

National Center on Elder Abuse

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On June 15th, we observe the third annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, an effort to focus much needed attention on abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older individuals. Established by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse in 2006, and recognized by the United Nations and the World Health Organization, this commemoration will include a broad palette of activities, ranging from grassroots and community outreach events, to legislative proclamations, to professional conferences, to the launching of new programs and public awareness campaigns. International, national, regional, and local collaborations will illustrate that elder abuse is a threat to the health, dignity, and well-being of aging individuals globally. WEAAD's core messages focus on the hidden nature of elder abuse; the belief that ageism and disempowerment of elders contributes to the invisibility of the problem; that empowerment is the most effective tool in the response to elder abuse; and, above all, that elder abuse should never be ignored.

This issue of the E-NEWS is dedicated to the observance of WEAAD 2008. To provide global perspectives, the NCEA recently asked international elder rights advocates to contribute to this special edition. Experts across continents graciously participated by reporting on trends and developments in their respective regions and by providing information regarding upcoming World Day initiatives. We wish to thank these individuals for their generous and enlightening contributions, which illustrate the universal nature of the problems facing older individuals. The diversity and creativity of the planned activities also illustrate the resourcefulness of those responding to elder abuse worldwide. Because of the extensive response to the NCEA call for information on WEAAD activities, this special edition of the NCEA E-NEWS is longer than usual.

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Guest Commentary: William Mapother on His Involvement in Elder Abuse Awareness

My cousin Jennifer Leibson is the chair of the Louisville, Kentucky Elder Abuse Awareness Committee. Last November she asked me to be the spokesperson for several public service announcements to be produced by the state's Cabinet for Health and Family Services, a project under the direction of Kimberly Baker, elder abuse specialist. I happily agreed. The project became national in scope when the NCEA approached Kim to collaborate on public awareness efforts. Those public service announcements will begin to be broadcast nationwide this month.

I'm often asked why I'm involved in this cause. My question is, "How could I not be involved?" By 2030, over 77 million baby boomers will reach age 65, and we're already facing a shortage of geriatric care specialists. In coming years more elderly will be living with their children, due to increasing longevity; many adults' lack of sufficient retirement savings; and the likelihood of governmental cutbacks for social programs to help pay for social security. These developments all occur in an ageist culture which prizes youth, novelty, and productivity in the workplace. As a result, an ever-increasing number of the elderly are potentially at risk for abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Those are the societal reasons I'm involved. I have personal ones, too. Growing up in Louisville, Kentucky, I was fortunate enough to be very close to all four of my grandparents. They were friends and mentors and like most kids, I often listened to them more than my own parents. They taught me fairness, discipline, love, and the importance of family. For my first twenty years I knew them to be intelligent, independent and strong. I'll never forget watching them become dependent on others, and the embarrassment and fear they felt as it happened.

In late 2005, we learned my father was terminally ill. He was only 68 years old and still playing tennis and traveling frequently for work. As he tried to navigate the health care system and adjust to a fatal illness, I saw him experience just what my grandparents had years earlier. I hope I never forget his vulnerability and how quickly it overtook him. At some point, every one of us could be in his place. How would we like society to treat us when we're there?

As we honor World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, my hope in becoming involved is, not surprisingly, to raise awareness of the issue. I'm not an expert and don't present myself as one, but I participate in the hope that some recognition of my face or name might help remind each of us that the elders' present is our future.

Special thanks to William Mapother, a stage and screen actor (TV's "Lost") who recently began collaborating with the NCEA as a national spokesperson for elder abuse awareness and prevention. For more information, [click here](#).

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (Continued from front page)

As quoted from the INPEA website: “The International Network for the Prevention for Elder Abuse was founded in 1997 and is dedicated to global dissemination of information as part of its commitment to worldwide prevention of elder abuse. Acknowledging the diversity of culture, background, and life style of the world population, the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse aims to increase society's ability, through international collaboration, to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older people in whatever setting it occurs, so that the latter years of life will be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.” For more information on the network and World Day, visit www.inpea.net.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: International Perspectives

Update On Elder Abuse Developments in Australia

The past 12 months have seen an increase in activities addressing elder abuse in Australia. Mandatory reporting of elder abuse had not been part of the Australian response until April 2007, when the federal government introduced mandatory reporting of physical and sexual assault in residential care facilities, associated with police checks of all of these facilities. Whilst the federal government has taken responsibility for addressing abuse in residential aged care, it has been the state governments which have developed responses occurring in the community, and these responses vary from state to state. In comparison to the federal government's response, the states have taken a proactive stance with a strong focus on prevention of elder abuse through awareness raising and education of older people in the ways that they can protect themselves, and training for community service providers and health care professionals to identify older people in at-risk situations.

Queensland's Elder Abuse Prevention Unit has just celebrated its 10th anniversary. The Unit runs an elder abuse telephone helpline; services a peer support network; provides community awareness training; and collects data about elder abuse across the state. In late 2007, the state government funded a number of Seniors Legal Support Services attached to Legal Aid Centres. One of the program's strengths is its ability to provide home visits for older people at risk of abuse, or who are victims of abuse, resulting in much better access to legal advice for these elders.

In **Victoria** in late 2007, the state government provided funding for community education and legal service for older people through the Council on the Ageing, Victoria. This service will provide education, advice, and assistance to older people across the state, with a strong focus on those living in rural areas. Advocacy for older people will be an important part of the service. This is the first specific elder abuse service in Victoria and is the response to a number of reports detailing the urgent need for this type of service.

In **South Australia**, which has the longest history of elder abuse specific services, the government's 2006 – 2011 Plan for Ageing includes a strong focus on elder abuse prevention through raising community awareness, and emphasis on what older people can do to protect themselves. As part of this plan, a booklet titled *Our Actions to Prevent the Abuse of Older South Australians* was launched in November 2007. The Aged Rights Advocacy Service which successfully runs the Elder Abuse Prevention Program in South Australia was funded to develop and carry out education for older people.

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National Elder Abuse Public Service Announcements Available

A series of national elder abuse PSAs featuring William Mapother are currently ready for broadcasting. The series, produced by Kimberly Baker, Kentucky policy analyst and elder abuse specialist, was the result of collaboration between the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the National Center on Elder Abuse.

The NCEA recently asked the members of the Elderabuse Listserve for assistance in disseminating the announcements throughout their respective communities. The support from the network has been phenomenal, with many elder rights advocates experienced in local public awareness campaigns volunteering to reach out to regional contacts. Dr. Jeanette Daly, nurse, professor, and researcher from the Department of Family Medicine - University of Iowa had several suggestions for how individuals could assist in the process:

- ❖ Academic institutions' faculty members could contact their Health Science Relations departments to release the PSA and press kit, and let their contact person know they are available and interested in being interviewed about this topic;
- ❖ APS and other aging services representatives could contact local radio and television stations' media persons, provide them with the PSAs and press kit, and let them know that they are available and interested in being interviewed."

Special thanks to Jeanette and to all who are collaborating in the roll-out of this campaign. Anyone interested in participating, please contact ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov. To view and download the PSAs, visit the [NCEA Web site](#).

International Perspectives (Continued from page 3)

New South Wales has not developed an elder abuse specific service, but rather has chosen to encourage an intersectoral approach to the management of elder abuse. In late 2007, the government released its Interagency Protocol for Responding to Abuse of Older People which sets out the roles of the various services which deal with abuse, and their relationship to each other. This is available at online ([click here](#)).

The **Western Australian** government launched its Older Persons Rights Service on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2007. This service is staffed by a lawyer and a social worker, and provides legal advice and support to victims of elder abuse, and crisis support as needed. Research into the gaps in services for prevention, identification, and management of elder abuse has been occurring through collaboration between Curtin University and the Western Australia Office for Seniors Interests and Volunteering, and a report is expected soon. Western Australia has also been the first state to develop a pilot education program to assist health workers working with Aboriginal people to identify and respond to cases of abuse within their communities.

