

Elder Abuse Community Outreach Report

Issue 1

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What is Elder Abuse Community Outreach?

Elder abuse can be physical, emotional, financial, neglect, or sexual abuse. Applied broadly, an “elder victim” can be anyone over the age of 50 who has faced abuse due to age. Elder abuse is a growing problem in many parts of the country; Knoxville is no exception.

In 2015, a group of community partners came together in response to the growing issue of elder abuse in Knoxville-Knox County. These partners included Adult Protective Services, Community Action Committee, Family Justice Center, Helen Ross McNabb, Knox County Attorney General’s Office, Knox County’s Sheriff Office, and Knoxville Police Department.

The Knoxville Police Department’s Planning & Grants Office subsequently wrote and received a federal grant from the Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women. The grant includes funding for training, direct services for older victims, a coordinated community response around systems-change, and grant administration.

Meet Joseph Winberry

Joseph Winberry joined the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee’s Office on Aging in March 2016 as its elder abuse community outreach program manager.

Joseph’s responsibilities include the day-to-day administration of Knoxville’s elder abuse grant. This means collaborating with grant partners, chairing the elder abuse coordinated community response, leading logistics for grant-related events, writing proposals,

The specific components of the grant are:

- Training for grant partners
- Training for law enforcement
- Training for victim service professionals
- Training for prosecutors
- Training for judges
- Direct services for older victims of abuse
- Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response

Upon receiving the grant, the Knoxville Police Department contracted with the Community Action Committee’s Office on Aging to oversee the daily operations of the grant. The Elder Abuse Community Outreach Program was created as a vehicle for the grant.

Knoxville’s elder abuse grant runs through September 2018.

completing reports, and representing the program in the community.

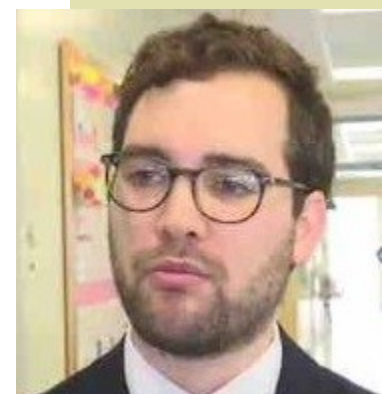
Prior to joining CAC, Joseph worked in numerous capacities at the American Red Cross. He is a history and political science graduate of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Outside of work, Joseph enjoys cooking, reading, writing, and volunteering as the president of West Knoxville Toastmasters.

Elder Abuse in Knox County

In FY 2016 (7/1/15-6/30/16), there were 483 investigations consisting of the following allegations (some overlap):

- 105 emotional abuse
- 136 financial exploitation
- 311 neglect
- 78 physical abuse
- 13 sexual abuse

Source: Tennessee Department of Human Services



Joseph Winberry

Elder Abuse Community Outreach Kickoff

Grant recipients were required to hold a community kickoff event. Knoxville's event was August 15th at the O'Connor Senior Center. 100 participants represented diverse community groups including law enforcement, prosecution, the courts, the aging network, domestic violence/sexual assault advocacy groups, and culturally specific groups attended.

The event consisted of two parts: a morning kickoff and an afternoon coordinated community response meeting. The morning part opened with remarks from Mayor Madeline Rogero and others. Participants then heard from Juanita Davis and Lisa Furr with the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, the grant's technical service provider. They took participants through a case study of elder abuse,

talked about what our roles are in reporting and responding to elder abuse, and facilitating a brain storming session on solutions for elder abuse in Knoxville-Knox County.

The afternoon part was the inaugural coordinated community response attended by twenty members. This group will meet monthly throughout the grant period to identify problems and suggest solutions for the institutions serving older victims.

The next steps will be law enforcement training and direct services for older victims which are expected to begin in the spring of 2017.



Heather Majka with Senior Financial Group and Rosie Noriega with Latino Task Force network after the end of the morning kickoff.



(top picture)
Participants brainstorm solutions for elder abuse during morning kickoff.

(bottom picture)
Juanita Davis, Lisa Furr, and Joseph Winberry (from left to right) celebrate after the grant's first elder abuse coordinated community response meeting.



(top picture)
Mayor Madeline Rogero opens the event.

(bottom picture)
Helen Ross McNabb Center CEO Jerry Vagnier, and State Senators Becky Massey and Dr. Richard Briggs chat before the kickoff.



In the News!

- [WATE: City of Knoxville Receives Grant to Combat Elder Abuse](#)
- [Knox Focus: Plans for Grant to Curb Elder Abuse Announced](#)
- [Knoxville News Sentinel: Knoxville Officials Announce Plan to Combat Elder Abuse](#)

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, at (865) 524-2786 or by email at joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org.

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!