

National Center on Elder Abuse
NCEA E-NEWS

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NCPEA Announces Awards for NCEA Elder Justice Community Collaborations Project

Because individual agencies alone cannot fully address the multi-faceted problems of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, communities nationwide have increasingly focused their efforts on elder abuse detection, intervention, and prevention strategies through formal or informal collaborations or partnerships. Such partnerships have evolved into elder justice community collaborations and elder abuse prevention coalitions, networks, and alliances. To support the development of multidisciplinary efforts and coordinated elder justice systems, the NCEA awarded grant funding to the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) to conduct an “Elder Justice Community Collaborations Project.” The project consists of \$300,000 over 3 years in seed funding for local projects.

The project has two components: 1) supporting the development of multidisciplinary collaborations at the local level by providing on-site training and technical assistance to Area Agencies on Aging, Title VI Grantees, and/or community organizations interested in developing new elder justice coalitions; and 2) working at the state level with state agencies and Area Agencies on Aging to assist in the widespread implementation of elder abuse community coalitions and statewide elder rights networks.

The first phase of the project is currently underway. A request for proposals was announced in November, 2007. Thirty-seven proposals from eight of the ten Administration on Aging regions were received by the December 21, 2007 deadline. A review committee selected ten organizations to receive grants in the amount of \$10,000 each as seed money to assist in developing new local multidisciplinary elder justice networks. See page 3 for a short description of the successful projects!

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2nd International Conference on Elder Abuse Convened in CA

In early February, 230 practitioners, advocates, and researchers from around the globe convened at the 2nd International Conference on Elder Abuse, presented by the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine, in Newport Beach, California. The conference theme was “Medical Aspects & Multidisciplinary Responses.” Moderated by the Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect Director Laura Mosqueda, M.D. and Co-Director Mary Twomey, M.S.W., the forum provided an opportunity to consider global themes in elder mistreatment and responses.

Dr. Susan Kurrle, geriatrician and associate professor from the University of Sydney in Australia, opened with a keynote lecture entitled “Treatment or Mistreatment? Medication as an Agent of Elder Abuse.” Noting that elders are particularly vulnerable to medication abuse, Dr. Kurrle cited examples of overuse, underuse, and misuse of medications in residential care (nursing home), hospital, and community settings. Mistreatment can range from intentional to unintentional. For example, intentionally sedating confused or “difficult” patients may occur as a behavioral management tool with unintended consequences that cause temporary or permanent harm. Medication diversion from one patient to another and theft of medication are increasingly common problems. Withholding medication or manipulating dosage can be part of a power and control dynamic. The under treatment of pain, particularly in cognitively impaired patients, is a significant concern. Dr. Kurrle reported on a series of trial studies from 2002 until the present that substantiate the phenomenon of medication mistreatment, and reveal that carer stress as well as psychopathology on the part of the perpetrator are common. Intervention requires increased awareness and vigilance, particularly on the part of health care professionals, and an understanding of the dynamics behind individual cases of abuse. Routine blood tests to assess medication levels, medication reviews, medication audits, and computerized databases to identify overprescribing and “doctor shopping” are among the tools available for detection.

Breakout sessions featured topics such as elder sexual abuse, self-neglect and hoarding, multidisciplinary responses, and domestic abuse in later life.

Maggie Baker, Ph.D. and assistant professor of biobehavioral nursing from the University of Washington, presented an overview of elder sexual abuse. Barriers to treatment include denial, ageism, and the inability of many victims to either report abuse or to be believed due to cognitive impairment. Dr. Baker also highlighted the issue of resident to resident mistreatment, an often invisible source of elder sexual abuse and other types of mistreatment among nursing home residents.

Frank Randolph, M.D., director of the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Geriatric Program, described the phenomena of self-neglect and hoarding, raising ethical questions surrounding the decision to intervene versus the elder’s right to autonomy. He observed that functional assessment and rapport building are essential to addressing client needs, and recommended segmenting self-neglect into individual behaviors, working incrementally on those that can be addressed. Dr. Randolph also suggested that the Lachs study on the mortality of elder abuse and self-neglect may provide sufficient cause to warrant intervention.