Among other planned activities to commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, a seminar will be held in on June 13th, 2008, in Adelaide, Australia: "Take Action: Respond to Abuse of Older People," sponsored by Aged Rights Advocacy Service. For more information, [click here](#).

Special thanks to Dr. Susan Kurrle for contributing this article. Dr. Kurrle holds the Curran Chair in Health Care of Older People and is associate professor of medicine at the University of Sydney and Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital. Her research interests include medication as an agent of elder abuse. She is a long standing member of the New South Wales Guardianship Tribunal, and is the Oceania representative to the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

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World Day Activities Across The U.S.

The following are among the many events taking place throughout the U.S. to raise awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. In addition to these listed, many state and regional governments have issued proclamations commemorating World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, including Delaware, California, and Iowa, and elder rights advocates are scheduled to speak in media interviews around the country.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Quilt Show and Contest

June 13th, 2008

Sponsored by the Violence in Aging Council of Pitt County, Greenville, North Carolina

Quilts made by individuals and groups from throughout Eastern North Carolina will be on display at the Greenville Mall. Members of the public are invited to vote for their favorite quilt. Information and representatives from local agencies will be also be on hand to answer questions and provide information on elder abuse and related issues. For more information, e-mail: smunzer@pittfvp.org.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Week Activities

June 9th through the 13th, 2008

Sponsored by TRIAD, Wichita, Kansas

- ❖ June 9-13 – “Seniors Are People Too” Kids Coloring Contest
- ❖ June 12 - Media Awareness Day and Mayor's Proclamation
- ❖ June 13 - Conference for banking professionals on financial abuse of the elderly
- ❖ June 16-19 - Senior Centers distribution of purple ribbons
- ❖ June 20 - Senior Fair and Balloon launch at Botanica (our city gardens)

In order to raise awareness of elder abuse in the event planners decided to make this an annual week of awareness. For more information, email: bonnie.lynn@securities.state.ks.us or e-mail: don@mhasck.org.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008: Elder Abuse Expo and Reception

June 13th, 2008

Sponsored by Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Elder Abuse Response Program

Senior Annex in the Community Center, 3500 Thomasson Drive, Naples, Florida

Among other activities, representatives of the shelter and other aging services professionals will present information. Members of the community are asked to wear something purple in commemoration of the event. For more information, [click here](#) or email: vletchworth@naplesshelter.org.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Rally

June 13th, 2008 11:00 AM

Sponsored by the Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition

Legislative Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Rally

June 13th, 2008, 10:00 AM

Sponsored by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services

Capitol Rotunda, Frankfort, Kentucky

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World Day Activities Across The U.S. (Continued from page 5)

Protecting Older Adults in Our Communities: Are We Doing Enough?

June 12th, 2008

Sponsored by the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center Area Agency on Aging and Chatham County SALT Council (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together)

Mercer Auditorium at Memorial Hospital, 4700 Waters Avenue, Savannah, Georgia

This workshop is intended for Law Enforcement/First Responders, Health Care Specialists, Adult Protective Services staff, Aging Network providers, Advocates, and Concerned Citizens.

The event will include guest speakers, open forum discussion, and exhibitors. Seating is limited and registration is required. For more information, [visit the website](#) or e-mail: mmcouch@coastalgeorgiadc.org or dlgray@coastalgeorgiadc.org.

Elder Abuse and the Family: Not a Private Matter

June 18th, 2008

Sponsored by Jewish Association for Services of the Aged, Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, New York City Department for the Aging, New York City Human Resources Administration, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, Institute for Retired Professional at the New School for Social Research
66 West 12 Street, New York, New York

This conference is for social workers, lawyers, medical and mental health professionals, law enforcement, and other social service personnel. Keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Evan Stark, entitled "Re-framing Abuse of the Elderly as Coercive Control: Moving the Agenda." Workshops focus on engaging the victim, legal issues involving elder abuse and the extended family, the role of clergy and elder abuse, interviewing skills and family systems, money and asset management, the changing family structure and elder abuse (LGBT, grandparenting, and immigrant senior populations), and socialization as the antidote to isolation. Note: June 11 deadline to guarantee registration. For more information, e-mail: oabramova@jasa.org.

Advocating for the Rights of Older Adults

June 11th, 2008

Father Belle Center

104 Maryland St., Maryland and Busti Ave., Buffalo, New York

This bi-lingual event (English and Spanish) will feature keynote speaker, Art Mason of Lifespan/Rochester and a multidisciplinary panel discussion.

For more information, email: mantionj@erie.gov. or visit the [web site](#).

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Caregiver Seminar

June 16th, 2008

Sponsored by the St. Tammany SALT Council

Castine Center, Mandeville, Louisiana

This event provides an opportunity for networking and information sharing on issues related to elder abuse. For more information and an abbreviated version of the schedule is [online](#).

While some of this information was submitted to NCEA, other information came from the INPEA website. Thanks to the elder rights advocates who submitted these notices. To submit your community's event to INPEA's web listing, [click here](#).

International Perspectives (Continued from page 4)

New Zealand: “Elder Abuse - It's not OK”

Age Concern - New Zealand will observe World Elder Abuse Awareness Day through a variety of activities across the country. This year, Age Concern is focusing on the shattering effects of psychological or emotional abuse of elders. The following are among the planned activities:

- ❖ Information displays at posted at various Work and Income Service Centres;
- ❖ North Shore will sponsor a professional forum: “Rights of Older People in Residential Care;”
- ❖ Public seminars entitled: “It's all about Respect;”
- ❖ “Respect not Threats,” a one-day professional development seminar will be held in Tarnaki;
- ❖ In Waikato, a public event will feature speakers on the impact of psychological abuse on the health and wellbeing of elders, a multimedia presentation, and a performance of the play, “Half Life” by the University Theatre Studies department;
- ❖ In Taupo, there will be a two-week display of student art and photos depicting their impressions of older persons.

For more information, [click here](#).

Japan: The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008 Event in Tokyo

The Japanese Committee of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (Chaired by Dr. Noriko Tsukada of Nihon University Graduate School of Business) is planning a conference in Tokyo to commemorate the 2008 observance. This year's event, scheduled to be held on June 15th at Arcadia Ichigaya, a conference facility by the outer moat of the Imperial Palace, will feature several speakers, a roundtable discussion, and a luncheon gathering. Among the scheduled speakers are Dr. Toshio Tatara (professor of Shukutoku University Graduate School of Integrated Human and Social Welfare Studies in Chiba, Japan), who will be talking about his memories of Dr. Rosalie S. Wolf, whom he had invited to Japan in 1999 and with whom he had worked on a number of research projects in the U.S. Professor Soji Tanaka of Nihon University College of Humanities and Sciences in Tokyo will be speaking on the history of elder abuse prevention in England. In addition, Dr. Kinuko Takasaki, the Chair of the Japan Academy for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and Ms. Yoko Shido, the Director of International Affairs at the International Longevity Center – Japan are expected to make presentations. The membership of the Japanese Committee of the Network is not very large, but thanks to the hard work of Dr. Tsukada and several others, the committee is able to host its Third Annual Event for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day and we are expecting about 30 participants this year.

Special thanks to Dr. Toshio Tatara, the former director of the National Center on Elder Abuse, for contributing this article. Dr. Tatara served as the principal investigator of the National Elder Abuse Incidence Study in the U.S. In 2007, Dr. Tatara was the recipient of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse Rosalie S. Wolf Award. As a researcher and administrator in social services for over 30 years, Dr. Tatara has participated in over 50 research initiatives in the U.S. and in Japan, many addressing issues related to elder abuse.

