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Community Groups Roll-Out WEAAD 2011 Activities

Though many of us are still shoveling snow from the latest winter blast, a number of community groups and other organizations around the country are already looking to June 15th World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) observances. Since January, NCEA has been contacted by a number of elder abuse prevention and elder rights coalitions for information and assistance in getting plans off the ground.

“This is the earliest flurry of inquiries regarding World Day events I can ever recall receiving, which is a terrific sign,” noted Sharon Merriman-Nai, Project Director of NCEA Public Awareness Activities at the University of Delaware.

Although it is never too late to start organizing WEAAD events, the earlier that advocates make plans, the earlier they can promote community involvement. Such collaboration, in turn, is more likely to generate media attention and public awareness.

WEAAD Activities Now Underway

The following initiatives are currently underway:

- ***National Online Petition: Light the White House Purple on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day***

Last year, Tennessee aging services professional Janet Lamb began a Facebook page entitled *Light the White House Purple for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*. Throughout the year, the page has been a vehicle for sharing developments relating to elder abuse, news stories, and other information for consumers and professionals alike.

This year, Ms. Lamb and the [Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition](#) are sponsoring an [online petition](#) to *Light the White House Purple on WEAAD*. While she recognizes this is a tall order, there is precedent for such a request: on October 14th, 2010, the North Portico of the White House residence and the main gate to the Naval Observatory were lit pink in honor of breast cancer awareness. President Bush also had the White House bathed in pink in 2008 in recognition of the same cause.

As Ms. Lamb concludes, “It can be done.”

Everyone is urged to sign the online petition and to share the link from their organizational web pages, post it on their Facebook status, “Tweet” about it, and generate as much web traffic and support for the initiative as possible. Ms. Lamb has set a goal of collecting 1,660,000 signatures, to represent the estimated number of baby boomers who will reach age 65 June 15th 2011.

Even if the petition falls short of its ultimate goal, the “buzz” that such a grassroots effort can create is likely to increase awareness of elder abuse locally and nationally.

In 2010, the Tennessee state capitol building was lit purple in observance of WEAAD. In addition to petitioning to color the White House purple, advocates are encouraged to see what state and public buildings they can “turn” purple in recognition of WEAAD 2011.

To sign or link to the petition, [Click Here](#).

- ***Delaware to Launch Online Video Competition***
Recognizing the need to engage young people in elder abuse awareness and prevention, the Delaware Senior Protection Initiative of the Office of the Attorney General is mounting an online video competition for high school students. The theme is *Connecting Generations - Compassion in Action*.

High school students throughout the state will be invited to submit videos ranging from 30 seconds to two minutes in length featuring their ideas on how to prevent or address elder abuse. Videos can be submitted by individuals or teams and will be posted on the Initiative's YouTube channel. A hub page is currently under development that features an introductory video, permission/submission forms, competition guidelines, and links for uploading video entries, along with links to other elder abuse prevention resources.

“What's really exciting is that while the contest is only open to Delaware high school students, it will have an impact beyond the state. Anyone can view the entries and provide feedback,” said Margaret Bailey of the Delaware Nursing Home Residents Quality Assurance Commission.

Cheryl Cooper of the Delaware Domestic Violence Council is also excited about the opportunity to

explore the impact that social media can have in raising awareness among younger people. “We hope to use Facebook and other networks to promote the contest and to get viewers involved.”

The contest is scheduled to launch in mid-March and run through April 15th. A link to the YouTube channel will be posted in a future NCEA E-News so that readers will be able to view the entries. Winners will be recognized during WEAAD events planned throughout the state in June.

Bayada Nurses and WSFSbank are providing generous support for competition prizes. Both area businesses have been involved with elder abuse prevention initiatives in Delaware.

- ***WEAAD 2011 Chicago Art and Writing Contest***
Rush Institute for Healthy Aging and the Chinese American Service League (CASL) are collaborating on the first annual *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Chicago Art and Writing Contest*. What is unique about this effort is that it is truly intergenerational; one element of the competition is open to students in grades 7 through 12, and the other element invites participation of seniors over the age of 60.