Diana Schneider, M.D. and Mike Garguilo, Deputy District Attorney reported on the Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center as a multidisciplinary model for intervention. The elder abuse report, investigation, and identification for individual case goals are essential. The roles and responsibilities for key participants were considered. Case examples illustrated the protocol for the team’s approach.

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NCPEA Awards Elder Justice Community Collaboration Grants *(continued from page 1)*

The review committee selected ten organizations to receive grants in the amount of \$10,000 each as seed money to assist in developing new local multidisciplinary elder justice networks. Congratulations to the following grantees on their successful proposals.

1. **AgeOptions (Oak Park, IL)** is the Area Agency on Aging for suburban Cook County. The proposal strongly targets elder abuse awareness and seeks to create an Elder Justice Coalition that unites provider agencies throughout the county. As the lead agency, they have identified specific quantifiable outcomes that will increase elder abuse prosecutions in the state attorney's office. The invited participant list is comprehensive and includes the state attorney's office, local law enforcement, and others.
2. **Gateway Area Development District Area Agency on Aging (Morehead, KY)** is the Area Agency on Aging serving five counties in eastern Kentucky. This is an area of extreme poverty with a need for social justice across all segments of the population. The proposal emphasizes regional collaboration intended to benefit many counties. Gateway will act as the lead organization and will provide staff to coordinate efforts. Plans to sustain the collaboration include in-kind donations of materials and facilities as well as grant writing and community development options.
3. **Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Sault St. Marie, MI)**, a tribal government, provides services to a seven-county service area of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The proposal identifies needs and gaps which include a lack of awareness and coordination among various departments and agencies regarding the services each provides. One proposed initiative includes having staff trained for adult protective services investigations by Michigan DHS. Their participants list includes a cross-section of tribal, county, and state resources.
4. **Lena Mae Farris Foundation (Washington, TX)** serves seniors and adults with disabilities in the Brazos Valley, a seven-county area in central Texas. An identified need in the community is the lack of knowledge regarding elder abuse issues on the part of hospital nursing staff and home healthcare workers along with a lack of services currently available for the vulnerable elderly. The Foundation will serve as lead agency and will provide staffing for the project. They presented a comprehensive list of training participants, and the proposed budget includes financial support from the Foundation itself.
5. **PSA 3 Agency on Aging, Inc. (Lima, OH)** serves a seven-county area in west central Ohio. Their vision of an Elder Justice Community Collaboration includes several measures of success, such as having members learn how to report elder abuse cases. They also seek to provide education and community outreach opportunities. PSA 3 will lead and staff the collaboration.
6. **Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont (St. Johnsbury, VT)** serves Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans counties. Some of the needs identified in the region include dealing with the changes in the state's long-term care system, and working to better handle cases of self-neglect, which are not investigated by the state's APS division. The Area Agency on Aging for Northeastern Vermont will serve as the lead agency. Proposed participants represent a cross-section of social service and governmental agencies.

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NCPEA Awards Mini-Grants*(Continued from page 3)*

7. Bristol Elder Services (Fall River, MA) is the designated Area Agency on Aging for fifteen southeastern Massachusetts communities. Bristol will serve as the lead organization and will partner with Coastline Elderly Services to recruit network participants. Gaps are identified in the areas of education and awareness of issues related to elder abuse, and resources to develop guardians for community members in need. A need to develop elder-friendly shelters was also identified. Outcomes of the project include sharing resource information, inter-agency referrals, and developing a campaign to commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in June.

8. Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging (Bridgeport, CT) serves the Greater Bridgeport area consisting of six communities. The area has a diverse array of resources and projects which can be linked to address the gaps in services for the older adult population, but coordination is currently lacking. Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging will serve as the lead agency for the grant and will partner with Protective Services, the Center for Elder Abuse Prevention, and TRIAD to recruit additional network participants. Proposed activities and outcomes will lead to enhanced education, training, and awareness in the aging and social services network, and enhanced coordination and referrals among service organizations.