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The Response to Elder Abuse in Sweden

Several milestones in the area of elder abuse have been reached during the past year in Sweden. These have involved the European Union, the Swedish government, and research initiatives. The European Union was awarded a grant to participate in the elder abuse research project entitled ABUEL. Professor Joaquim Soares of Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, is the leader of this project involving seven Member States (Germany, Portugal, Italy, Lithuania, Greece, and Spain). ABUEL's main objective will be to gather reliable and representative population data on the extent, nature, predictors, and consequences of abuse/neglect among women/men aged 60-84 years.

The Swedish Committee on Health and Welfare held a public hearing on September 19, 2007, on the theme "Violence against Older Persons" with the goal of increasing knowledge and awareness. This hearing was conducted in order to clarify forward direction, and to intensify resources to prevent and intervene in situations of violence. The Swedish Crime Victim Compensation and Support Authority (CVCSA) has held and is currently planning several conferences during 2008 which will involve speakers on the topic of elder abuse. The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare will soon be publishing national guidelines for the care of patients with dementia disease. This systematic review will include a chapter on maltreatment and abuse within institutional care, written by a pioneer in the field of elder abuse, Professor Britt-Inger Saveman of University of Kalmar. Other recent research in Sweden includes Christen Erlingsson's doctoral thesis based on four independent studies; "Elder Abuse Explored through a Prism of Perceptions: Perspectives of Potential Witnesses" (Umeå University).

Special thanks to Dr. Christen Erlingsson, Assistant Professor of Nursing at the University of Kalmar, Sweden, for contributing this article. For more information on the ABUEL Project, [click here](#). Dr. Erlingsson was also involved in the World Health Organization/International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse "Missing Voices: Views of Older Persons on Elder Abuse" series. To review the Swedish report, [click here](#).

Belgium: The Flemish Reporting Point for Elder Abuse

The Flemish Reporting Point for Elder Abuse has been operational since January 2003. It is a part of "Centrum Algemeen Welzijnswerk Zuid-Oost-Vlaanderen," a Flemish social service organization. Its working area is restricted to the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium (the district of Flanders and the Dutch-speaking part of Brussels Capital District). The French- and German-speaking part of Belgium is covered by the Centre d'aide aux Personnes Agées Maltraitées.

Until July 2007, the reporting point was annually funded by the Flemish Ministry of Welfare as a project, which year after year raised concern about its future existence. Since July 2007, the Flemish Ministry of Welfare has given a structural recognition and funding to the reporting point, which means that its viability no longer is questionable.

Some of the aims of the Flemish Reporting Point are:

- ❖ To raise public awareness concerning elder abuse and break the taboo surrounding elder abuse;

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Federal Initiatives to Address Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation

The U.S. Administration on Aging recently queried members of the federal Elder Justice Interagency Working Group about what work their agencies are doing, or have done, in the area of elder justice. The Elder Justice Interagency Working Group brings together federal officials responsible for carrying out elder justice activities, including elder abuse prevention, research, grant and program funding, and prosecution. Since 2001, members have met informally and on a regular basis to discuss emerging issues, promising practices, and ways to coordinate their efforts. In recognition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, we are sharing a summary of some of the work undertaken by various federal agencies to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The list is not comprehensive, but highlights recent and on-going efforts.

United States Department of Health and Human Services

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

The Administration on Aging (AoA) funds a number of initiatives addressing elder abuse. For more information, [visit the AoA website](#).

Older Americans Act Formula Grants

AoA provides federal leadership and administers OAA formula grants for state activities designed to strengthen elder justice strategic planning and direction for programs, activities, and research related to elder abuse awareness and prevention. These include efforts to train law enforcement officials, develop and distribute educational materials, conduct public awareness campaigns, and create community coalitions.

National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA)

AoA also funds the [National Center on Elder Abuse](#) (NCEA). The NCEA operates as a multidisciplinary consortium of collaborators with expertise in elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The NCEA disseminates information related to the prevention of elder abuse and neglect to professionals and the public, and provides technical assistance and training to states and community-based organizations. Current initiatives focus on promoting elder justice, community coalitions, training, and raising public awareness.

Providing Federal Leadership to the Aging Network

AoA continues to provide leadership to the aging network in activities to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. AoA staff are working to develop models for a system of identification and referral within Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) for older adults who may be victims or at risk for elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Legal Assistance and Elder Abuse

Legal assistance and elder rights programs under Title III-B are instrumental in addressing the harmful consequences of elder abuse including financial damage caused by exploitation and fraud. With the rapidly increasing aging population creating unique demands on existing service delivery systems, the need to have aging services, legal services, and elder abuse prevention and response networks working cohesively together to protect the rights of older persons will become even more critical.

AoA also funds five organizations functioning as national legal resource centers which provide case consultation, training, technical assistance, and other informational resources to both aging and legal networks. These National Legal Assistance and Elder Rights Projects (NLAERP) (Continued on page 10)

Federal Initiatives (Continued from page 9)

grants comprise a comprehensive national legal assistance support system for aging and legal service providers and advocates, including those involved in addressing elder abuse.

Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

Long Term Care Ombudsmen are advocates for residents of all long term care facilities, including nursing homes, board and care homes, assisted living facilities, and similar adult care facilities. Ombudsmen work to resolve problems of individual residents, help residents and their families know and exercise their rights, and bring about changes at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of care and life for residents of long-term care facilities. Training and technical assistance are provided to state ombudsmen by the AoA-funded [National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center](#), operated by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (NCCNHR), and also includes state and local ombudsman contacts and other resources.

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program

AoA has partnered with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG), and the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) in a government-led effort to fight health care fraud, error, and abuse and financial exploitation through implementation of a health care integrity program designed to coordinate federal, state, and local resources to target areas most plagued by program abuses. AoA currently funds 57 SMP projects, including one each in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and Guam.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION

The Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) is developing a report for Congress on the feasibility of establishing a uniform national database on elder abuse. ASPE is working with federal partners to inform the report, including the Department of Justice, the Administration on Aging, Center for Disease Control, and National Institute on Aging. For information, [visit the ASPE website](#).

CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL

Division of Violence Prevention is sponsoring two major projects focused on Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation. The first involves the first phase of the Elder Maltreatment Surveillance Project. The purpose of this project is to: (1) identify minimum and expanded data elements that might be collected as part of elder maltreatment surveillance activities and (2) review options for their measurement. The second project involves a review of literature to support development of a social marketing campaign to prevent the occurrence elder maltreatment in community settings. Its goal is to take preliminary steps towards developing a national social marketing campaign to prevent elder maltreatment in community settings, by reviewing literature and research on perpetration and on the most frequent perpetrators of elder maltreatment in this setting—adult children, spouses, and intimate partners. For more information on the work of the Division of Violence Prevention, [visit the CDC website](#).

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) through its Elder Mistreatment Initiative funded nine grants in FY 2006 and FY 2007. The objective of the projects listed below is to test methodologies to maximize the estimation of prevalence and/or incidence of elder mistreatment. (Continued on page 18)

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- ❖ Registration of every reported case of elder abuse, in order to gain insight into its nature and prevalence;
- ❖ To provide information and advice;
- ❖ The ongoing development of a professional network in order to provide the best intervention;
- ❖ To train elders, professionals, home carers, volunteers, and students in order to increase their awareness and expertise;
- ❖ Influencing and advising policy bodies: federal, regional, supralocal, and local governments and institutions;
- ❖ To stimulate scientific research;
- ❖ To monitor international developments.

Current activities include:

- ❖ Operation of a central, inexpensive telephone number for reporting cases, seeking information and advice, and to ask for a possible intervention. The calls are answered by a social worker;
- ❖ Central registration of reported cases;
- ❖ Website that is continuously updated;
- ❖ Creation and distribution of public awareness material;
- ❖ Provision of information sessions for elderly, volunteers, students, home carers;
- ❖ Training sessions for professionals concerning early detection and approach;
- ❖ Networking to enhance professionalism and public awareness efforts;

Ongoing scientific research:

- ❖ Currently, coordinator Gerd Callewaert is conducting research on addressing cases of elder abuse via the method of strengths-based case management;
- ❖ Collaborating in the European Daphne II - project "Breaking the Taboo – Empowering Health and Social Service Professionals to Combat Violence against Older Women within Families."

