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Inside This Issue

| | |
|--|----|
| NCEA Awards Elder Justice Community Collaboration Mini-Grants | 1 |
| “Home for the Holidays” | 1 |
| Online Resources: NCEA Promising Practices Webcast Archived | 6 |
| National Criminal Justice Reference Service - Fraud Awareness | 7 |
| Register Now for the Next NCEA Webcast: A Primer on Evaluating Field Programs and Projects | 8 |
| Training: The Florida Elder Crime Practitioner Designation | 9 |
| Call for Presentations | 9 |
| Funding Opportunity | 10 |
| Elder Abuse Research and Literature | 10 |

NCEA Awards Elder Justice Community Collaboration Mini-Grants

To foster the development of comprehensive, multidisciplinary responses to address elder abuse, the NCEA has awarded seed funding to community-based networks interested in establishing coalitions. The mini-grants were awarded and are administered through the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA), the NCEA grantee designated to generate and support multidisciplinary efforts nationwide. Award recipients were recently announced.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) recently announced the awardees of ten \$10,000 NCEA mini-grants to establish community-based, multidisciplinary coalitions to enhance elder abuse awareness, prevention, and intervention. This is the second round of mini-grants

funded by NCEA in as many years.

See [Mini-Grants](#), Page 2

“Home for the Holidays”

As we approach the holiday season, many will travel great distances to visit with parents and other family members. In this article, Mary Twoomey, MSW, co-director of the Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse & Neglect at University of California, Irvine, provides recommendations on using this annual visit as an opportunity to consider and plan for the needs of elderly family members.

For many of us, the holidays offer a once-a-year time to visit with elderly relatives who live at a distance. These holiday visits are a good time to assess what assistance parents or other elderly loved ones might need. There are many things to consider. Does an elderly loved one require help with chores or housekeeping, personal care, shopping and meal preparation, money management, transportation, medical checkups, or medications? Are they isolated or, do they live with others? If living with another, are they dependent on that person for care? Is that person an appropriate caregiver? During your visit, keep an eye out for warning signs of self-neglect, or abuse or neglect by others. If, before you make your trip, you suspect that your loved one needs extra assistance, plan a longer stay so that you can visit local aging service organizations during regular work hours. Allow enough time during your visit to accomplish necessary tasks.

See [Holidays](#), Page 4

Mini-Grants

From Page 1

The following networks, which will serve geographically and culturally diverse regions throughout the U.S., were selected to receive funding:

- **Area Agency on Aging 1-B (Southfield, MI)** is a regional coordinating body for the aging network in six southeast Michigan counties. Efforts will focus on increasing public awareness of the issues of elder abuse and exploitation; equipping older adults to deal with issues of financial exploitation and other forms of elder abuse; and more effective reporting of crimes involving elder abuse.
- **Coastal Georgia RDC Area Agency on Aging (Brunswick, GA)** serves the nine county region along Georgia's Atlantic seaboard. Planned network activities include the development of a coordinated elder abuse information campaign; the creation of a speakers bureau to raise awareness of elder abuse; and the provision of training for local law enforcement and other mandatory reporters.
- **DNA People's Legal Services (Window Rock, AZ)** is a non-profit organization that provides free civil legal services and education to the Navajo Nation and surrounding counties in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah. Project initiatives include giving presentations about elder abuse at senior centers and other community venues; and developing brochures, posters, radio public service announcements, and newspaper articles about elder abuse to disseminate throughout the Navajo Nation. All oral outreach materials will be presented in both English and Navajo languages.
- **Heritage Clinic and the Community Assistance Program for Seniors dba The Center for Aging Resources (Pasadena, CA)** anticipates creating a coalition of social service professionals, law enforcement, court officials and others, along with community members that often encounter elders (e.g., postal workers, bank tellers, church staff, and housing officials). This project will focus on increasing awareness of how to recognize and respond to elder abuse; improve interdisciplinary collaboration among coalition members, and increase outreach efforts to at-risk or victimized elders.
- **Indochina Sino-American Community Center (New York, NY)** serves the needs of a unique, special population of first-generation-in-the-U.S. Chinese elders. The coalition is planning the development of culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate interventions to elder abuse for this target population, and will also create and disseminate culturally specific outreach materials.