9. Otter Tail County Department of Community Services (Fergus Falls, MN) serves Otter Tail County, a rural county of 58,000 people spread over 2,232 square miles in Minnesota where 20 percent of the population is over 65. Gaps include lack of community education regarding elder abuse, underreporting, and lack of knowledge about available services. There is also a refugee population in Pelican Rapids where families relocate to work in the meat packing industry and bring their family elders with them. The isolation of older refugees creates the potential for a particularly vulnerable population. Otter Tail Human Services will serve as the lead agency and will coordinate with other local, county, and state agencies. They have a comprehensive list of team members who will participate in the coalition, including the representatives of the Refugee Center in Pelican Rapids.

10. Eagle Shield Senior Center (Browning, MT) is the senior center located on the Blackfeet Reservation and will serve as lead agency for a project that includes three additional reservation communities. Gaps identified include a lack of knowledge about elder abuse in Native American communities and a corresponding lack of resources. Although the needs of these communities are diverse, they all agree that an adult protective services program should be part of the coalition infrastructure. They have a very comprehensive list of specific, quantifiable outcomes, one of which is to hire adult protective services investigators for each of the reservations.

Special thanks to Susan Shea who contributed this article. For further information about the project, please contact: Pamela Teaster, NCPEA President, by email at pteaster@email.uky.edu

International Conference*(Continued from page 2)*

In “Removing our Rose Colored Glasses: Understanding Domestic Violence in Later Life,” Bonnie Brandl, M.S.W. discussed the theory of power and control dynamics as a framework for understanding and intervening in cases of elder abuse. Ms. Brandl illustrated how cases “misdiagnosed” as the result of caregiver stress could not only result in ineffective interventions, but serve to further isolate and harm the victim. The workshop concluded with a poignant excerpt from a video in which a nonagenarian, “Miss Mary,” describes her history of emotional, physical, and sexual abuse at the hands of several family members. Miss Mary also describes how, despite losing the support of all family members, she reported the abuse and worked with victim advocates, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system as they successfully prosecuted the offender.

Richard Haruff, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner from King County, Washington, discussed the medicolegal investigation of deaths in the elderly as a means to identify elder abuse and neglect. However, this requires an accurate history and documentation of medical conditions. He considered natural disease processes versus neglect and abuse, particularly focusing on pressure ulcers, bruising, and malnutrition. He also outlined the importance of examining the circumstances of death, such as place (including environmental conditions) and time (both time of death and time it is reported), medical record review, and key features of the postmortem examination. In terms of death certification, he noted that it is particularly important to identify the underlying cause of death as well as immediate and intermediate causes.

Carmel Bitondo Dyer, M.D. and geriatrics program director at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, described the evolution of the Texas Elder Abuse and Mistreatment (TEAM) Institute and the Consortium for Research in Elder Self-Neglect (CREST). The TEAM approach involves APS investigation, a comprehensive geriatric assessment, and interdisciplinary case conferencing and work plans to address cases of mistreatment.

Research and educational briefs were presented on topics ranging from the role of dentists and frontline health care professionals (such as emergency medical technicians), hoarding, faith-based programs, and elder abuse in assisted living, along with a review of research conducted at UCI.

International efforts were highlighted during Day Two. Dr. Kurrle presented “The View from Down Under” in which she revealed that Australian seniors rated elder abuse as their third greatest concern when recently surveyed. In “Elder Abuse: A Canadian Snapshot,” Elizabeth Podnieks, Ed.D., professor at Ryerson University in Toronto, Canada described national policy development and projects addressing elder abuse, including the Family Violence Institute, the Canadian Centre for Law Studies, coordinated approaches and community projects, and promising approaches to abuse prevention in institutional settings.

Georgia Anetzberger, Ph.D. and assistant professor of Health Care Administration at Cleveland State University spoke on “The Clinical Management of Elder Abuse: Steps and Challenges from an Adult Protective Services Perspective.” She stated that among the greatest challenges are the lack of public and professional awareness, and the “clamor to do something, no matter what.” She also discussed ethical dilemmas that are inherent in each phase of APS involvement.