In addition to organizing a Flemish Conference on Elder Abuse on June 13th in Brussels as part of the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day events, "Georges," a play that addresses elder abuse, began touring through Flanders in September 2007, and will continue through December 2008.

Special thanks to Mr. Gerd Callewaert, Coordinator, Flemish Reporting Point, for contributing this article. Mr. Callewaert is a regional representative for the International Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. In March 2008, Brussels hosted a European conference, "Protecting the Dignity of Older Persons – The Prevention of Elder Abuse and Neglect," which is accessible online at: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/elder_abuse_en.htm.

Developments in the United Kingdom

In England and Wales, policy guidance on responding to allegations of abuse of vulnerable adults was introduced in 2000. Elder abuse is included within the remit of adult protection and the abuse of vulnerable adults (although there is ongoing discussion about the definition of vulnerability). This guidance is currently

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being reviewed/refreshed/updated during 2008 and there is active discussion about whether there should be legislation in this area in the form of one single consolidating Act such as, or similar to, the Adult Support and Protection Act, 2007, which is being introduced in Scotland in the coming year.

The existing policy guidance provides a framework for protection and responding to allegations of abuse of a vulnerable adult and Social Services have the lead role at the local level for the co-ordination of responses. The policy provided for the development of Adult Protection Co-ordinator posts, Adult Protection Committees, and a multi-agency approach to responding to and intervening in abusive situations at the local level. Where it works well and effective inter-agency partnerships have been developed, effective local systems have also been established.

However, because it is not mandatory for all statutory agencies to comply with the guidance (it is guidance, not an absolute requirement), because there is not ring-fenced finance for the development of systems and services, and because there is not mandatory training for all professionals and para-professionals working in this area, developments on the ground have been patchy.

Interventions have been developing and a range of possible service responses exists. This includes a national charity, Action on Elder Abuse, established in 1993, which runs a telephone helpline and lobbies government for change/action in this area. Research is being undertaken in the field on a regular basis and the range of publications and awareness raising materials that have been produced is impressive. World Day is seen as a time for celebration of the development of responses to elder abuse and a key opportunity to raise awareness at local, regional, and national levels.

In 2006 and 2007, the range of activities that took place across the UK was phenomenal and 2008 looks set to repeat this. The website for Action on Elder Abuse (www.elderabuse.org.uk) contains information about World Day activities across the UK; we look forward to joining colleagues across the world in the celebrations that will be taking place throughout the day and the days surrounding this time.

Special thanks to Bridget Penhale, Reader in Gerontology, at the Centre for Health and Social Care Studies & Service Development, School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Sheffield for contributing this update. Ms. Penhale has conducted many research projects, and recently provided project management and oversight to the national UK study on prevalence of elder abuse (see below). She is a member of the governing board of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

The UK Study of the Abuse and Neglect of Older People

In 2007, the results of a prevalence study on elder abuse in the UK were reported. The study was conducted by researchers from the Institute of Gerontology at King's College, London, and the National Centre for Social Research. The project was funded by Department of Health and Comic Relief at the request of the advocacy group, Action on Elder Abuse. A representative sample of 2,100 elders throughout England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland were surveyed. While 2.6 percent of the sample reported abuse by family and close acquaintances during the previous year, the rate increased to 4 percent when abuse by neighbors and other acquaintances was also included. It is estimated that over 342,000 cases of elder

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mistreatment within the community occurred during the year preceding the study. To read the study, [click here](#). Additional information, including a report analysis, is available from the [Action on Elder Abuse website](#).

Comic Relief has also funded the Safeguarding Adults Good Practice database. The database is managed jointly by Action on Elder Abuse and the Practitioners Alliance for Vulnerable Adults. The database is a tool for sharing information on promising practices in adult protective services. [Click here](#) to register to access the database.

Ireland Launches “Say No to Ageism Week”

On May 20th, the Health Service Executive, the Equality Authority, and the National Council on Ageing and Older People launched a new campaign to raise awareness of ageism in order to reduce the exclusion of and to promote equality for older individuals.

In conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, University College of Dublin School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems is hosting a conference on June 13th. This conference explores the issue of elder abuse from the perspectives of research, practice, and experience in the voluntary sector. The conference is open to professionals who work with older people, volunteers, legal professionals, and policy makers, and members of the public. For more information, [click here](#). On that same date, the Health Service Executive will also be holding a conference in Galway City, entitled “Learning Lessons - Sharing Practice.” [Click here](#) for more information.

Developments and Initiatives in Canada

Governmental Initiatives

The Canadian government demonstrated its commitment to addressing elder abuse by providing an additional \$10 million of the 2007 budget for education on the topic. In June, Human Resources and Social Development Canada is hosting an expert roundtable discussion on research issues related to elder abuse. This discussion will summarize existing research, identify knowledge gaps and research priorities, and foster knowledge exchange and collaboration within and across research and policy communities. Dr. Georgia Anetzberger of the US is among the invited presenters.

Provincial Networks

The Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse notes the growing interest in elder abuse at the local regional, provincial/territorial, and national levels. People and communities are looking for ways to work together to address abuse and neglect in later life and the factors that underlie it. (For more information, [click here](#).) Other provincial networks are also continuing to flourish: concerned individuals are hungry for information, and sharing and borrowing resources has resulted in creative collaborations.

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

Due to its enormous growth, the network, now in its 11th year, is in the process of looking at its structure in order to develop strategic planning, and to develop a more inclusive, stronger base of active, direct

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participation. Because the network really started out as a “Mom and Pop” grassroots organization, we need to “rebirth” ourselves by clarifying our purpose, and recruiting and incorporating new voices in regional and global initiatives that are truly reflective of our leadership and potential. These challenges prompted the upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting on June 15th in Ottawa, Canada, prior to the World Day conference. For those who cannot attend, we are including measures to allow interactive participation; we are inviting these members to answer a survey prior to the meeting, and there will be two internet/email “blasts” to provide updates on key points of discussion and to invite questions or comments via email during the meeting. (For more information on the network, [click here](#).)

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008

The official World Day commemoration is taking place this year in Ottawa, Canada in an exciting, eclectic, and educational two-day conference. Speakers are coming from Nigeria, China, Israel, Spain, the UK, and Argentina. There is representation from the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the Consular Corps. We will be discussing the role of nongovernmental organizations in advancing the prevention of and response to elder abuse and we will revisit the United Nations Madrid Plan of Action of 2002. English-French simultaneous translation will be available. Many experts from the US are presenting papers and posters. The government of Canada has been phenomenal in its support; they really are showing their commitment. Ottawa, Canada is the place to be on June 16-17! (For more information on the conference, visit the [homepage](#) of the network and click on the tab “WEAAD.”)

Special thanks to Dr. Elizabeth Podnieks for contributing this information for Canada. Dr. Podnieks is a founding member of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse currently vice-president), and a founder of the annual World Day observance. For over 25 years, Dr. Podnieks has been on the faculty of Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario, and has published extensively, nationally and internationally, on the topic of elder abuse. Dr. Podnieks was principle investigator of the Canadian national survey on elder abuse, conducted in 1989, and is currently involved in the “Worldview on Elder Abuse Environmental Scan.”

Highlights from the Latin American Region (2007-2008)

There has been a great deal of international activity in elder abuse awareness and response across Latin America during the past two years.