Students are asked to create an original essay, artwork, or photo on topics such as, “*What does it mean to respect and honor seniors in our community?*” and “*What could you do to become an advocate for an older adult who has been abused, neglected, or exploited?*” Seniors are asked to submit entries on themes such as, “*What does healthy aging mean to you?*” and “*What can we do to stop elder abuse in the community and support seniors?*”

Prizes will be awarded to students and seniors in both art/photo and written categories during WEAAD 2011 events. Deadline for the contest is April 15th. According to Ms. Iggy E-Shien Chang of Rush Institute for Healthy Aging, competition

organizers hope to display winning entries throughout Chinatown in order to continue to focus attention on elder abuse.

In addition to raising awareness, the competition will provide a means for community representatives to gain insight into what Chinese Americans think contributes to elder abuse and generate ideas for addressing these issues.

For more information on the contest, visit [CASL](#) online.

Share Your News

Throughout the spring, NCEA E-News will feature highlights of activities planned in support of WEAAD. However, there are a number of opportunities within the next several months to raise awareness of elder abuse as a societal issue. From April 10th through 16th, we observe [National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#). May is Older Americans Month. Mother's Day (May 8th) and Father's Day (June 19th) are among the many holidays and faith-based observances that are ideal times to promote awareness of elder mistreatment as a matter of social justice and public health.

NCEA invites you to [share news](#) of what your community is doing to promote elder abuse awareness. Your ideas may inspire others to take action.

For suggestions on how to get involved, download the NCEA tip sheets for [organizations](#) or [individuals](#).

Together, we have the power to prevent elder abuse.

“Go Direct” Campaign Encourages Community Partners to Get Involved

The US Department of the Treasury now requires all federal benefits (including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement, and Veterans benefits, among others) to be paid electronically. Beginning May 1, 2011, people applying for new federal benefits will automatically receive their payments electronically; people currently receiving federal benefits by check will need to switch to an electronic payment option by March 1, 2013.

Although currently 80 percent of federal benefits recipients are paid electronically, 20 percent still receive mailed paper checks. In 2010, more than 540,000 Treasury-issued checks were reported lost or stolen, and many of the victims were elders. Waiting for replacement checks to be reissued creates additional hardship, particularly for those on a fixed income.

Not only does direct deposit provide greater security, it also provides greater convenience for elders and people with disabilities who may have difficulty arranging transportation to and from the bank, and in some cases, to the post office. Direct deposit is also a more reliable means for recipients to receive benefits during periods of disaster relief, which was demonstrated during the aftermath of the Gulf Coast hurricanes.

Individuals can opt to have their benefits directly deposited into a bank or credit union account or into a *Direct Express Debit MasterCard* account (with no bank account required). According to a recent Federal rule, these funds will be protected from garnishment, which eliminates one of the major drawbacks cited for electing electronic deposit.

Going paperless will also benefit the environment and save the US taxpayers approximately \$120 million dollars annually.

The Role of the Aging Services Network

Those who still receive federal benefits checks are urged to make the transition to direct deposit as soon as possible, and can [sign up online](#) by visiting the *Go Direct* website. Individuals who do not enroll for direct deposit by March 1, 2013 will be automatically issued a *Direct Express Debit MasterCard*.

The *Go Direct* campaign is relying heavily on grassroots, community, and other organizations to roll out its message to federal benefits recipients. Members of the aging services network and others working with seniors are encouraged to learn more about the *Go Direct* campaign and website. On a somber note, even programs designed to benefit older individuals can create opportunity for scam artists to take advantage of elders. The more proactive the aging network is in the *Go Direct* effort, the better positioned it will be to spot potential problems and help reduce any risk to unsuspecting seniors.

To learn more about the *Go Direct* campaign or to become a community partner, visit [Go Direct](#) online.

Florida Attorney General's Office 2011 Elder Crime Prevention Training

The *Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute* will once again offer the *Elder Crime Prevention Series* for prosecutors, law enforcement, and other interested practitioners. Tuition for each course is \$295.00. The following courses will be offered throughout the spring:

Elder Case Management – Investigation to Prosecution

March 16-18, 2011

Courtyard by Marriott Tampa North
Tampa, Florida

“The goal of this three-day class is to understand the elements of elder law and to educate attendees in confidently preparing the proper response and case management of an elder call. Through case studies and practical application, participants will learn to evaluate these complicated situations to determine whether law enforcement intervention is necessary or whether a referral to social services is the appropriate action.”