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Question of the Month

**World Elder Abuse
Awareness Day is on June
15, 2008.**

**What is your organization
planning to raise awareness
of issues relating to elder
abuse, neglect, and
exploitation?**

**Email ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov and
we will highlight planned events
in the May newsletter.
Thank you for your input!**

February's Question of the Month

What do you think is the greatest barrier to promoting awareness of elder abuse not only to the public, but to professional groups as well?

"I think that the greatest barrier is that of creating relevancy, of convincing the public & professional groups that, somehow, the subject of elder abuse is relevant to them & to their mission. The idea of child abuse is easy to see as relevant; that could be my "baby" that is being abused (a son or daughter remains the "baby" for quite a while for many parents). But the idea of someone abusing an elder is harder to personalize. One of the reasons that folks can encompass the idea of child abuse is that we have all been children, & some of us have been abused. Our minds sharply oppose any idea that we, ourselves, might become an "elder", & that, in addition, we might somehow become vulnerable to abuse. It just isn't relevant to folks who aren't elders or about to be."

JAMES A. MERRILL, BA, MDiv
Program Manager, Central Illinois Agency on Aging

International Conference (continued from page 5)

Marie-Therese Connelly, J.D. from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and formerly of the National Institute of Justice, closed the program with "Emerging from Obscurity: Elder Abuse's Slow Journey Toward the National Agenda

Throughout the conference, the need for increased public and professional awareness reverberated. Mary Twomey's original rap performance ("There's No Excuse for Elder Abuse") and a video excerpt by a high school film maker in attendance were among the highlights underscoring this theme. The conference hosts also introduced participants to a new grassroots advocacy group entitled "Elder PEACE," created in California last year to give voice to elder victims, family members, and their friends. (NCEA E-NEWS will feature Elder PEACE in an upcoming newsletter. To learn more, [click here](#))

Raising awareness on a global level will heighten the visibility of the problems related to elder abuse in individual countries throughout the world, including the U.S., and international discourse will allow all involved to build upon cross-cultural successes, and share in the lessons learned.

To learn more about international research and initiatives to address elder abuse, review the CANE annotated bibliographies on global issues posted on the [NCEA website](#).

State News

CAFEE: The Oklahoma Coalition against Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

We recently spoke with William Whited, Deputy State Ombudsman and the chairperson of the Oklahoma County Coalition against Financial Exploitation of the Elderly (CAFEE), about the history and impact of the collaborative effort.

In 2005, the Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office observed an increasing incidence of financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. In response to this phenomenon, and following an APS sponsored cross-training workshop led by prosecutor Paul Greenwood, the DA's office launched the Oklahoma County Coalition against Financial Exploitation of the Elderly. CAFEE is a multidisciplinary task force that promotes awareness and provides a coordinated response to abuse cases. In January of this year, William Whited, an active member since CAFEE's early days, assumed the role of coalition chairperson. The collaboration creates a forum for members to staff cases and to create more effective investigation and prosecution strategies.

"One of the greatest misperceptions is that financial exploitation is just a civil offense," says Mr. Whited. CAFEE plays a significant role in debunking this myth.

CAFEE includes membership from about ten different organizations, representing law enforcement, legal professionals, APS, financial institutions, nursing homes, ombudsmen, and health and human services. The coalition has an established, consistent routine. Two-hour meetings are held monthly with the first half focusing on general information, open to the full coalition membership and the general public. The second half of the meeting, known as the staffing portion, allows members to present cases for input. In order to preserve client confidentiality, the staffing is open only to members directly involved in the particular case presented. Attendance is robust; the average meeting has 15 to 20 participants, but Mr. Whited notes that they have had as many as 40 or more on occasion.

"You have to have buy in from all different disciplines, from law enforcement to the DA to APS. If you take one of the members out of the mix you develop great obstacles."

In addition to addressing county cases of financial exploitation, CAFEE is involved in statewide public and professional education and awareness initiatives. Annually, the coalition presents an informational session at the Oklahoma Conference on Aging. The conference as a whole draws approximately 1300 participants, so this is a prime opportunity to reach out to many seniors. "Last year our session was standing room only," observed Mr. Whited. Presentations to other professional groups include sessions designed for clergy which is considered an important group to enlist in reaching out to older residents. "One of our greatest challenges is trying to balance the need to staff cases with outreach and education."