- **Greater Lynn Senior Services, Inc. (Lynn, MA)** has long been involved in the prevention and intervention of violence against women. Their proposal identified the benefits of establishing an elder justice community collaboration that expands the focus beyond domestic violence. The coalition plans to increase community stakeholders' awareness and knowledge of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation through training, education, and outreach. They will develop sustainable, action-oriented strategies in the detection, prevention, and intervention of elder abuse.
- **New River Valley Agency on Aging (Pulaski, VA)** will bring together a strong team of representatives from financial institutions, primary health care settings, faith-based institutions and domestic violence programs to address the many aspects of elder abuse. Members foresee the coalition as strengthening community-based efforts to bring together those who have day-to-day contact with seniors in order to solidify a more unified response to elder abuse. The network will develop education and outreach materials, provide elder abuse community education trainings, and develop a screening tool for physicians to use with their patients to identify indicators of elder abuse and/or neglect.
- **Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Area Agency on Aging (Prescott, AZ)** will act as lead agency for an elder abuse prevention coalition to serve Yavapai County, a largely rural area in northern Arizona. This coalition will develop and deliver training to community members likely to encounter elders -- such as utility workers, mail and newspaper delivery personnel, and home-delivered meals volunteers, etc. -- to recognize and report signs of elder abuse. In addition, the network will train first responders, and develop interagency protocols to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery. The coalition also seeks to provide information and education to older adults about the various forms of elder abuse.
- **Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Gardnerville, NV)** straddles two states, creating many challenges to coordination of services through multiple layers of government. The Tribe has successfully developed relationships and protocols with local and state entities to enhance cooperation and effectiveness in combating substance abuse and the neglect and abuse of children. Drawing upon these experiences, in this project, the uniquely positioned Tribe will spearhead the development of an effective elder justice network of key representatives and organizations serving this population. Activities will include the development of public awareness and outreach materials such as a resource guide,

posters, and magnets to educate the tribal community about elder abuse.

- **West Central Human Service Center, Aging Services Unit (Bismarck, ND)** is responsible for providing services to the older adult population in the ten county, predominantly rural catchment area of North Dakota. The service area includes the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The network plans to increase awareness of services available through a more comprehensive delivery of information to professional and lay persons; create links and improve coordination of resources; provide training/education on advance directives; and promote a liaison with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Elder Protection Team.

These coalitions will join the ten original recipients in receiving not only NCEA funding but on-site technical support and training from NCPEA consultants.

Congratulations to the 2008 Elder Justice Community Collaboration awardees!

In addition to supporting the development of awarded coalitions, the National Center on Elder Abuse, through its grant with NCPEA, will provide technical assistance to state agencies and AAAs to promote the widespread development, implementation, and sustainability of new or existing local and state elder abuse networks. For more information, please direct inquiries to ncpea@verizon.net. To learn about the

[2007 Elder Justice Community Collaboration awardees](#), visit the multidisciplinary section of the NCEA website.

NCEA Resources Related to Multidisciplinary and Collaborative Approaches:

- [Creating Effective Local Elder Abuse Prevention Networks \(2007\)](#)
- [Communities Make a Difference: Local Elder Abuse Coalitions at Work \(2007\)](#)
- [Multidisciplinary and Collaborative Approaches in Responding to Elder Abuse \(2007\)](#)
- [A National Look at Multidisciplinary Teams \(2003\)](#)

Additional resources can be accessed from the [NCEA Publications Database](#) online. Select the topic: Multidisciplinary/Collaborative Approaches.

Special thanks to Susan Shea of NCPEA for contributing to this article.

Holidays

From Page 1

Make the most of your visits by taking some private time with the elder to discuss future planning. Allow time for them to express anxieties. You can decide together what needs to be done and who can help. Be observant while you are visiting. Realize that you may need to arrange a visit to a doctor for a full evaluation.