Elder Case Management – Investigation to Prosecution

May 2-4, 2011

Embassy Suites Palm Beach Gardens
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

Law Enforcement's Role in Elder Crime

April 19-21, 2011

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport Westshore
Tampa, Florida

“This three-day course will detail the role law enforcement officers play in combating elder abuse. Attendees will learn the many classifications for Florida’s licensed facilities and common problems. Students will receive a more comprehensive look at neglect and self-neglect; elder and dependent adult abuse; and sexual abuse.” Note: This course is one of three courses necessary for the [Florida Elder Crime Practitioner](#) designation.

“The Trusting Elder” - Investigating Elder Financial Exploitation

June 1-3, 2011

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport Westshore
Tampa, Florida

“Some of the most complicated and time-consuming cases are those of financial exploitation

of the elderly. These trusting individuals have innocently and often unknowingly signed legal documents (such as powers of attorney, guardianships, deeds, trusts, etc.) to their detriment. With these documents in hand, the perpetrator proceeds to drain the victim's assets. When it comes to the attention of an investigator or attorney there is the issue of competency and intent, and whether this is a civil or criminal case (or both). Participants will learn from experienced attorneys and investigators, evaluating "the players" and the steps to take in preparing a civil or criminal case. This class will be interactive with participants discussing interview techniques; recognition and identification of documents and evidence; and the legal and ethical aspects of these cases."

Since 1986, the Attorney General's Office of the State of Florida has offered specialized training on elder issues. To learn more about the *Florida Elder Crime Practitioner* program, see the [January-February NCEA E-News](#) feature. For more on the *Elder Crime Prevention Series*, visit the [Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute](#) online.

Special thanks to [Margaret Boeth](#) of the Florida Attorney General's Office for submitting this information.

Crime Victims Services Surveys Now Online

Vision 21 is a collaborative initiative of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice. The effort is intended to expand and enhance the impact of the crime victim services field. As part of the initiative, the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) is now soliciting feedback through online surveys for both victim service providers and victims of crime. To participate:

For victims: [Click Here](#).

For victim services providers: [Click Here](#).

In addition, NCVC is also seeking input on the training needs of crime victim service providers who work with people with disabilities. Feedback solicited through an online survey will inform the agenda of a training conference to be held in 2011, *Responding to Crime Victims with Disabilities*.

Service providers who work with crime victims with disabilities are encouraged to take this additional [online survey](#).

Visit the [Vision 21](#) website for more information on the initiative.

Call for Sessions: 2011 Elder Rights Conference "25th Anniversary Celebration"

The Illinois Department on Aging will host the 25th Annual Elder Rights Conference July 6th through July 8th, at the Westin, River North, in Downtown Chicago. Conference planners are now soliciting proposals for presentations from experts in elder rights issues, such as long-term care ombudsmen, legal services providers, and adult protective services. Intensive sessions will be held on Wednesday, July 6th, with plenary and general sessions taking place on Thursday and Friday.

Sessions may be workshop or panel discussion format. Conference intensives will range from two and a half-hour to full day sessions; workshops will range from 75-90 minutes in length. Multiple submissions are welcome.

The Conference Committee is soliciting presentations on a wide spectrum of topics. Proposals will be evaluated based on practical applicability, innovation and originality, clarity and

completeness of the proposal, timeliness of subject matter, and the experience of the presenter. Suggested topics include but are not limited to:

- Abuse and Disabilities (regardless of age)
- Domestic Violence and Services
- Sexual Abuse/Assault and Services
- Forensic Centers
- Assessing Risk, Capacity, and Needs
- APS Role in Long Term Care System Rebalancing
- Facility Issues and Investigations
- APS Data Collection and Technology
- Elder Justice Act and Affordable Care Act (Federal Legislation)
- Alzheimer and Dementia
- Mental Health Issues and Interventions; Mental Health Dilemmas in the Aging Community
- Drug and Alcohol Issues and Interventions
- Psychotropic drugs and their effects
- Emergency Preparedness
- Family Disputes
- Choices and Home Community Based Services
- Self-Neglect
- Self Care for Workers
- Law Enforcement/Prosecution/Courts
- Death Review Teams
- Evidence Based Interventions
- Ethics and Values
- Partnerships and Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- Financial Exploitation
- Legal Issues

Additional topics will be considered.