A measure of the effectiveness of CAFEE's impact is the passage of state legislation to enhance the likelihood of prosecution. For example, the statute of limitations for financial exploitation originally started at the date of occurrence; it has been amended to begin at the date of discovery. The state has also passed a financial neglect law.

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In the Bookstore

Elder Abuse Prevention: Emerging Trends and Promising Strategies

Lisa Nerenberg M.S.W., M.P.H.

Springer Publishing Company, 2008.

We recently spoke with consultant and author, Lisa Nerenberg, about her new book, her ongoing involvement in the response to elder abuse, and future plans.

Lisa Nerenberg has drawn upon decades of experience as an elder abuse prevention consultant, program director, trainer, researcher, and advocate to write her first book highlighting effective and innovative responses to elder mistreatment. As she explains in the preface, “This book describes what has been accomplished and what remains to be done to stop abuse, treat its effects, and ensure justice. It further addresses the broader need to fortify our long-term care, protective service, and legal systems to meet the new and imminent demands of a burgeoning elderly population. In short, it is about making our communities safer places to grow old.”

The book opens with a discussion of eight emerging trends that significantly impact practice, ranging from the increasing numbers of frail elders living in the community, to the shifting roles of adult protective service workers, to the criminalization of elder abuse. She also considers the complexities of adopting definitions of elder abuse.

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CAFEE (Continued from page 7)

Mr. Whited lists a number of individuals who are responsible for the coalition’s success. Shirley Cox, legal services developer, continuously monitors state legislative activity and Ester Houser, state Long-Term Care Ombudsman dedicates a great deal of time to addressing state policy. Peter Haddock, Assistant DA for Oklahoma County, is designated to prosecute these cases, and county DA David Prater is very supportive of the coalition’s mission. The support of the Oklahoma Bankers Association has been paramount to the coalition’s success, and the involvement of the state Attorney General’s office, and the Medicaid Fraud Control/Abuse Unit has also created an impact statewide. Mr. Whited observes that successful prosecution substantially increased since the development of CAFEE.

“I hope that this problem gains even more attention in the public eye, in the media. Not only is it a problem in Oklahoma but nationally. The more individuals we can include in these efforts, the better.”

Funding Opportunities

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand (HOPE)

HOPE awards grants 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. (Office of Victims of Crime/OVC)

Application deadline: Open, dependent upon available funding.

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

FY 2008 National Field-Generated Training, Technical Assistance, and Demonstration Projects Grants

These OVC awards are designed to support the development of national initiatives that expand the capacity of service providers to address the needs of crime victims. Elder abuse is one of the program’s areas of focus.

Application deadline: May 29, 2008

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

In the Bookstore: Elder Abuse Prevention*(Continued from page 8)*

“It is important to listen to the voices of frontline practitioners when defining the problem because they are the ones who are most affected by definitions; how we define abuse determines their clients’ service needs and the size of their caseloads.” In another chapter, she describes models that have been drawn upon from other fields in developing services. She cautions, “While the field has been enriched by myriad perspectives, we need to understand the benefits and pitfalls of various approaches.”

Victim and perpetrator characteristics and risk factors are examined in relationship to customizing interventions, including the abuser’s willingness and capacity to change harmful behaviors. The chapter outlining services and intervention strategies begins with assessment, however, the author emphasizes that this is an ongoing evaluative process. Victim-centered services are grouped as those that maximize independence, address crises, ensure safety, foster healing and empowerment, preserve/recover assets, and ensure justice. In addition to criminal and civil legal responses, perpetrator-centered rehabilitative interventions are described, including mental health counseling, domestic violence treatment, and caregiver programs.

The discussion of preventative and promising practices extends to the justice system and multidisciplinary responses as well as agency, community-based, and state initiatives. The book contains many descriptions of community collaborations, initiatives, and state legislation intended to increase effective responses.

