

National Center on Elder Abuse

NCEA E-NEWS

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Washington State Credit Union League Launches Training

In June, the Washington Credit Union League (WCUL) cast a comprehensive safety net throughout the state as it disseminated the training and prevention program, *"Financial Elder Abuse: What You Need to Know"* to all credit unions. The project was the culmination of a two year initiative in response to growing evidence that elder financial abuse was a problem experienced by many credit union members. WCUL's Tomorrow's Leaders Council prioritized the issue as warranting consumer outreach and professional training, noting that many members were being taken advantage of by strangers, family, and acquaintances.

"We all realized that this was a significant issue, and it was only going to get worse as the baby boomers aged," said Mary-Beth Spuck, who leads the project along with Phyllis Kaczmarek, both of the Twin Star Credit Union. She noted that the issue also reverberated on a personal level, as Council members were increasingly taking on caregiving roles.

According to one of the project developers, Jackie Bruhn of White River Credit Union, the project initially began as an effort to train credit union employees to spot "red flags" of potential exploitation. The scope of the mission expanded in spring 2007, when an aging services professional from the Tacoma area, Connie Cline, enlisted WCUL to participate with the Pierce County Better Business Bureau in *"Scam Jam,"* sponsored by the Pierce County Council on Aging. The response to the event was overwhelming, attended by hundreds of county seniors, and the impetus to collect the materials for distribution as a comprehensive training and outreach resource. While bank reporting projects have been previously established, the program developers think this is the first statewide targeting of credit unions.

The expansion of the project was made possible when the Washington Credit Union Foundation, the WCUL's philanthropic arm, granted Tomorrow's Leaders \$20,000 to create and distribute program materials statewide. The grant was the largest endowed by the Foundation, and the first to target consumer education. The project has also benefited by partnership with the Attorney General of Washington State and the Department of Financial Institutions.

Ms. Kaczmarek reports that the program promotes public awareness of the problem of elder financial abuse which is likely to become worse as the population ages; ... (continued on page 2)

New Online Resources from the American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging: Adult Protective Services Legal Charts

The American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging recently posted several new legal charts that provide state-by-state information on adult protective services (APS) laws. The charts were prepared by the Commission for the National Center on Elder Abuse.

The Mandatory Reporting to Adult Protective Services charts provide a valuable tool for advocates and professionals across disciplines attempting to identify individual state reporting requirements, or seeking comparative state-to-state information. There are three documents in this series, including an explanation of two mandatory reporting documents: *“Reporting Requirements: Provisions and Citations in Adult Protective Services Laws, by State”* (or the “provisions chart”); and *“Mandatory Reporters: Comparison Charts of Categories in Adult Protective Services Laws, by State”* (referred to as the “categories charts”).

In addition to the mandatory reporting series, the following new charts are also now available: *“Abuse Registries;” “APS Access to Victims to Conduct Investigations and Provide Services;” “APS as Guardian;” “Definitions of Capacity to Consent;”* and *“Definitions of Caregiver.”*

All charts are accessible from either the [NCEA website](#) or from the [Commission’s elder abuse web page](#). They can also be accessed from the [Commission’s main page](#) by clicking on the “Elder Abuse” tab on the left margin.

(WCUL, continued from front page)

promotes professional awareness among credit union employees and offers education on how to detect potential abuse and exploitation, and how to proceed; and assists credit union administrators as they establish policies and protocols necessary to effectively respond to suspected abuse and exploitation. The packet consists of a CD which includes a PowerPoint overview of financial exploitation; training scenarios that allow employees to role play their responses to suspected mistreatment; brochures for consumers; and samples of protocols that can be modeled or adapted for individual institutions.

Sharon Hall, WCUL’s chief financial officer, points out that the success of the initiative is the result of the efforts of many, including the original project leader, Terry Gresswell. Approximately 40 members of Tomorrow’s Leaders contributed to the project development, which included not only the creation of packet materials but presentations on elder financial abuse prevention at various public events, such as “Making the Case for Justice: Investigation and Prevention of Crimes against Elders and Vulnerable Adults,” sponsored by the King County Attorney’s Office.

The WCUL is the state trade association for the 128 financial cooperatives that serve nearly three million Washingtonians. Since 1934, the League has played an important role in ensuring the health and vitality of the state’s credit unions and is part of a nationwide support network that includes the Credit Union National Association (CUNA), CUNA Mutual Group, the US Central Network and the World Council of Credit Unions. Tomorrow’s Leaders won the Pierce County 2007 Community Partner Award for its involvement in Scam Jam. To learn more, visit the [WCUL website](#). For additional information on this program, contact [Sharon Hall](#) or WCUL Director of Public Relations, [David Bennett](#).