The Committee is also seeking sponsors for the Conference.

- Deadlines for submission: March 17, 2011.
- Notification of acceptance: May 1, 2011.

For detailed information on the submission process and sponsorship opportunities, [Click Here](#).

For questions, please [contact Gidget Freeberg](#).

Special thanks to Claudia Sergent, Elder Abuse Program Coordinator of the Illinois Department on Aging, for submitting this information.

Call for Papers: WHO Bulletin Special Issue on Violence against Women

Throughout 2011, editors of the WHO Bulletin will be soliciting papers addressing violence against women for inclusion in a special topic issue. This provides an excellent opportunity to discuss late life DV and other forms of violence against older women.

According to the [solicitation](#):

“We are particularly interested in research with a strong intervention focus, including ways to get violence against women onto different policy agendas and lessons about how to address some of the challenges policy-makers face; innovative approaches to prevention or to service provision, including community-based programmes in both conflict- and crises-affected and more stable settings; research to address more neglected forms of violence against women; and evidence on the costs and cost-effectiveness of intervention responses. Descriptive research that contributes to a better understanding of the global prevalence and costs of violence, or that provides evidence about the root causes of such violence will also be considered. Submissions can be made throughout 2011 at: <http://submit.bwho.org> .”

[Read the complete call for submissions.](#)

Online Resources

Elder Abuse Webinar Series: Incidence and Prevalence

On January 27th, 2011, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Government Innovators Network hosted a webcast entitled *Elder Abuse Series: Incidence and Prevalence*. For those who were unable to attend the live presentation, the multimedia event is now accessible online through the Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation.

The presentation featured the highlights of the National Elder Mistreatment Study published in 2010. The event speakers include the principal investigator of the study, Ron Acierno, PhD and Professor from the Medical University of South Carolina; Georgia Anetzberger, PhD, ACSW, LISW, of the Health Care Administration Program at Cleveland State University and adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University; and Marie-Therese Connolly, Senior Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Director of the Life Long Justice Initiative at Appleseed. The webcast was moderated by Andy Mao, Senior Counsel for Health Care Fraud and Elder Abuse, Department of Justice.

Future topics in the *Elder Abuse Series* include forensic markers.

Access to the archived presentation is free but requires registration with the Government Innovators Network.

To access the presentation, [Click Here](#).

National Elder Rights Training Project

The National Elder Rights Training Project of the National Legal Resource Center has posted the

2011 Webinar Training Schedule. The upcoming presentation, *Identifying, Preventing, and Addressing Identity Theft*, will take place on March 9th. Future presentations include the topics of undue influence, helping older veterans with Veteran's Affairs benefits, and representing consumers abused by debt collectors.

All presentations begin at 2PM eastern time unless otherwise noted on the schedule. Webinars are recorded and can be downloaded along with presentation PowerPoints. Webinars from the 2009 and 2010 series are also available online.

For more information on the upcoming presentation, to view the 2011 training schedule, or to access archived presentations, visit the [National Elder Rights Training Project](#).

The National Legal Resource Center is a collaboration of organizations sponsored by the US Administration on Aging.

Federal Trade Commission Guide for Assisting Identity Theft Victims

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) developed this Guide to help attorneys and victim service providers address and resolve legal problems of pro bono clients who are victims of identity theft. The effort has been supported by the American Bar Association.

Creators of the guide wish to expand its scope to include issues not only under the purview of the FTC but to cover state-specific information and such topics as mortgage, criminal, and medical identity theft as well.

To access the Guide, learn more about the initiative, or find instructions for submitting additional content, [Click Here](#).