Multidisciplinary collaboration, cultural influences, and global trends are themes running throughout these discussions. For example, Ms. Nerenberg discusses interventions reflective of tribal values, such as restorative justice, in which the victim and community are actively involved in conflict resolution, and reparations by offenders to victims, including restitution, are paramount.

The book concludes with a look at challenges to the field and overarching guidelines to address these issues. Challenges include the demand for increased services and training and “consumer choice” programs that give “long-term care consumers” greater flexibility in how they can use public benefits (e.g. allowing them to hire family members as attendants) but raise enormous risks as is the case when elders are forced to hire unvetted, unsupervised workers. Ms. Nerenberg proposes that an effective, comprehensive response will be holistic, offer a continuum of services, respond to multicultural differences, employ a public health approach, and address victims’ acute and long-term needs.

Ms. Nerenberg admits that it was difficult to know when the book was “finished,” as she became aware of new interventions and practices “almost daily.” She relates that the most rewarding part of the experience has been that the book is having an impact on practice. “Recently a reader told me she had never heard of daily money management programs, so she approached her supervisor about starting one.”

Ms. Nerenberg is the former director of the San Francisco Consortium for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Institute on Aging, and has written numerous reports and articles on elder mistreatment, addressing topics such as guardianship, financial exploitation, cultural sensitivity, and coalition building.

In an effort to promote dialog about the issues surrounding elder abuse and the professional and societal response to these concerns, she created her blog “[Prevent Elder Abuse](#)” in 2006, writing about topics such as undue influence, guardianship, ageism, and social justice. She welcomes participation from students as well...

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Elder Abuse Research and Literature

The Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE) 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 the [CANE website](#).

Three Factors Can Predict Risk of Self-Neglect in Older Adults: Memory, Organization, And Reasoning Are Measures of the Capacity to Care Properly for Oneself. (MIND & MEMORY)

Health News; Vol. 13 (4), 10; 2007.

This study, conducted by the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Canada, explored cognitive factors associated with elderly adults' risk of injury caused by self-neglect. A sample of community-dwelling elderly individuals, aged 65 and older, participated in the study which included completion of a series of cognitive tests. In addition, information on any injuries suffered by patients was collected from their family members, caregivers and physicians. Results showed that declines in memory, organization and reasoning were the most effective and relevant cognitive predictors of risk of harm caused by self-neglect.

The Relative Stress Scale, A Useful Instrument To Identify Various Aspects Of Carer Burden In Dementia?

Ulstein, I., Wyller, T. & Engedal, K.; International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry; Vol. 22 , 61-67; 2007.

This study assessed the effectiveness of the Relative Stress Scale (RSS) in measuring levels of burden experienced by family caregivers of elderly adults with dementia. In addition, the scale was assessed in terms of its effectiveness in identifying predictive factors associated with caregiver burden. One-hundred ninety-six family caregivers completed the self-administered RSS while their patients were evaluated in terms of mental health, level of disability and neuropsychiatric condition. The RSS was found to be an effective and easy-to-use tool for evaluating levels of caregiver burden. Results indicated that patients' scores on the Neuropsychiatric Inventory was the most common factors associated with caregiver burden. In addition, strategies aimed at helping family caregivers deal with stress are strongly encouraged.

Factors Related to Potentially Harmful Behaviors Towards Disabled Older People By Family Caregivers In Japan

Sasaki, M., Arai, Y., Kumamoto, K., Abe, K., Arai, A. & Mizuno, Y.; International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry; Vol. 22, 250-257; 2007.

This study explored risk factors associated with potentially harmful behaviors (PHB) exhibited by family caregivers toward older disabled adults in Japan. Approximately 400 pairs of caregivers and their older disabled family members in Kyoto, Japan, participated in the study. Family caregivers self-reported PHB, evaluated their level of burden, and assessed behavioral problems exhibited by their elderly family members. Visiting nurses provided additional information including severity of dementia, physical disability and cognitive impairment displayed by elderly patients. Over 30 percent reported some degree of PHB, of which verbal abuse and neglect were the most common. Adult child caregivers were more likely to report PHB, a finding which differs from findings of U.S. studies which have shown that spousal caregivers are more likely to participate in PHB. In addition, the study found that patients' behavioral problems were associated with PHB.

