

Elder Abuse Community Outreach Report

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

Issue 6

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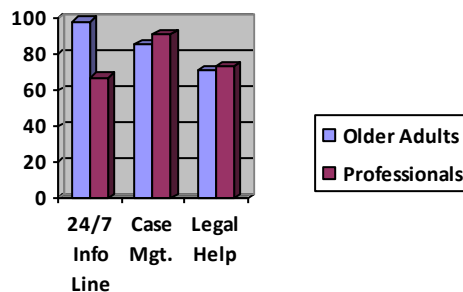
Direct Services For Older Victims: Case Management

One major requirement of the federal elder abuse grant is to provide direct services to victims in our community. In order to identify what services should be provided, the grant required a needs assessment survey. 338 older adults and elder care professionals were surveyed. Based on the results, the elder abuse community outreach program proposed creating an elder abuse case manager position and housing it with the Office on Aging's Project LIVE case management services.

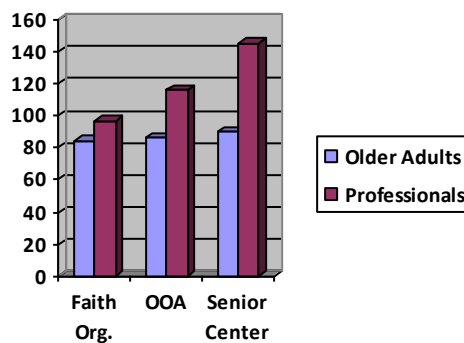
To make the most of the limited funding, the case manager will work directly with grant MOU partners to determine which clients would benefit most from intensive case management services. More information will follow in future reports.

Here are some excerpts from the survey. Full results will be sent out with this report. If you did not get a copy of the results and would like one, contact Joseph Winberry at joseph.winberry@knoxseniors.org or by phone at 865-524-2786.

What services would be most helpful for victims of elder abuse?



Where would be a good place to hold these services for victims of elder abuse?



Who Did We Survey?

- Older Adults
- Law Enforcement
- Private Lawyers
- Aging Services Providers
- Social Workers
- Administrators
- Community Volunteers
- Homebound People
- People from diverse communities

Meet Suzanne Bunton

Suzanne Bunton joined the Knoxville-Knox County Community Action Committee's Office on Aging in November 2017 as its elder abuse case manager.

Suzanne's responsibilities include: managing a case load of older clients; partnering with MOU and other community partners to connect clients with resources; help clients stay in their home or obtain new housing if needed; and accompany clients to court among other duties.

Prior to joining CAC, Suzanne worked serving families and children in therapeutic crisis environments, and worked with the Department of Intellectual Disabilities as an Independent Support Coordinator. She is a professional Counseling and Human Services graduate of Johnson University of Knoxville, TN. Outside of work, Suzanne enjoys traveling both stateside and internationally, writing, and gardening. Suzanne can be reached at 865-524-2786.



Suzanne Bunton

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Protect Seniors This Holiday Season

The holidays are usually a joyous occasion for all people. There is time spent with cherished family and friends; the exchanging of gifts; holiday stimuli for all the senses; and of course delicious food. But the holidays can also be a good time for abusers to take advantage of older people or for family's to insulate their loved ones from the possibility of abuse.

Thankfully, there are resources that can help us fight back against elder abuse this holiday season:

[Don't Let Holiday Giving Give You The Blues](#)

This article is from the Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office for Older Americans. It focuses on how to identify and avoid charity scams around the holidays.

[Home For The Holidays](#)

Perhaps I can speak for many of you in saying that I do not see my older relatives as much as I would like. Many of us have moved around the country to take advantage of opportunities. This short, front and back information sheet is provided by the National Center on Elder Abuse and has good tips on checking in on older relatives who could possibly be victims of abuse. It all also discusses keeping better contact year round.

[During Holiday Visits, Discuss Financial Exploitation with Older Relatives](#)

This article from Caring Right At Home shows how having conversations about exploitation is not a downer during the holidays; in fact, this season is the perfect time to broach these subjects. This information is good for everyone, not just older adults.

We wish you and yours a happy and safe holiday season!



Elder Justice Initiative Webinars

- [Responding to Elder Abuse: Overview](#)
- [Role of Law Enforcement in Elder Abuse Cases](#)
- [Working with Elderly Victims](#)
- [Faith Community & Elder Abuse](#)
- [Elder Justice Resources](#)

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

What Comes Next?

As we prepare for a new year, the Elder Abuse Community Outreach Program begins the last stretch of the federal elder abuse grant and considers what comes next.

Training

- 389 Knoxville Police Officers Already Trained
- 3 Judges Already Trained
- 2 Prosecutors Already Trained
- 75 Victim Service Provider Already Trained

Training: Next Steps

- Knox County Sheriff's Office Training begins in January with about 400 officers expected to be trained.
- Advanced Training for about 100 KPD & KCSO investigators on financial exploitation and elder neglect deaths expected to be provided in February.

Coordinated Community Response (CCR) & Outreach

- Monthly meeting of about 20 partners to discuss how to remove barriers for elder abuse victims in our community.
- CCR work is based on feedback received by 100 participants of August 2016 grant kickoff.
- Currently wrapping up diversity discussions with CCR members.

CCR & Outreach: Next Steps

- Each MOU partner will be working through a process to identify any agency rules or procedures that could be changed to benefit older victims.
- Community education will continue to be offered (this is through a supplemental grant provided by the East TN Foundation). Contact Joseph to schedule a training.

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!