Profile of Older Americans: 2010

Annually, the US Administration on Aging (AoA) publishes a profile of key statistics on older Americans. The 2010 edition of this publication is now available online.

Here are several highlights of the most recent profile that have implications for elder abuse awareness, prevention, and response:

- In 2009, there were 39.6 million Americans (12.9 percent of the total population) aged 65 and over, and increase of 4.3 million since 1999. By 2030, the population of older Americans is projected to be 72.1 million, nearly twice the number in 2008.
- Older women outnumber older men significantly (22.7 million compared to 16.8 million).
- About 30 percent of non institutionalized older persons live alone, and half of women aged 75 and over live alone.
- About 475,000 grandparents aged 65 and older have primary responsibility for grandchildren who live with them.
- Almost 20 percent of Americans aged 65 and over were minorities (8.3 percent were African Americans, 7 percent were Hispanic of all races, 3.4 percent were Asian or Pacific Islanders, less than 1 percent were American Indian or Native Alaskan, and less than 1 percent reported being of more than one race.)
- Almost 3.4 million (8.9 percent) of older individuals were below the poverty level in 2009, and another 2.1 million were “near poor” (defined as living within 125 percent of the poverty level). Older women had a higher rate of poverty than men, and older persons living alone had higher rates of poverty. The highest rates of poverty were

among Hispanic women living alone and African American women living alone (44.6 and 33 percent respectively).

Visit the [AoA website](#) to access the Profile of Older Americans: 2010 or to view earlier editions.

Funding Opportunities

There a number of open funding solicitations relevant to elder abuse awareness, prevention, and response. The following are descriptions of current funding opportunities by agency:

US Administration on Aging (AoA)

National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Resource Center Agency

As quoted from the announcement: “The Administration on Aging will hold a competition for a cooperative agreement to support the *National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program*. The award is a cooperative agreement because AoA will be involved substantially in the project. The cooperative agreement will provide for training, technical assistance and support to the directors of the Offices of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, as well as to local ombudsmen, as feasible, in every State, Territory, and the District of Columbia. The accompanying set of materials includes a description of the priority areas and all the instructions necessary to prepare and submit a grant proposal to compete for the award. The current cooperative agreement for the Center ends on May 31, 2011. Funding for the new cooperative agreement is expected to begin on June 1, 2011 to ensure continuity of support for ombudsmen.

“The overall Center goals for the new grant cycle will be to: (1) enhance the skills, knowledge, and management capacity of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs to enable them to

effectively respond to residents' complaints and represent their interests on both an individual and systemic level; and (2) strengthen this Older Americans Act core program by developing innovative, effective approaches for states to provide Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program services to long-term care facility residents...."

- For more information: [Click Here](#).
- Application deadline: March 18, 2011.

National Legal Resource Center (NLRC) and Technical Support Projects Agency

As quoted from the announcement: "The NLRC provides comprehensive resource support through a strategic combination of case consultation, training, and technical assistance on a broad range of legal issues and systems development issues. Types of pervasive legal issues addressed by the NLRC include preventing the tragic loss of a senior's home through foreclosure, protecting against consumer scams and debt collection harassment, addressing elder abuse in the community and in long-term care facilities, and difficulties in accessing public benefits essential to financial security, independence, and health. The NLRC partners also provide technical assistance on the efficient, cost effective, and targeted provision of state-wide legal and elder rights advocacy services."

- For more information: [Click Here](#).
- Application deadline: March 28, 2011.

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Projects "Empowering Seniors To Prevent Health Care Fraud"

As quoted from the announcement: "SMP projects recruit retired professionals as volunteer resources to educate beneficiaries and older consumers in their communities about how to prevent, detect and report health care fraud, error and abuse in the Medicare/Medicaid program. Currently SMPs

operate in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Based on the availability of funds, under this competition, up to twenty-six new or competing continuation cooperative agreements will be awarded at a federal share of up to \$180,000 per budget year and a project period of up to three years, in the following eligible states and District: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia.