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Elder Abuse Research and Literature

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Barriers to Reducing the Use of Restraints in Residential Elder Care Facilities

Moore, K. & Haralambous, B.; JAN - Journal of Advanced Nursing; Vol. 58 (6), 532-540 June; 2007.

This study, based in Melbourne, Australia, explored perceptions held by nursing home staff, residents and their family members regarding use of physical, chemical and environmental restraints. In addition, challenges of reducing use of these forms of restraint were identified and discussed. Eighteen staff members, twelve residents and seventeen family members from three nursing homes participated in the study which was conducted through interviews and focus groups. All three nursing homes reported that they were making efforts to reduce use of restraints but struggled against an array of challenges hindering their efforts. Common barriers identified included fear of injury as well as lack of resources, time, education and information about alternative practices. Increased education and support are strongly recommended as integral components of efforts to reduce use of restraint in nursing homes.

Special thanks to Liz Kowalczyk for compiling this update.

In the Bookstore: Elder Abuse Prevention (continued from page 9)

... as professionals. "I wanted to generate discussion about the issues that we deal with in this field on a deeper and more sustained level."

In addition to the [blog](#), she continues to write and consult on training initiatives such as the multimodal "Training Frontline Health Personnel to Recognize & Report Elder Abuse & Neglect," developed with Robin Roth and Eileen Goldman of the City College of San Francisco.

Ms. Nerenberg is hoping to travel to gain global and multicultural insights into the phenomenon of elder abuse. Among her interests are seeing how the restorative justice model of intervention, developed in New Zealand, can be applied to elder abuse prevention.

For More Information [Click Here.](#)

Federal Legislation Update

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

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

The Preparing America's Seniors for the Digital Television Transition of Act of 2007

(S.2125/H.R.3862), introduced in the Senate in October 2007 by Herb Kohl (D-WI) and in the House by Albert Russell Wynn (D, MD-4), seeks to "improve public awareness in the United States among older individuals and their families and caregivers about the impending Digital Television Transition through the establishment of a Federal interagency taskforce between the Federal Communications Commission, the Administration on Aging, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and the outside advice of appropriate members of the aging network and industry groups." The bill received additional support from Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-DE) in February, bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 2 in the Senate and 3 in the House of Representatives. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

[S.2125](#)>> [Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

[H.R.3862](#)>> [Click here to read the House bill.](#)

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Federal Legislation Update

(Continued from page 11)

The **Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2008 (H.R.5352)** was introduced in the House of Representatives on February 12, 2008 by Representative Joe Sestak (D, PA-7). The bill seeks “to protect seniors in the United States 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, and for other purposes.” The bill has been referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

The **Elder Justice Act (S. 1070/H.R. 1783)** gained the support of Senators Michael B. Enzi (R-WY), Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) and John D. Rockefeller, IV (D-WV) and Representatives Loretta Sanchez (D, CA-47), Edolphus Towns (D, NY-10), Shelley Berkley (D, NV-1), Steve Cohen (D, TN-9), Edward J. Markey (D, MA-7), Mike Ross (D, AR-4), Diana DeGette (D, CO-1), Luis V. Gutierrez (D, IL-4) and Charles A. Gonzalez (D, TX-20) in January and February, bringing the total to 22 co-sponsors in the Senate and 98 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 **Community Choice Act (S. 799/ H.R. 1621)**, introduced by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) in March 2007, would “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.” In January, the bill received additional support from Representatives Paul E. Kanjorski (D, PA-11), Maxine Waters (D, CA-35), Ed Perlmutter (D, CO-7), Todd Russell Platts (R, PA-19), Carolyn B. Maloney (D, NY-14) and Edward J. Markey (D, MA-7) bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 76 in the House of Representatives and 19 in the Senate.