Register Now for the 19th Annual NAPSA Conference: “APS: Advocating, Protecting and Serving Vulnerable Adults”

The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), in collaboration with the Illinois Department on Aging, is sponsoring its 19th annual conference in Chicago, Illinois, August 26th through 29th, 2008 at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel and Towers. The pre-conference intensive session will be held on Tuesday, August 26th on the topic of self-neglect, entitled: “*When ‘Do no Harm’ is Not Possible: What Can We Learn from the Mary Northern Case?*” The keynote will be delivered on Wednesday by Dr. Bertice Berry, sociologist, author, educator, entertainer, and comedienne.

The diverse program menu includes 58 individual sessions that address not only practice topics (such as mental health and substance abuse issues, and forensic interviewing) but cover broader issues such as elder and disabilities rights, management and administrative concerns, and media relations. NAPSA is also featuring a lakefront dinner cruise on the Spirit of Chicago.

For more information or to register, [click here](#) or contact [Anne Kincaid](#).

Update: NCEA Public Awareness Inventory

In the fall of 2007, the NCEA announced the inventorying of elder abuse public awareness materials (see the [November NCEA E-News](#)). Brochures, pamphlets, videos, posters, public service announcements, web-based resources, and other materials have been identified and coded by format, content, and intended audience, among other descriptors. The materials are being catalogued in the Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE) online database, and will be easily identified when searching by the keyword “*public awareness.*” The inventory list will also be available on the NCEA web site. In addition to providing descriptions of existing public awareness materials, the NCEA has a long range goal of providing online access to materials for which permissions to share can be obtained.

The NCEA has also conducted a case study analysis of successful social marketing campaigns, the results of which will be presented in a white paper, late summer 2008. The descriptive analysis of the public awareness inventory, coupled with the results presented in the white paper regarding effective social marketing components, will provide valuable information to the NCEA in creating a national public awareness strategy.

To date, approximately 500 public awareness and outreach tools have been identified. Some materials are components of integrated campaigns, and others are stand alone pieces. Many of the materials were submitted to NCEA by aging services and other professionals, while others were identified through internet searches. The NCEA wishes to thank those who contributed to the inventory, and encourages all interested parties to continue to submit newly created materials, in hard or electronic copies, to:

National Center on Elder Abuse/University of Delaware
Center for Community Research and Service at the University of Delaware
297 Graham Hall
Newark, Delaware 19716
Email: [Click here](#)

“Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce”

With the aging of the baby boom generation and increased life expectancy, the U.S. is facing a national health care shortage to adequately meet the needs of older Americans. To address these concerns, the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies appointed an ad hoc Committee on the Future Health Care Workforce for Older Americans. The IOM recently posted the Committee’s findings in a report entitled [“Retooling for an Aging America: Building the Health Care Workforce.”](#)

The Committee recommends that we “explore ways to broaden the duties and responsibilities of workers at various levels of training; better prepare informal caregivers to tend to the needs of aging family members and friends; and develop new models of health care delivery and payment as old ways sponsored by federal programs such as Medicare prove to be ineffective and inefficient....” Incentives are needed to recruit and retain geriatric specialists, including increased financial compensation and loan forgiveness. The committee further recommends enhanced geriatric content in training curricula and requirements for various health care providers to demonstrate competencies in geriatric care. In addition, seniors are encouraged to be active partners in their own care.

To access the report and additional materials, including report briefs in English and Spanish, a fact sheet, and a PowerPoint presentation, [click here](#).

“Senior Crime Busters” Kicked Off in Westchester County

“Senior Crime Busters” is an elder fraud prevention campaign intended to educate seniors to successfully avoid financial exploitation. The collaborative outreach effort, which incorporates representatives from law enforcement, social services agencies, and non-profit organizations, was recently launched in Westchester County, New York.

Seminars will be conducted by pairs of speakers from the Westchester Elder Abuse Coalition of the Department of Senior Programs. Presentations will be held at senior centers, libraries, faith-based centers, and other community locations. Each presentation will address personal safety tips as well as prevention of consumer fraud, including identify theft, telemarketing scams, and other crimes. Featuring a video created by the county, outreach programs will illustrate common financial exploitation scenarios. The scenarios demonstrate how seniors can fall victim to predators, but also how they can avoid these perils and correct missteps.

The Coalition is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Consumer Protection, Social Services and Public Safety, the Office for Women, the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office, the New York State Attorney General’s Office, and the Pace Women’s Justice Center.

Elder Abuse Research

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 database online](#). Special thanks to Liz Kowalczyk for compiling this update.

Franzini, L. & Dyer, C.B.

Healthcare Costs and Utilization of Vulnerable Elderly People Reported to Adult Protective Services for Self-Neglect

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society

Vol. 56 (4), 667-677; April 2008.

Journal article (research)

This study assessed the financial impact of self-neglecting seniors on the nation's healthcare system by comparing the utilization and cost of healthcare for elderly adults referred to adult protective services for self-neglect to a group of matched-pair controls. One-hundred and thirty-one individuals, matched by gender, race, and age, were selected to be in each group and all participants were treated by the same healthcare practice. Data were collected from the year prior to the study and again one year later. It was hypothesized that the utilization and cost of healthcare for self-neglecting patients would be lower, compared to the control group, prior to the study and higher following diagnosis. However, the data showed no significant difference between healthcare utilization and costs of the self-neglecting patients and the control group, despite a much higher incidence of dementia and other health conditions among the self-neglecters. These findings suggest that diagnosing and treating self-neglect does not pose a significant financial threat to our nation's healthcare system.