To ensure that limited funding for this program is most effectively used to maximize national program coverage, it is necessary to limit the number of SMP grantees to one (1) per state, district or territory. By eliminating duplicative or overlapping awards to more than one organization within a state, AoA not only maximizes national program coverage, but ensures greater equity in allocation of SMP services to elders irrespective of their state of residence. States not listed above are currently served by SMP projects awarded through 2012 and are not eligible to apply."

- For more information: [Click Here](#).
- Application deadline: April 4, 2011.

Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)

OVW Fiscal Year 2011 Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program

As quoted from the announcement: "Recognizing that individuals who are 50 years of age or older who are victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, face unique barriers to receiving assistance, Congress created the *Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence*

Against and Abuse of Women Later in Life Program. In Federal Fiscal Year 2011, OVW plans to fund projects that will support a comprehensive approach to addressing elder abuse in their communities. These projects will provide training to criminal justice professionals, governmental agency staff and victim assistants to enhance their ability to address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in their communities; provide cross training opportunities to professionals working with older victims; develop or enhance a coordinated community response to elder abuse; and provide or enhance services for victims who are 50 years of age or older (hereinafter “older victims”)....”

“Applicants are limited to States, units of local government, Indian Tribal governments or Tribal organizations, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim services organizations with demonstrated experience in assisting elderly women or demonstrated experience in addressing sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking....”

- For more information: [Click Here](#).
- Application deadline: March 30, 2011.

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship Program FY 2011

As quoted from the solicitation: “With this solicitation, NIJ seeks applications for the *W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship Program FY 2011*. The *W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship Program* seeks to advance knowledge regarding the confluence of crime, justice, and culture in various societal contexts. The Fellowship places particular emphasis on crime, violence, and administration of justice in diverse cultural contexts within the United States....”

- For more information: [Click Here](#).
- Application deadline: March 22, 2011.

NIJ Advancing Forensic Science Research

As quoted from the announcement: “Through the Applied Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes solicitation, NIJ is seeking applicants for funding to support applied research and development projects that will: (1) increase knowledge or understanding necessary to guide forensic science policy and practice or (2) result in the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic application....”

- For more information: [Click Here](#).
- Application deadline: April 5, 2011.

NIJ Research on Violence and Victimization Across the Life-Span

As quoted from the announcement: “With this solicitation, NIJ seeks research and evaluation proposals to address basic research on violence and victimization across the life-span, special topics on violence and victimization as described in the Program-Specific Information section, and especially on elder mistreatment....”

“Elder Mistreatment. This focus area seeks proposals that address gaps in our understanding of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation of individuals living in the community or in residential care facilities. The National Institute on Aging and the National Academy of Sciences co-hosted a meeting on June 22, 2010, on research issues in elder mistreatment and financial fraud. Several critical areas of needed research were identified at the meeting and are described in detail in the meeting [report](#)....”

“Applicants are encouraged to address one or more of the gaps recommended in the report, particularly those recommendations related to the following topics: (1) methodological issues in elder

abuse research; (2) interventions to prevent or address elder mistreatment (including criminal justice, social service, and mental health interventions); (3) legal and criminal justice issues; (4) research on minority populations; and (5) research on financial fraud.

“A secondary goal of this focus area is to broaden the conceptual framework in which elder mistreatment is considered by expanding the scientific infrastructure of scholars for conducting scientifically sound research in the field. To that end, NIJ requests applications from researchers studying other related fields in the behavioral and social sciences (e.g., intimate partner violence, sexual violence, child maltreatment, criminal behavior). Applications are encouraged from principal investigators new to the field of elder mistreatment and from a field directly or conceptually related to elder mistreatment (e.g., gerontology, geriatrics, criminology, sociology, psychology, neurosocial science, social work, economics). The principal investigator is encouraged to partner with an experienced elder abuse researcher as either a co-principal investigator, co-investigator, or consultant.

“Research on self-neglect will not be funded. Applications with a primary focus on elder abuse that include participants under age 60 (e.g., clients of Adult Protective Services or other agencies that serve vulnerable adults) will be considered. Applications that include mixed-age populations should discuss the need to include subjects under the age of 60 and describe how the data will be disaggregated in the analysis plan.”

- For more information: [Click Here](#).
- Application deadline: April 6, 2011.