Remember that 75-90% of elder abuse is committed by family members. Don't let

denial become an obstacle to planning that could prevent future emergencies. This is not the time to hide your head in the sand, setting the stage for future regrets. Some warning signs of elder abuse are:

Self-neglect

If the senior lives alone and does not have anyone providing assistance, self-neglect may become an issue. Some things to look for include:

- Senior appears confused
- Senior is no longer able to handle meal preparation, house cleaning, laundry, bathing, or timely bill payment
- Senior seems depressed
- Senior is drinking too much or is overusing drugs
- Senior is falling frequently
- Senior appears undernourished, dehydrated, under-medicated, or is not getting care for problems with eyesight, hearing, dental problems, continence, etc.

Neglect or abuse by others

If the senior lives with others or ostensibly has people helping with care, neglect or abuse may become an issue. Some things to look for include:

- Presence of “new best friend” who is willing to care for the senior for little or no cost
- Recent change in banking or spending patterns
- Caregiver isolates older person from friends and family
- Caregiver has problems with drugs, alcohol, anger management, and emotional instability

- Caregiver is financially dependent on the older person
- Family pet seems neglected or abused
- You find an abundance of mail and/or phone solicitations for money (“You’re our lucky winner!”)
- Senior seems afraid of the caregiver
- Senior has unexplained bruises, cuts, etc.
- Senior has “bed sores” (pressure sores from lying in one place for too long)
- Senior appears dirty, undernourished, dehydrated, over- or under-medicated, or is not receiving needed care for problems with eyesight, hearing, dental issues, continence.

What should you do?

- If you suspect your older loved one is at risk, call your local Adult Protective Services or Office on Aging or go to <http://www.centeronelderabuse.org> for more information.
- Seniors may not be aware of a gradual decline and may be reluctant or unable to plan for needed care. Support and guidance from family members can help prevent serious accidents and/or future health complications. Noticing and correcting problems can help seniors to continue to live safely in their own homes.
- Learn more about common geriatric conditions, medications and markers of abuse. Refer to *Geriatric Pocket Doc*, a compact

guide book for non-physicians. (For info, [Click Here](#).)

- Introduce yourself to responsible neighbors and friends. Give them your address and phone numbers in case of an emergency.
- Ask your elderly loved ones directly if they are afraid of anyone, if anyone is taking things without their permission; if anyone is asking them to do things they are not comfortable with, or if anyone is putting them down.

Additional Resources:

[Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect](#) is a program of the University of California, Irvine that conducts research and provides training, advocacy, and direct services addressing elder abuse and neglect.

[NCEA State Resources](#) page provides web links and contact information for state aging and social services agencies along with other state specific information.

[Eldercare Locator](#) is a nationwide service supported by the U.S. [Administration on Aging](#) that offers information on local services for seniors. In addition to the website, the Eldercare Locator toll-free telephone service operates Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). Telephone: 1-800-677-1116.

[AARP](#) has created a web section that focuses on challenging [caregiving issues](#) and provides online resources such as worksheets and tips on [“Long-Distance Issues.”](#)

The NCEA would like to thank Ms. Twomey and the Center on Excellence for allowing us to reprint this article.

Online Resources: NCEA Promising Practices Webcast Archived

In September, the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) showcased two promising programs in an NCEA webcast which is now accessible online.

The NCEA recently presented a national webinar on promising practices in aging services. For those who missed the live webcast, which highlighted the *Elder Financial Protection Network* and *Mobile Gerontological Psychiatric Crisis Intervention Services*, the presentation is now accessible from the [event archive page of the NCEA web site](#). Presenters from each program described their initiatives and discussed achievements related to protecting and improving the lives of older adults.

Jenefer Duane, founder and chief executive officer of the *Elder Financial Protection Network*, outlined the mission of the nonprofit network, established in 2000. Based in California, the organization hosts a dynamic network of financial institution, law enforcement, and social service agency partners that collaborate on the prevention of financial abuse of elders and dependent adults. Activities include professional training and keynote presentations, community education and outreach for seniors, and public awareness initiatives. The funding level for the program is \$350,000 annually, and funding sources include

grants from financial institutions and a handful of private foundations, and revenues generated from conferences, training products, event sponsorship, and speaker fees. The network (often recognized by its tag line, *Be Wise.*) offers services to adults aged 50 and older. Programmatic efforts demonstrate that increased community awareness and training lead to prevention and early intervention, reducing the impact of financial exploitation. (For more information, visit the [Elder Financial Protection Network](#) online.)