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

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

The **Stop Senior Suicide Act (S.1854/ H.R.4897)**, introduced in the Senate by Harry Reid (D-NV) in July 2007 and in the House of Representatives by Darlene Hooley (D, OR-5) in December 2007, seeks to “amend the Social Security Act and the Public Health Service Act to improve elderly suicide early intervention and prevention strategies.” In February, the bill received additional support from Representatives Bobby L. Rush (D, IL-1), Grace F. Napolitano (D, CA-38) and Bart Gordon (D, TN-6) as well as Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) which brings the total number of co-sponsors to 12 in the House and 4 in the Senate. The bill has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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

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

The **Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act of 2007 (H.R.2032)**, introduced in the House of Representatives by Peter A. DeFazio (D, OR-4) in April 2007, seeks to establish a “consumer price index for elderly consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security and Medicare benefits under titles II and XVIII of the Social Security Act.” The bill gained additional support in February from Representative John J. Duncan, Jr. (R, TN-2), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 42.

[H.R.2032>> Click here to read the House bill.](#)

Continued on page 13

Federal Legislation Update

(Continued from page 12)

The **Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act of 2007 (S.1577/H.R.3078)** seeks to “amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers.” The bill received additional support from Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) in February, bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 15 in the Senate and 5 in the House of Representatives. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.

[S.1577>> Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

[H.R.3078>> Click here to read the House bill.](#)

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,” received additional support in February from Representatives Steven C. LaTourette (R, OH-14) and Christopher S. Murphy (D, CT-5), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 58 in the House and 28 in the Senate.

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

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

The **Alzheimer's Treatment and Caregiver Support Act (H.R.1032)**, introduced in the House of Representatives by Maxine Waters (D, CA-35) in February 2007, gained additional support in February from Representatives Al Green (D, TX-9), Howard L. Berman (D, CA-28), Charles B. Rangel (D, NY-15), Hilda L. Solis (D, CA-32) and Shelley Berkley (D, NV-1), bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 62 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.](#)

The **Medicare Chronic Care Practice Research Network Act of 2007 (H.R.4327)**, introduced in the House of Representatives in early 2007 by Timothy V. Johnson (IL-5), gained additional support from Representative Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (VA-3) in January, bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 6. The bill aims to “establish a Medicare Chronic Care Practice Research Network to develop and apply improved practices in care management for Medicare beneficiaries with multiple, chronic conditions.”

[H.R.4327>> Click here to read the House bill.](#)

The **Long-term Care Quality and Modernization Act of 2007 (S.1980/H.R.4082)**, which seeks to “improve the quality of, and access to, long-term care” gained additional support from Senator Norm Coleman (MN) in January, bringing the total number of co-sponsors to 3 in the Senate and 3 in the House. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[S.1980>> Click here to read the Senate bill.](#)

[H.R.4082>> Click here to read the House bill.](#)

Calendar of Events

March 26-30, 2008

*The National Council on Aging (NCOA)
and the American Society on Aging (ASA)
Annual Joint Conference:
Aging in America*

Marriot Wardman Park Hotel and the Omni
Shoreham Hotel
Washington, D.C.
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 415-974-9675

April 22 - 24, 2008
*International Family Justice
Center Conference*

Westin Horton Plaza
San Diego, CA
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 888-511-3522

April 30 - May 4, 2008

*2008 American Geriatrics Society
Annual Scientific Meeting*

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Washington, Dc
Website: [Click Here](#)
Special Needs Assistance: 856-423-7222, ext. 239
Fax: 301-694-5124

May 7-9, 2008
*2008 Equal Justice Conference
Pursuing Justice: Balancing
Challenges and Opportunities*

Hilton Minneapolis
Minneapolis, MN
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 312-988-5766

May 5 – 6, 2008

*Legal Assistance for Seniors’
4th Annual Elder Abuse Conference*

Hilton Oakland Airport Hotel
Oakland, CA
Website: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 510-832-3040

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

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

NCEA/CANE
Center for Community Research and
Service/CCRS
University of Delaware
297 Graham Hall
Newark, DE 19716
On the Web at: www.ncea.aoa.gov
Email: ncea-info@aoa.hhs.gov
Telephone: 302-831-3525

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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