In May, 2007, a “train the trainers” course entitled “Prevention, Detection and Intervention in Situations of Elder Abuse” was presented at the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics Pan American Congress in Puebla, Mexico. In addition, over 400 professionals participated in two successful round tables on elder abuse (one with North American experts coordinated by Dr Lía Daichman, president of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and the other with Latin American experts coordinated by Susana Aguas, Latin America regional representative for the network). And November 2007, an International Gerontological Seminar on Latin American experiences related to elder abuse was organized by the Red del Adulto Mayor, Arica, and the Latin American branch of the international network. The seminar focused on education and training of primary health workers in prevention, identification, and

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treatment of different types of abuse and neglect. It also focused on working with elder rights groups to generate empowerment.

In Brazil:

The Second Regional Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards a Society for All Ages with Social Protection Based on Rights, was held in Brasilia, December 4-6, 2007. Twenty -five countries, intergovernmental, and international organizations were represented, and their delegations reported on national advances regarding the implementation of the Regional Strategy on Ageing. The debates were organized according to five relevant topics for the process of regional follow up of the International Plan of Action on Ageing of Madrid. Elder Abuse and Neglect, Discrimination, and Equal Right were main topics. (The conference culminated in the Brasilia Declaration, available [online](#). In addition, the Special Secretary of Humans Rights has made agreements with 17 states of Brazil to implement 19 Centers to Prevent Violence against Older Persons, and with the Latin American Center for Health and Violence to implement the National Observer of the Older Person on June 18th, 2008 to coordinate the actions of these centers. Trainings, research, and public awareness activities have been ongoing throughout the country, and will occur in conjunction with the World Day observance. *(Special thanks to Laura Machado, InterAge Consultoria en Gerontologia, for contributing this update.)*

In Argentina:

In 2007, an intense and successful campaign on preventing elder victimization and financial abuse was launched as a result of collaboration among the International Longevity Center – Argentina, INPEA – Argentina, the government of the City of Buenos Aires, the National Direction of Elders Policies, National Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Security, and the Argentinean Federal Police. An elder peer initiative was launched in July 2007, “Between Peers: Training on Human Rights and Empowerment.” Also, The National Prevention Program on discrimination and elder abuse was recently launched, and a didactic kit for educators, social communicators, and health professionals working with elders was developed. National surveys on elders’ perceptions on discrimination and elder abuse, and on their perceptions of social representation of old age are currently in progress.

In Peru:

Creation of new Socio Legal Centres (modeled after those established by Help Age International) to promote elders’ rights and aid in preventing abuse and neglect will be established through local governments. However, the August earthquake highlighted the need to address humanitarian aid issues affecting older individuals. Many older people are still living in shelters. The country received assistance from Help Age International and Help Age Germany.

In Mexico:

Mexico is undertaking and participating in a number of research initiatives:

- ❖ A national prevalence survey was conducted in 2006-2007, indicating that as many as 16 percent of all elders in Mexico may be victims of abuse;
- ❖ The first longitudinal health survey on older Mexican people within the community is underway, and includes nine questions to investigate risk factors associated with abuse;
- ❖ Mexico is also participating in an ongoing Pan American health study investigating factors associated with elder abuse.

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In Uruguay:

A national prevalence survey on elder abuse was conducted in Montevideo, the country capital and the city with the highest percentage of elders of Latin America. This was organized by the Uruguayan Gerontological and Geriatric Society and the INPEA - Uruguay. Abandonment by relatives and neglect were the most frequently identified types of abuse. In addition, the Elder Abuse Team is currently working to create the first Centre of Assessment to address victims of elder abuse.

Special thanks for Dr. Lia Daichman, President of INPEA, and the 2004 recipient of the Rosalie S. Wolf Award. Among other research initiatives, Dr. Daichman served as the principal investigator for the Argentina study of the international project, “Missing Voices: Views of Older Persons on Elder Abuse. To review the Argentine study, [click here](#).

Additional Online Information & Resources

AARP International Forum on Elder Abuse

In recognition of WEAAD, AARP International is hosting a two-week online forum with experts and advocates from around the globe. The presenters will share information and insights regarding elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and their country’s response to these problems. Everyday will feature a different panelist, and visitors can pose questions via email. Dr. Lia Daichman of Argentina, Bridget Penhale of the UK, and Professor Ariela Lowenstein of Israel are among the guest panelists. The event facilitator is Naomi Karp, Strategic Policy Advisor - Consumer and State Affairs Team of the AARP Public Policy Institute. To access the forum from June 1st through June 16th, [click here](#).

[“Missing Voices: Views of Older Persons on Elder Abuse”](#)

International report produced by the World Health Organization and the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

[Elder Abuse: International and Cultural Perspectives - An Update of the Literature \(June 2006\)](#)

(NCEA/CANE Annotated Bibliography)

[Elder Abuse: A Global Issue \(July 2002\)](#)

(NCEA/CANE Annotated Bibliography)

[Global Action on Ageing](#)

[HelpAge Interational](#)

[Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002](#)

[Colorado Coalition for Elder Rights and Adult Protection \(CCERAP\)](#)

For downloadable WEAAD materials, navigate to: “Current Educational Emphasis - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, June 15, 2008 Promotion Kit.” Note that the PSA entitled, “Create Awareness, Educate, Report Abuse” is adaptable for other states, regions, and communities.

Federal Initiatives (Continued from page 10)

Therefore multiple methodologies, scientific approaches, and definitions of elder mistreatment are represented. For more information, contact the [NIA Division of Behavioral and Social Research](#).

Project Title: Elder Mistreatment

The overall aim of this developmental research project is to demonstrate in a community setting the feasibility of a method for epidemiological assessment of elder mistreatment, defined generally as physical, sexual, and emotional mistreatment of (a) an elderly person who has a diminished capacity for self care or self protection; and (b) by someone currently in a position of trust.

Project Title: Testing Survey Methods for Collecting Data on Elder Mistreatment Prevalence

The proposed research will test the feasibility, acceptability, cost implications, reliability, and validity, of survey methodologies for collecting self-report data from elder mistreatment victims and those who provide in-home services to elderly clients in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania.

Project Title: Detection of Elder Mistreatment in the Aging Services Network

The long-term goal of this project is to reduce the prevalence of Elder Mistreatment (EM) and its associated morbidity and mortality by developing preventive interventions for use by aging services providers. The premise is that the aging services network is an ideal setting in which to access older adults who are at risk for, or victims of, EM and to intervene.

Project Title: Primary Care Clinics for Estimating Prevalence & Incidence of Elder Mistreatment

The goal of this study is to screen 640 older adults who visit their doctors at five primary care clinics for elder mistreatment. The new model will incorporate an elder mistreatment assessment instrument during the patient visit, administered by trained clinician screeners. When EM screen result is positive, it will be verified by an expert team. Further, the feasibility and acceptability of re-screening at six months in a follow-up clinic visit to detect incidence of EM will be explored.

Project Title: Developing Prevalence Measures of Elder Abuse in Residential Long-Term Care

This research will test methods of generating estimates of the prevalence of elder mistreatment in LTC settings (nursing homes and residential care facilities) that house over two million frail older persons, many of whom have cognitive impairment.

Project Title: Exploring the Mistreatment of Native Elders

This project proposes to assemble a community and research network to conduct developmental work on a prevalence/incidence study of the mistreatment of older American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/ANs). Meetings will be held to lay the groundwork for a pilot study of the phenomenon in two communities, one rural and one urban. The experience with the pilot study will then inform a set of recommendations for maximally identifying the phenomenology and extent of elder mistreatment among AI/ANs.

Project Title: Developmental Research on Elder Mistreatment

This project recommends development and testing of a self-report, survey-based measure that can be broadly applied to generate population estimates of abuse and move elder mistreatment research forward. The project aims to: 1. Develop conceptual definitions and methods for

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Federal Initiatives (Continued from page 18)

operationalizing the definitions for all five categories of elder mistreatment; 2. Design a self-reported, survey-based measure for detecting presence and severity of all types of elder mistreatment; and 3. Determine whether the survey-based measure validly and reliably predicts elder mistreatment in samples of Mexican American and Non-Hispanic white community-dwelling elders, including the cognitively impaired.