Richard McKagan, geriatric specialist of the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division, described the specialized services delivered to Milwaukee County seniors through the Mobile Gerontological Psychiatric Crisis Intervention Services program. The program, which covers residents of Milwaukee County, was established in 1980 and provides psychiatric crisis intervention, stabilization, and consultation services to individuals aged 60 and over. Services provided include outreach, and on-site and community-based face-to-face interventions. The program is financially supported by county property tax dollars and insurance payments. To date, the team has provided crisis intervention services to approximate 56,000 older individuals in the community.

As part of its mission to foster effective, evidence-based, and promising practices in the field of elder abuse response and prevention, the NCEA invites participants to raise questions and share opinions and insights on these two extraordinary programs through discussion on the [NCEA Elderabuse Listserve](#).

To access this and other NCEA webcasts, [Click Here](#).

Note: The NCEA presents quarterly training and informational webcasts coordinated and hosted by the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), the grantee responsible for NCEA training initiatives. The above webcast was facilitated by Pamela Teaster of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, the NCEA grantee charged with publicizing promising practices in elder abuse prevention and intervention. Special thanks to Dr. Teaster for contributing to this article.

National Criminal Justice Reference Service - Fraud Awareness

The Reference Service has created a one-stop shop for learning about fraud awareness and prevention.

The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) has recently updated its [Fraud Awareness web section](#). The section provides a centralized portal to information on programs, publications, and internet resources related to the prevention and investigation of fraud crimes, and resources providing guidance for individuals, including elders, who have been victimized by fraud. The Internet Crime Complaint Center, the Federal Trade Commission, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are among the web links provided. These and other sites catalogued offer access to numerous downloadable brochures and public awareness materials featuring prevention

tips and guidelines. *International Fraud Awareness Week* was observed November 9th through the 15th, 2008.

The Fraud Awareness web section is just one of many valuable tools offered by the NCJRS. As quoted from its home page, "The NCJRS is a federally funded resource offering justice and substance abuse information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide." The U.S. Department of Justice and the Executive Office of the President are among the federal sponsors. [JUSTINFO](#), the justice information newsletter and the [NCJRS Abstracts Database](#) are among the resources available to professionals and the public. For more information or to join the information network, visit the [NCJRS online](#).

Register Now for the Next NCEA Webcast: A Primer on Evaluating Field Programs and Projects

On December 9th, 2008, the NCEA will sponsor a training webcast featuring Dr. Karen Stein on the topic of outcomes-based evaluation of elder abuse programming.

The NCEA recognizes the importance of assessing "what works" in elder abuse intervention and prevention programs. The now familiar buzzword is "outcomes-based evaluation." Loosely translated, it means, "How do we know that what we're doing is really making a difference?" For public and privately-funded programs alike, this is a legitimate and important question.

The webcast will present a basic introduction* to outcomes-based program evaluation, tailored to the needs of organizations with scarce resources. Participants will learn how to incorporate outcomes-based evaluation measures into the *planning* of a project or program. The webinar will cover the basic steps of planning an evaluation strategy; writing objectives that are outcomes-based; and developing simple methods for measuring whether or not intended results are being achieved.

Dr. Karen Stein serves as the Director of the Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE), a grantee of the NCEA. She is an associate professor at the University of Delaware and faculty director of the Office of Educational Assessment with specific expertise in techniques and methods of outcomes measurement.

The webcast will be hosted by NCEA grantee, the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA). Kathleen Quinn, Executive Director of NAPSA, will introduce the program and moderate the discussion. It will be archived on the NCEA and NAPSA websites for future viewing.

Date: Tuesday, December 9th, 2008

Time:

- Eastern: 1:00 PM
- Central: 12:00 PM
- Mountain: 11:00 AM
- Pacific: 10:00 AM

Register Now by [Clicking Here](#), or:

- Go to <https://www.telspan.com/Registration/Jump.aspx>
- Copy and paste the **event number 3389** on that page
- Click **Register Now** button.
- For assistance, please call 800-898-2315.