For questions relating to the elder mistreatment initiative, contact: Carrie Mulford at: 202-307-2959 or by [email](#).

Federal Legislative and Related Activity Update

In this quarterly feature, we look at federal legislative and related activity that may impact the lives of older Americans. The following update includes news on an upcoming Senate hearing, the release of a government report on elder abuse, the President’s proposed budget, and proposed federal legislation.

Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing and Release of GAO Report on Elder Abuse

On March 2nd, the US Senate Special Committee on Aging will host a hearing to coincide with the release of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on elder abuse and adult protective services (APS) data.

In 2009, Committee Chair Senator Kohl asked the GAO to conduct research on the following questions:

- *What are the nature and extent of data collected on the incidence of the various types of elder abuse nationwide?*
- *What challenges, if any, affect the ability of Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies to prevent, identify, investigate, and resolve various types of elder abuse?*
- *In what ways does the federal government currently support state and local efforts to prevent, identify, investigate, and resolve cases of elder abuse, and how well does this support address the challenges APS agencies face in this area?*

To analyze these questions, the GAO conducted a literature review, a national survey of state APS administrators, site visits to APS programs in

several states, and key informant interviews with national experts. (Once released, the report will be accessible from the [GAO website](#).)

The hearing, *Justice for All: Ending Elder Abuse, Neglect and Financial Exploitation*, will be webcast and will feature testimony from: Mickey Rooney, actor and entertainment legend, and elder abuse victim and advocate; Kay Brown, Director, Education, Workforce and Income Security, GAO; Kathleen Quinn, Director, National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA); Dr. Mark Lachs, Weill Medical College of Cornell University; Bonnie Brandl, Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL); and Marie-Therese Connolly, Director, Life Long Justice (LLJ) (an initiative of Appleseed) and Senior Scholar, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Hearing webcasts are typically archived and accessible from the [Committee's home page](#) shortly after the live event.

Proposed FY 2012 Budget

In other news, President Obama's FY 2012 budget proposed more than \$20 million in first time funding for programs included in the Elder Justice Act of 2010.

The proposed budget includes \$16.5 million for State Adult Protective Services demonstrations to improve operations. Of these funds, \$1.5 million will be targeted for coalition building, training and technical assistance, elder rights program development, and research for preventing and addressing elder abuse within Tribal nations. An additional \$5 million of proposed spending was included to improve resident advocacy to elders and adults with disabilities who live in long-term care settings.

Proposed Legislation

Representative Benjamin Chandler (KY-6) introduced [H.R. 577 Elder Abuse Prevention Act](#) on February 9th, 2011. The Act would seek to, "prevent the abuse and exploitation of older individuals." That same day, the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. On January 14th it was referred to the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Representative Marsha Blackburn (TN-7) introduced [H.R. 103 Health Care Choices for Seniors Act](#) on January 5th, 2011. The bill, which currently has 8 cosponsors, will amend title II of the Social Security Act (SSA) so that any individual entitled to benefits under Medicare may waive their entitlement and be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Alternative Voucher Program (MAV Program). This bill will also suspend late enrollment penalties for individuals (aged 65 to 70) using Medicare. On January 5th, the bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. On February 1st, it was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.

On January 5th, 2011, Representative Ron Paul (TX-14) introduced [H.R. 149 Social Security Beneficiary Tax Reduction Act](#). This bill would amend, "the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 increase in taxes of Social Security benefits." That same day, the bill, which is co-sponsored by Representative Thaddeus McCotter (MI-11), was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Representative Marsha Blackburn (TN-7) introduced [H.R. 234 Savings for Seniors Act of 2011](#) on January 7th, 2011. The bill seeks "To amend title II of the Social Security Act to establish a Social Security Surplus Protection Account in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund to hold the Social Security surplus, to provide for

suspension of investment of amounts held in the Account until enactment of legislation providing for investment of the Trust Fund in investment vehicles other than obligations of the United States, and to establish a Social Security Investment Commission to make recommendations for alternative forms of investment of the Social Security surplus in the Trust Fund....” The resolution, which currently has 10 co-sponsors, was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on January 7th.