Project Title: Evaluation of Data Linkage Methodology to Improve Estimates of Elder Mistreatment

This project will evaluate the feasibility of applying data linkage methodology used successfully to improve estimates of intimate partner violence and child maltreatment to improve estimates of incidence and prevalence of elder mistreatment.

Project Title: Toward a Better Understanding of Elder Mistreatment in Community Settings

The purpose of the proposed study is to inform the National Institute on Aging of the feasibility and issues involved in conducting a national incidence or prevalence study of elder mistreatment. The study will focus on community-residing elders to examine approaches to detecting and measuring mistreatment in five domains: physical assault, psychological aggression, sexual coercion, caregiver neglect, and financial exploitation.

OFFICE ON DISABILITY

The Office on Disability, in collaboration with Dr. Dorothy K. Marge as Principal Investigator, supported a pilot project on violence, abuse, and neglect against persons with disabilities, including the elderly, seen in hospital emergency rooms.

After an extensive search of national databases to identify if such information already exists, it was determined that there is no national database including evidence-based information on persons with disabilities and other vulnerable individuals who have been victims of violence, abuse and neglect. The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission was identified as a well respected, valid, and reliable system with more than 30 years of experience collecting data about injuries reported in their hospital emergency departments. Utilizing this data source, the Office on Disability conducted a six month pilot project, using ten NEISS hospital emergency departments, to determine the feasibility of collecting desired variables for this target population.

The study, which is now complete, focuses on intentional injuries, and in particular, assaults. It includes information on more than 40 variables. In addition to the standard demographic information (age, sex, race, etc.), data was also collected on: the type and place of injury; location where the assault occurred; relationship of the victim to the perpetrator; etc. The Principal Investigator has worked with the statisticians at NEISS to analyze data and is presently in the process of completing the final report for submission to the Director of the Office on Disability.

As a next step, a 1-2 year study with the involvement of all 64 NEISS hospital emergency departments is planned. This will allow for the development of national prevalence and incidence rates of abuse and violence against the elderly and persons with disabilities. For more information, [visit the Office on Disability website.](#)

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Federal Initiatives (Continued from page 19)**United States Department of Justice****CIVIL DIVISION**

The Department of Justice's Nursing Home Initiative has focused on enhancing enforcement, training, coordination, outreach, attention to medical forensic elder issues, and boosting the use of reliable criminal background checks for direct care workers. For more information on the Department's activities, [visit the Department of Justice website](#).

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

The Special Litigation Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice enforces the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 USC 1997 (CRIPA). CRIPA gives the Attorney General standing to investigate conditions in public residential facilities where the civil rights of the residents are being abridged. Part of the CRIPA program involves investigating conditions in public nursing homes, psychiatric facilities, facilities for persons with developmental disabilities, jails, and prisons. Therefore, these efforts to improve conditions in facilities affect elders, whenever they are confined in facilities that violate their civil rights. Many of these cases involve findings of abuse and neglect, but also find unlawful medical, nursing, and mental health care. The nursing homes investigations also typically find inadequate nutrition and hydration, as well as inadequate activities.

When an investigation identifies unlawful conditions at a facility, a findings letter is issued detailing the problems, as well as the minimum remedial measures that a jurisdiction must take to fix the problems. These letters are posted on the website of the Special Litigation Section under the subsection entitled "Investigations" ([click here to view](#)). For more information on Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section and CRIPA, [visit the DOJ website](#).

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has an active research portfolio of approximately 15 projects addressing elder abuse. Research areas span from elder forensics to development of measures for incidence and prevalence studies. The following are among the projects funded by NIJ. Additional information regarding NIJ's research agenda is available at the [NIJ website](#).

Project Title: Testing a Model of Domestic Abuse Against Older Women and Barriers to Help-Seeking

This research focuses on how older women in the community experience and internalize domestic abuse, and tests a Barriers to Help-Seeking (BHS) model based on results of the earlier study and two existing models, i.e., the Theoretical Model of Elder Mistreatment (National Research Council, 2003) and the Grigsby & Hartman Model (1997). Data collected from 450 older women representing race/ethnicities of Hispanic, African American non-Hispanic, and White non-Hispanic will undergo a series of structural equation and regression analyses.

Project Title: Elderly Victims of Sexual Abuse and Their Offenders

The study addressed the short-term effects of sexual assault on the elderly, the motivation of their offenders, and barriers to the investigation and prosecution of cases. The primary source for this project was an instrument designed to gather information on sexual assault victims, modified for elders.

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Federal Initiatives (Continued from page 20)Project Title: Statewide Analysis of Elder Abuse

The goals of the study are: (1) to create a comprehensive profile of reported domestic violence and family abuse of women over 50 using data from the State of Rhode Island for the year 2002; (2) to investigate the impact of the state's response to the initial incident on the likelihood of reabuse in the subsequent two years.

Project Title: Elder Abuse: How Protective Behaviors and Risk Factors Affect the Course of Abuse over Time

The Police Foundation and the National Center for Victims of Crime propose a study that will utilize a prospective longitudinal design to examine the course of abuse in both a community sample and a sample of persons who have used elder abuse services in Dane County, Wisconsin.

Project Title: Domestic Violence Against Older Women

The study sought to increase knowledge and understanding regarding domestic abuse against older women by allowing older women to speak about how they define domestic abuse (DA), and their views about causes, interventions, and consequences.

OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) provides funding for numerous efforts addressing elder abuse, including the following:

Curricula on Elder Abuse for a Range of Professionals

Victim Advocates: With OVC funding, the American Bar Association (ABA) developed a curriculum to train victim advocates to learn to identify the signs of elder abuse, understand its impact on victims, respond proactively to situations in which elder abuse is suspected, and assist elder abuse victims who are involved with the criminal justice system. This curriculum currently is being delivered through [OVC's National Victim Assistance Academy](#).

Physicians: Through a grant to the Baylor College of Medicine, OVC supported the development of a curriculum for physicians on identifying and responding to elder abuse for physicians. The curriculum is intended to reach physicians in a range of fields, such as emergency medicine, geriatrics, family medicine, and internal medicine, as well as other health care professionals. The curriculum covers topics such as: the role of the medical provider; interviewing older victims; screening; normal aging versus physical and sexual abuse; neglect; financial exploitation; appropriate interventions; and working with the criminal justice system. For a summary of the project, visit the [OVC's "Focus On" website](#).

Community Corrections Professionals: With OVC funding, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) developed a curriculum in distance learning format for probation and parole officers on indicators of elder abuse. Community corrections officers are ideally positioned to identify and respond to elder abuse because many individuals on probation and parole live with their older family members. The purpose of this training is to increase the awareness of probation and parole officers of abusive behavior by these individuals and to teach them the appropriate interventions with victims when elder abuse is suspected. The training includes information on recognizing indicators of elder abuse when conducting home visits, communicating with older people residing with probationers or parolees who are abusive, and making appropriate referrals for victims. To view the curriculum, [visit the APPA website](#).

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Federal Initiatives (Continued from page 21)

Law Enforcement: Work has been completed under an OVC grant to the Police Executive Research Forum on a comprehensive curriculum for law enforcement on improving its response to elder abuse. This curriculum is designed to provide law enforcement personnel with the knowledge and skills they need to effectively detect and respond to reports of elder abuse. It provides guidance in building evidence-based cases, drawing from the collective wisdom of law enforcement and prosecutors as well as other experts and research findings. The curriculum will cover topics such as an introduction to elder abuse and the older population in the United States; challenges to investigating elder abuse; financial abuse; physical abuse and elder homicide; sexual assault; domestic violence; neglect; abuse in residential facilities; and psychological abuse. The curriculum is currently in the OVC publication process and should be available online by the end of 2008.