**Program Note: This webcast will be a review of the material featured in an earlier presentation by Dr. Stein in the fall of 2006, and covered in the NCEA publication, [A Primer on Outcomes-Based Evaluation for Elder Abuse Projects, Programs, and Training, 2007.](#)*

Training: The Florida Elder Crime Practitioner Designation

The Florida Attorney General's Office has designed a series of courses that address elder issues and are particularly valuable in understanding seniors, crimes perpetrated against them, investigative techniques, and development of prosecutorial cases.

For those individuals who want an extensive background in elder issues, the Attorney General's Office offers the *Florida Elder Crime Practitioner Designation*. Five courses (including the new "Practitioner Elder Update" course for those who have already earned the designation) will be offered from February through May of 2009. Visit the [2009 Schedule of Florida Elder Crime Practitioner Training](#) on-line to learn more about the program and for a description and schedule of classes to be offered.

Although the curricula features Florida specific information on legislation, reporting requirements, and services

available, the course content focuses heavily on the principles of elder crime and mistreatment, multidisciplinary collaboration, and investigative and prosecutorial techniques applicable to practitioners from all states.

[Click Here](#) to email Margaret Boeth with questions about the program.

(Note: The Florida Elder Crime Practitioner Designation program will be highlighted in an upcoming NCEA issue featuring state initiatives. Special thanks to Margaret Boeth of the Florida Attorney General's office for providing this update.)

Call for Presentations

The [Family Violence Prevention Fund Fifth National Conference on Health and Domestic Violence](#), scheduled from October 8 to Saturday, October 10, 2009, is now accepting proposals for presentations. This conference "aims to advance the health care system's response to domestic violence."

The conference, to be held at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, LA, will feature the following types of presentations:

- Scientific Report or Poster
- Innovative Program/Promising Practice Report or Poster
- Symposium
- Skills-building Workshop

Submission Deadline:

Monday, January 26, 2009; 5:00pm Pacific Standard Time (PST)

For more information or to submit online, [Click Here](#).

Funding Opportunity

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand Grants

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand 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.

- **Application deadline:** Open, dependent upon available funding.
- **For more information:** [Click Here](#).

Postsecondary Education: Integrating Crime Victims' Issues Into University and College Curricula

Office of Victims of Crime will award \$300,000 "to support the integration of broad crime victims' issues into university and college curricula. Applicants are limited to private, faith-based, tribal, or state consortiums of accredited universities and colleges or associations of institutions of higher education that can demonstrate (1) knowledge and understanding of victimization issues to be integrated into university or college curricula; (2) experience in augmenting university or college curricula by incorporating emerging education issues; and (3) staff resources and capability to carry out all activities required by the funded project. The lead applicant must be an accredited university or college or institution of higher education, and must partner, at a minimum, with another university or college or state association affiliated with

higher education to be eligible to apply for funding..."

- **Application Deadline:** December 18, 2008
- **For more information:** [Click Here](#).

Elder Abuse Research and Literature

[The Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly](#) (CANE, an NCEA grantee) maintains an annotated catalog of peer-reviewed literature on elder mistreatment and related issues. Read the highlights of three (3) recently identified publications.

Harbison, Joan.

Stoic Heroines or Collaborators: Ageism, Feminism and the Provision of Assistance to Abused Old Women

Journal of Social Work Practice
Vol. 22 (2), 221-234; July 2008.

This paper discusses prior Canadian research contrasting perceptions of abused elderly women in rural areas with the perceptions of these abused women held by younger women. Although older women were admired by their peers and described as "stoic," younger women viewed the older women as being complicit in a cycle of violence which was considered detrimental to younger women in abusive situations. The author considers the implications of the findings on issues of feminism, ageism and service provision, raising the question of whether feminism has been successful in incorporating the views of older women or has succumbed to ageism, resulting in service delivery tailored only to younger

women. Barriers to providing care discussed, as well as possible strategies for tailored service delivery. Program planners are urged to consider the time and social context in which older women were raised. A model program for serving rural older women is featured that stresses the need for home care services and support lines, among other tools. (Canada)

Kinstle, T., Hodell, E. & Golding, J.
The Impact of Juror Characteristics and Victim Health Status on the Perception of Elder Physical Abuse

Journal of Interpersonal Violence
Vol. 23 (9), 1143-1161; September 2008.

