victim of elder abuse, who would you call first? Who would the average older adult call?

- Criminal Justice System
- Sexual Violence Program
- Adult Protective Services
- Aging Services
- Family Member or Friend
- Domestic Violence Program
- Other
- No One

(Left) Table 2 review the training materials for the day.

(Center) A participant takes notes about power and control dynamics.

(Right) Nick Barajas reports back to the full group.



Elder Abuse Community Outreach Report - Page 2

Judicial Institute

Training is offered to a variety of partners within the elder abuse grant. Law Enforcement and victim service providers receive all day trainings. Prosecutors and judges receive intensive, multi-day training. The Prosecutors training was showcased in our December 2016 newsletter. In August 2017, three judges from Knox County attended the Judicial Institute on Elder Abuse in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Judicial Institute on Elder Abuse took participants through aging and dynamics of elder abuse and applied those lessons to practical courtroom case studies. There was also in-depth programs on fact finding in elder abuse cases, leadership and access to justice, and as well as fairness and cultural issues related to aging.

When asked his thoughts on the conference, one judge said the event was very worthwhile and that the case studies show just how important the coordinated efforts of multiple partners are.



Another said he gained insights that will make him more aware of elder abuse issues as he reviews the applications for warrants.

Not every grant community was successful in recruiting judges for this institute. Based on the feedback received by Knox County judges, that is unfortunate. Knoxville's elder abuse grant benefited from Attorney General Charme Allen's support for the conference and her office's invitation to these judges. This partnership speaks to one of the overarching lessons of this grant. Elder abuse cases are complex and require the help and expertise of multiple partners from the time elder abuse is discovered through the legal process and recovery for the survivor.

The courtroom is a major stage in the fight against elder abuse. But that alone is not enough. Overcoming elder abuse in Knox County requires the engagement of everyone from social service organizations, to the justice system, to every day people who come across abuse. If you would like more information on how you or your organization can review and update your response to elder abuse, please contact Joseph Winberry at 524-2786 or joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org.

(Left to Right)

Hon. Steven Sword of the Criminal Court,
Hon. Geoffrey Emery of the General Sessions Court, and
Hon. Ray Jenkins of the General Sessions Court
Magistrate Office gather prior to their flight.

Civil Legal Webinars on Elder Abuse

- [Module 1: Abuse in Later Life Overview](#)
- [Module 2: Forming Relationship with Client](#)
- [Module 3: Client Goal-setting and Non-litigation Responses](#)
- [Module 4: Legal Resolutions and Remedies](#)
- [Module 5: Bringing the Case - Trial Skills](#)

Are you interested in learning more about Knoxville's elder abuse grant or want to know how you can be involved?

Contact Joseph Winberry,
Elder Abuse Community Outreach Program Manager,
(865) 524-2786 or joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org
www.knoxseniors.org/eacop.html

To report abuse, contact Adult Protective Services at:
1-888-APS-TENN (1-888-277-8366) or [online](#).

Remember, reporting abuse is mandatory under state law!

This project was supported by Grant No. 2015-EWAX-K009 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Grant No. 2015-EWAX-K009 was obtained by the Knoxville Police Department.