Training Videos on Elder Abuse

OVC is funding the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence to produce a series of educational videos about domestic abuse in later life. The videos are intended for a range of professionals who work with or who may encounter victims. They will be accompanied by a comprehensive training guide, providing detailed information about using the videos to train the respective audiences. Intended audiences include victim advocates, adult protective services workers, aging network professionals, criminal justice practitioners, and health care providers, as well as interdisciplinary audiences. It is anticipated that the videos will be released in mid-2009.

OVC is supporting the development of three additional training and education videos on identifying and responding to elder abuse for specific target audiences: Community-Corrections Responses to Elder Abuse, Law Enforcement Responses to Elder Abuse, and Court-Based Responses to Elder Abuse. These three training and educational videos will enhance the understanding of elder abuse within these disciplines, provide information on how to detect elder abuse and neglect within the context of the roles of the respective professionals, and offer suggestions on how to respond. It is anticipated that the videos will be released by mid-2009.

Multidisciplinary Coordinated System Response to Elder Abuse

Under an OVC grant, the Baylor College of Medicine expanded, institutionalized, and replicated in two sites an existing multidisciplinary collaboration in Houston entitled the Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Institute (TEAM). TEAM is a partnership involving adult protective services, the medical community, law enforcement, and the county attorney developed to respond to elder abuse and neglect. Baylor developed a resource manual on the multidisciplinary effort to guide other communities through the process of developing similar initiatives. The manual is currently under review with OVC.

Elder Abuse Fatality Team Replication Manual

With funding from OVC, the American Bar Association (ABA), working in conjunction with the National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators, undertook an initiative to enhance the development of multidisciplinary elder abuse fatality review teams. These teams work to identify the cause of fatalities in order to achieve systemic improvement in the handling of future cases of elder abuse. Such teams have

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Federal Initiatives (Continued from page 22)

been used in the areas of child abuse and domestic violence, but are only beginning to develop in connection with elder abuse. The project supported four demonstration projects around the country. The ABA developed a replication guide for use by communities in establishing similar efforts that was released in 2005. To access the manual, [visit the American Bar Association website](#).

To access publications on elder abuse and fraud/identity theft, visit the [OVC publications website](#).

OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) provides funding to address elder abuse through the Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program (Elder Program). The program provides funding to criminal justice and other professionals working with older victims to: enhance their ability to recognize, address, investigate, and prosecute instances of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; cross train; develop or enhance community coordinated responses and services for victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking of victims who are 50 years of age or older.

The program has funded the development of the following trainings:

Law Enforcement: OVW partnered with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the National Sheriff's Association, and the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life to develop a 4 day Train the Trainer (TOT) program and a 2 day law enforcement curriculum on elder abuse for Elder Program grantees. Grantees send multi-disciplinary training teams to the TOT program to become certified as trainers for the project. The team then redelivers the 2 day law enforcement training at the local level.

Prosecutors: OVW partnered with the National College of District Attorneys to develop a workshop on prosecuting cases of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The workshop is required for Elder Program grantees and offered to other prosecutors at no cost.

Judges: The National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence, a joint project of OVW, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and the Family Violence Prevention Fund, offers a comprehensive judicial education program to improve court response to victims of abuse in later life.

Additional training and cross-training materials, systems tools, and a needs assessment tool are currently under development. For additional information about the program, [visit the OVW website](#).

In partnership with OVW, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) is also conducting training for non-OVW grantees. The primary focus of this program is to develop instructors who will be required to redeliver training to law enforcement in their respective jurisdictions.

Participants attending this program will learn new and creative ways to present various elder abuse related topics such as Dynamics of Elder Abuse, Financial Exploitation, and Elder Sexual Assault. The teams attending this course represent law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy, probation, courts and other professionals tasked with training agencies in elder abuse prevention. FLETC will provide the students with all necessary training aids to set up in-service training and regional training in elder abuse. Tuition is free. Contact: Scott Santoro at 912-267-2322 or scott.santoro@dhs.gov.

Federal Legislative Update:

A Monthly Look at Federal Legislation and Activity that May Impact the Lives of Older Americans

The **Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008 (H.R.5352)**, introduced in the House by Joe Sestak (D, PA-7) in February to “protect seniors in the U.S. from elder abuse by establishing specialized elder abuse prosecution and research programs and activities to aid victims of elder abuse, to provide training to prosecutors and other law enforcement related to elder abuse prevention and protection,” gained additional support in May from Representatives Rahm Emanuel (D, IL-5) and Peter T. King (R, NY-3), bringing the total number of cosponsors to 4 in the House.

H.R.5352 >> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

The **Elder Justice Act (S. 1070 / H.R. 1783)** gained the support of Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Representatives Joseph Crowley (D, NY-7), Rosa L. DeLauro (D, CT-3), Ron Kind (D, WI-3), Jerrold Nadler (D, NY-8), Gus M. Bilirakis (R, FL-9), Christopher P. Carney (D, PA-10) and Brad Miller (D, NC-13) this month, bringing the total to 28 co-sponsors in the Senate and 115 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives.

S.1070>> [Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

H.R.1783>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

The **Elder Serve Act of 2008 (H.R.6141)** was introduced in the House of Representatives by John A. Yarmuth (D, KY-3) on May 22, 2008. The bill, which seeks to “establish pilot programs that provide for emergency crisis response teams to combat elder abuse,” has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.6141>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

The **Stop Senior Suicide Act (S.1854 / H.R.4897)**, which seeks to “amend the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve elderly suicide early intervention and prevention strategies,” gained the support of Representative Brad Ellsworth (IN-8) in May, bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 17 in the House of Representatives and 4 in the Senate.

S.1854>> [Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

H.R.4897>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

The **Caring for an Aging America Act of 2008 (S.2708)**, introduced in the Senate by Barbara Boxer (D-CA) in March 2008 to “amend the Public Health Service Act to attract and retain trained health care professionals and direct care workers dedicated to providing quality care to the growing population of older Americans,” gained additional support this month from Senators Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ). This brings the total number of co-sponsors to 3. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S.2708>> [Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

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Federal Legislation (continued from page 23)

The **Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly Act of 2008 (S.2736 / H.R.2930)**, which seeks to “amend section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 to improve the program under such section for supportive housing for the elderly,” gained the support of Senator Bernard Sanders (I-VT), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 6 in the Senate and 15 in the House.

S.2736>> [Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

H.R.2930>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

The **Geriatric Assessment and Chronic Care Coordination Act of 2007 (S.1340 / H.R.2244)** received additional support in May from Representatives Thaddeus G. McCotter (R, MI-11), Michael M. Honda (D, CA-15), William J. Jefferson (D, LA-2), Chris Van Hollen (D, MD-8), John Boozman (R, AR-3), Tammy Baldwin (D, WI-2) and Rick Boucher (D, VA-9), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 18 in the House and 14 in the Senate. The bill seeks to “amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare beneficiaries with access to geriatric assessments and chronic care coordination services.”

S.1340>> [Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

H.R.2244>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

The **Community Choice Act (S. 799 / H.R. 1621)** seeks to “amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community-based attendant services and supports, and for other purposes.” The bill has gained additional support from Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Representatives Betty McCollum (D, MN-4), Thomas H. Allen (D, ME-1), Gregory W. Meeks (D, NY-6), Christopher P. Carney (D, PA-10), John C. Porter (R, NV-3), John W. Olver (D, MA-1), Andre Carson (D, IN-7), Yvette D. Clarke (D, NY-11), Joe Sestak (D, PA-7), Todd Tiahrt (R, KS-4), Nydia M. Velazquez (D, NY-12), Thaddeus G. McCotter (R, MI-11), Vito Fossella (R, NY-13), Eliot L. Engel (D, NY-17), Barbara Lee (D, CA-9), John T. Salazar (D, CO-3), Jose E. Serrano (D, NY-16) and John M. McHugh (R, NY-23), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 21 in the Senate and 107 in the House of Representatives.