Cooper, C., Manela, M. & Katona, C., et al

Screening for Elder Abuse in Dementia in the Laser-Ad Study: Prevalence, Correlates and Validation of Instruments

International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry

Vol. 23 (3), 283-288; March 2008.

Journal article (research)

This study assessed the validity of the self-reporting Modified Conflict Tactics Scale (MCTS) and compared it to the Minimum Data Set –Abuse (MDS-A) screen, an observer-reporting measurement instrument. A total of 86 individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their family caregivers, originally recruited for a longitudinal study in England, participated in the research. While the MCTS demonstrated convergent and discriminant validity and was deemed acceptable to family caregivers, the MDS-A was found to be less sensitive in predicting abuse of Alzheimer's patients by family caregivers. Caregiver burden, caregiver gender (male), and caring for an individual with cognitive decline were found to be strongly correlated with caregiver abuse of individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

(Continued on page 6)

Federal Legislative Update

The *Federal Legislative Update*, the NCEA E-News highlight of recent legislative developments that may impact the lives of older Americans, will be published quarterly. The next *Federal Legislative Update* is slated to appear in the August 2008 issue.

WISER Releases Two New Publications

The Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) recently posted two new publications.

["Your Future Paycheck: Minority Women and Retirement Income,"](#) is an updated report by WISER in conjunction with Mothers' Voices Georgia, and MANA, A National Latina Organization. Although poverty rates among the elderly have dropped overall in the last quarter century years, older minority women remain significantly disadvantaged. This report considers the underlying causes for the disparities. To read the publication, [click here](#).

["Financial Steps for Caregivers,"](#) is intended to help working women, who are also full- or part-time family caregivers, prepare for their own retirement. The booklet features information on household budgeting, decisions regarding leaving work or obtaining part-time employment, and the financial impact of being a caregiver. To access the guide, [click here](#).

For more information on WISER, including additional publications, [click here](#).

Funding Opportunities:

The following funding opportunities are now available:

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand Grants
Application deadline: Open, dependent upon available funding.

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.

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

National Legal Resource Center
Application Deadline: August 4, 2008

The U.S. Administration on Aging recently announced the following request for proposals: "...the Administration on Aging (AoA) plans to award five (5) cooperative agreements to organizations that will collaborate and collectively function as one National Legal Resource Center (NLRC)..."

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

Elder Abuse Literature (*continued from page 5*)

Naik, A., Lai, J., Kunik, M. & Dyer, C.
Assessing Capacity in Suspected Cases of Self-Neglect
Geriatrics

Vol. 63 (2), 24-31; February 2008.

Journal article (scholarship)

This case study looks at a disturbing instance of self-neglect, provides an overview of this phenomenon, and outlines an effective capacity assessment method for use by clinicians. The importance of assessing an individual's decision-making capacity along a spectrum is stressed and the distinction between decisional capacity, or the ability to make decisions, and executive capacity, the ability to successfully execute those decisions, is discussed. The Articulate→Demonstrate method of clinical assessment is presented as an effective means of determining an individual's capacity level. The assessment method consists of the Articulate step, which involves interviewing the patient to determine his or her level of decision-making ability, and the Demonstrate step, which involves follow-up with the patient to determine whether they have successfully implemented their decision-making abilities.

Calendar of Events

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

September 10-11, 2008

5th Annual Making the Case for Justice Conference: Investigation and Prevention of Crimes Against Elder and Vulnerable Adults

Meydenbauer Center

Bellevue, WA

Telephone: 206 - 296-8797

Email: [Click Here](#)

July 22, 2008 - July 25, 2008

Elder Abuse Instructor Training Program (EAITP)

Wayne, NJ

Email: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: 800-743-5382

Website: [Click Here.](#)

September 16 -19, 2008

Elder Abuse Instructor Training Program (EAITP)

Dallas, TX

Email: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: 800-743-5382

Website: [Click Here.](#)

August 26 - 29, 2008

The 19th Annual National Adult Protective Services Association Conference - Adult Protective Services: Advocating, Protecting and Serving Vulnerable Adults

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers

Chicago, IL

Website: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: 720-565-0906

Email: [Click Here.](#)

September 23-25, 2008

Prosecuting Elder Abuse Cases National College of District Attorneys – America's School for Prosecutors

National Advocacy Center

Columbia, SC

Website: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: (803) 705-5093

Email: [Click Here](#)

December 3-6, 2008

8th Annual National Aging and Law Conference

Double Tree Hotel

Arlington, VA

Website: [Click Here](#)

Telephone: 202-434-2197

Email: [Click Here](#)

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Service/CCRS
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**

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