This study examines how gender and other factors impact the perceptions of alleged elderly victims (accusers) of physical abuse in court cases. The study sample included 206 adults divided into 3 age groups: 18-23, 30-55, and 63 and older who were given a mock court case that described the alleged physical abuse of an elderly woman by her son. The woman was characterized as either being healthy, confused, or frail. Researchers hypothesized that conviction rates would be lower for male mock jurors than for female mock jurors. In addition, it was hypothesized that there would be lower conviction rates, believability ratings, and verdict confidence when the elder was characterized as being confused. Finally, it was hypothesized that older mock jurors would believe the victim to a greater extent than younger mock jurors, and would also be more likely to convict, and have confidence in that

verdict. Among the findings, female jurors tended to be more likely to convict than men, and more likely to believe the elder. Men were more confident in their decisions. It was also found that the health status of the accuser, as well as perceptions of age, did not influence conviction rates or believability ratings directly, but did influence confidence in conviction.

Cohen, M.
Research Assessment of Elder Neglect and Its Risk Factors in a Hospital Setting

Internal Medicine Journal
Vol. 38 (9), 704-707; September 2008.

This research examined the rate of neglect among elderly hospital patients, and the profile of neglect victims. The sample patients hospitalized at two Israeli medical centers from 2004 through 2006 and their caregivers. In all, 667 individuals participated. Respondents and their caregivers were interviewed separately using four questionnaires including the Signs of Neglect Inventory and the Expanded Indicators for Abuse Questionnaire (E-IOA). In addition, data regarding functional and health factors and "objective and subjective caregiving burden" was collected. Results demonstrated that 14.1 percent of the patients showed evidence of neglect. Demographic characteristics of the neglected and non-neglected groups were similar with the following exceptions: patients that had been neglected, as well as their caregivers, tended to have less education and were worse off economically. In terms of other

characteristics, neglected patients were frail, were more incontinent, and had less albumin in their blood (a chemical that when low is correlated with malnutrition). In addition, the caregivers of neglected patients reported a greater degree of subjective burden. (Israel)

For additional references, search [CANE online](#) or visit the [CANE Bibliography Series](#) on the NCEA website.

Special thanks for Dave Wihry of the Center for Community Research and Service at the University of Delaware for providing this update.

Editorial Note

Elder Abuse Research and Literature, State News, and the Federal Legislative Update are quarterly postings. On schedule for upcoming e-News:

- January 2009 – State News
- February 2009 – Federal Legislative Update
- March 2009 - Elder Abuse Research and Literature

Calendar of Events

December 2 – 5, 2008

California District Attorney Association
Elder Abuse Symposium
Hyatt Regency Fisherman's Wharf
San Francisco, California
Telephone: 916-443-2017
Website: [Click Here](#)

December 3 – 6, 2008

8th Annual National Aging and Law Conference
Double Tree Hotel
Arlington, Virginia
Email: [Click Here](#)
Telephone: 202-434-2197

Website: [Click Here](#)

March 23 - 24, 2009

24th Annual Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services Conference: *New Perspectives: Elder Abuse in a Changing World*

Renaissance Hotel
Columbus, Ohio
Website: [Click Here](#)

April 24-25, 2009

Academy on Violence and Abuse 2009 Scientific Conference: *Sowing Seeds of Academic Change, Nurturing New Paradigms*

Holiday Inn Select & Suites Minneapolis International Airport-Mall of America
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Website: [Click Here](#)

Federal Disclaimer

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Credits and Contact Information:

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To subscribe to the NCEA E-News, go to:
<http://www.ncea.aoa.gov>

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National Center on Elder Abuse Grantees:

National Adult Protective Services Association
(NAPSA)
<http://www.apsnetwork.org>

National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)
<http://www.preventelderabuse.org>

Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly, University of Delaware (CANE-UD)
<http://www.cane.udel.edu>