S.799>> [Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

H.R.1621>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

The **Alzheimer's Treatment and Caregiver Support Act (H.R.1032)** gained additional support in late April and May from Representatives Danny K. Davis (D, IL-7), Andre Carson (D, IN-7), Luis V. Gutierrez (D, IL-4), Carolyn B. Maloney (D, NY-14), John M. Spratt, Jr. (D, SC-5), John Conyers, Jr. (D, MI-14), Brad Miller (D, NC-13), Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D, GU), Mazie K. Hirono (D, HI-2), Jerrold Nadler (D, NY-8), Edolphus Towns (D, NY-10), Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D, IL-2), Henry C. Johnson, Jr. (D, GA-4), Robert E. Andrews (D, NJ-1), Kathy Castor (D, FL-11), Jason Altmire (D, PA-4), Bill Foster (D, IL-14), Christopher P. Carney (D, PA-10), Lois Capps (D, CA-23), Joe Sestak (D, PA-7), Bart Gordon (D, TN-6), Leonard L. Boswell (D, IA-3), Jose E. Serrano (D, NY-16), Alcee L. Hastings (D, FL-23), Neil Abercrombie (D, HI-1), Ellen O. Tauscher (D, CA-10), Grace F. Napolitano (D, CA-38), Mark Udall (D, CO-2), Solomon P. Ortiz (D, TX-27), Chris Van Hollen (D, MD-8) and Carolyn McCarthy (D, NY-4), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 108 in the House. The bill, which has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Health, seeks to “amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for treatment and support services for Alzheimer's patients and their families.”

H.R.1032>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

(Continued on page 26)

Elder Abuse Research

The Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly maintains an annotated catalog of peer-reviewed literature on elder mistreatment and related issues. The following are highlights of recently identified publications. To search for additional references, visit <http://www.cane.udel.edu/>. Special thanks to Liz Kowalczyk for compiling this update.

Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts

Effective Court Practice for Abused Elders: A Report to the Archstone Foundation

February 2008

This report presents the results of a two year California-based study funded by the Archstone Foundation's Elder Abuse and Neglect Initiative, which sought to identify innovative court practices for dealing with elder abuse cases. Courts from four counties – Alameda, Orange, San Francisco, and Ventura – were chosen as the subjects of the study, which involved semi-structured interviews with court employees, site visits and reviews of court files. A “menu” of promising practices is presented which includes the following suggestions: development of a specialized court to handle cases of elder abuse; specialized calendaring, or the practice of consolidating all elder abuse cases to a particular time and place; special provisions for court orders in elder abuse cases; special accommodations for elderly court users; specialized training for judges and court staff; development of volunteer programs; and cultivation of community partnerships. The list of suggestions is not intended to be adopted comprehensively by every court but rather to provide a range of options for courts to choose from depending on their specific needs. (Note: To access this report, [click here](#).)

Chan, Y., Chun, P. & Chung, K.

Public Perception and Reporting of Different Kinds of Family Abuse in Hong Kong

Journal of Family Violence; Volume 23, 253-263; 2008.

This Hong-Kong based study sought a better understanding of the relationship between perceptions of family abuse, including abuse of the elderly, and reporting behaviors. The study sought to determine whether perceptions of abuse differ according to *who* is abused and the form that the abuse takes. In addition, the role that perceptions of abuse play in shaping reporting behavior was assessed. Over 800 individuals participated in the study, which was conducted via telephone interview. Participants were randomly selected to answer one of three identical sets of questions regarding different hypothetical victims of family abuse. Respondents were found to be most inclined to recognize abuse of the elderly over spousal abuse or child abuse, respectively. Physical and sexual maltreatment were the most commonly recognized forms of abuse among participants. In addition, respondents also reported that they were most likely to report abuse of an elderly family member over abuse of any other family member.

Gallagher, P., Barry, P. Ryan, C., Hartigan, I. & O'Mahony, D.

Inappropriate Prescribing in an Acutely Ill Population of Elderly Patients as Determined by Beers' Criteria

Age and Ageing; Volume 37, 96-101; 2008.

Inappropriate prescribing of medication for elderly adults increases the risk for adverse (Continued on page 26)

Funding Opportunities

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand Grants

Application deadline: Open, dependent upon available funding.

HOPE awards are intended to improve outreach to, and services for, crime victims. Grassroots, nonprofit, community-based, and faith-based victim services organizations are among those eligible to apply.

For more information, [click here](#).

Byrne Competitive Solicitation Announced

Application deadline: June 11, 2008

Bureau of Justice Assistance is seeking applicants for the 2008 Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program: National Initiatives. Applicants are solicited under five categories, including enhancing local court systems. For more information, [click here](#).

Electronic and Cyber Crime Training and Technical Assistance Program

Application deadline: June 23, 2008

This Bureau of Justice Assistance Program "...serves communities by providing training, technical assistance, and related support that leverages cooperative efforts between electronic and cyber crime training and technical assistance service providers..." For more information, [click here](#).

Research (Continued from page 25)

drug events, including mortality. Utilizing Beers' Criteria, which lists medications that should be avoided for elderly individuals, this study sought to estimate the prevalence of inappropriate prescribing among elderly adults, aged 65 and older, admitted to a general hospital. In addition, the study sought to determine whether polypharmacy (taking multiple prescriptions), age, or gender are independent risk factors for inappropriate prescribing. Data was collected from approximately 600 cases, for which over 3,000 medications were prescribed. Approximately one-third of all patients in the cohort were identified as being subjected to inappropriate prescribing. The study found that while taking 5 or more prescription drugs at a given time was associated with risk for inappropriate prescribing.

Federal Legislation (Continued from page 24)

The **Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2007 (S.898 / H.R.1560)**, which seeks "to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention," gained additional support in May from Representatives John A. Yarmuth (D, KY-3) and Andre Carson (D, IN-7), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 60 in the House and 29 in the Senate.

S.898>> [Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

H.R.1560>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

Special thanks to Liz Kowalczyk of the Center for Community Research and Service at the University of Delaware for compiling this update.

Calendar of Events

June 15, 2008

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day A Global Commemoration

Details on additional US and International
Conferences and Events are included
inside this issue of the NCEA E-NEWS.

June 16- 17, 2008

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2008: Building Knowledge and Networks to Address Elder Abuse: Pathways to Human Rights

Government Conference Centre
Ottawa, Ontario

For more information, visit the [International
Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse](#)

September 10-11, 2008
**5th Annual Making the Case for
Justice Conference: Investigation
and Prevention of Crimes Against
Elder and Vulnerable Adults**

Meydenbauer Center
Bellevue, WA
Telephone: 206 - 296-8797
Email: [Click Here](#)

July 20 - 23, 2008
**n4a's 33rd Annual
Conference & Tradeshow**

Renaissance Nashville Hotel and
Nashville Convention Center
Nashville, TN
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 202-872-0888

December 3-6, 2008
**8th Annual National Aging and Law
Conference**

Double Tree Hotel
Arlington, VA
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 202-434-2197
Email: [Click Here](#)

August 26 - 29, 2008
**The 19th Annual NAPSA Conference
“APS: Advocating, Protecting and
Serving Vulnerable Adults”**

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers
Chicago, IL
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 720-565-0906

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NCEA Grantees:

**Clearinghouse on Abuse and
Neglect of the Elderly,
University of Delaware (CANE-UD)**
On the Web at: www.cane.udel.edu

**National Adult Protective Services
Association (NAPSA)**
On the Web at: www.apsnetwork.org

**National Committee for the
Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)**
One the Web at:
www.preventelderabuse.org

National Center on Elder Abuse

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