On January 26th, 2011 Representative Charles Gonzales (TX-20) introduced [H.R. 456 Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act of 2011](#). Currently, the bill has 10 co-sponsors. On that same day, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. The bill aims to direct the Bureau of Labor Statistics (under the Department of Labor) to prepare and publish a monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI) for elderly consumers.

A related bill, [H.R. 539 Preserving Our Promise to Seniors Act](#), was later introduced by Representative Theodore Deutch (FL-19) on February 8th 2011. The bill, which has 12 cosponsors, was referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials on February 9th. The bill seeks “To amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements in the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program....”

Representative Eliot Engle (NY-17) introduced [H.R. 776 Guaranteed 3% COLA for Seniors Act of 2011](#) on February 17th 2011. This bill, which was previously introduced in the 111th Congress as H.R. 4193, hopes to establish a Consumer Price Index for elderly consumers. The bill also aims to provide an annual cost-of-living (COLA) increase, for no less than 3 percent. On January 17th it was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means along

with the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Special thanks to Sara Wilson of the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service for contributing the legislative update.

Editorial Note

The NCEA E-News features the following columns on a rotating basis: Research Highlights, State News, and Federal Legislative Updates. The April NCEA E-News will feature Research Highlights.

Calendar of Events

March 1-2, 2011

[Forum on Aging and Annual Meeting](#)

Sharonville Convention Center
Cincinnati, OH

March 3-4, 2011

[National Consumer Law Center Fair Debt Collection Practices Training Conference](#)

Red Lion Hotel
Seattle, WA

March 14-18, 2011

[National Victim Assistance Academy](#)

Albuquerque, NM

March 16-18, 2011

[Elder Case Management - Investigation to Prosecution](#)

Courtyard by Marriott Tampa North
Tampa, FL

March 16, 2011

[Neglect of Vulnerable Adults: Clinical and Legal Response](#)

United of Greater Houston Auditorium
Houston, TX

March 21-22, 2011

[The Nurses' Conference 2011](#)

Aerial UTS Function Centre Sydney
Sydney, Australia

March 28-29, 2011

[Action on Elder Abuse National Conference 2011](#)

Manchester Conference Centre
Manchester, England

March 30-April 1, 2011

[4th Annual Forensic Investigations Conference:
From Scene to Courtroom](#)

Kansas City Marriott Downtown
Kansas City, MO

March 31, 2011

[Call To Action 2011: 7th Annual National Summit
Preventing Financial Exploitation of the Elderly](#)

Mission Bay Conference Center
San Francisco, CA

April 10-16, 2011

[National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#)

National Observance

April 15-16, 2011

[The Developing Science of Violence and Abuse:
Toward a New Understanding](#)

Crowne Plaza Hotel
Bloomington, MN

April 16-17, 2011

[Unite For Sight Global Health and Innovation 2011
Conference](#)

Yale University
New Haven, CT

April 19-21, 2011

[Law Enforcement's Role in Elder Crime](#)

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport Westshore
Tampa, FL

April 26-30, 2011

[Aging in America](#)

American Society on Aging - National Council on
Aging
Hilton San Francisco Union Square
San Francisco, CA

May 2-4, 2011

[Elder Case Management – Investigation to
Prosecution](#)

Embassy Suites Palm Beach Gardens
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida

May 19-21, 2011

[National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Elder and
Special Needs Law Annual National Conference](#)

Wynn Hotel
Las Vegas, NV

May 25-27, 2011

[Sixth National Sexual Assault Response Team
\(SART\) Training Conference](#)

The Austin Hilton
Austin, TX

June 1-3, 2011

[“The Trusting Elder” - Investigating Elder Financial
Exploitation](#)

Sheraton Suites Tampa Airport Westshore
Tampa, FL

June 20-22, 2011

[National Center for Victims of Crime
2011 National Conference](#)

Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC

July 6-8, 2011

[2011 Elder Rights Conference – 25th Anniversary
Celebration](#)

Westin River North Downtown Chicago
Chicago, IL

Credits and Contact Information

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- National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly, University of Delaware (CANE-UD)

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