Elder Neglect and the APS Workforce

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National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA)
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• The only national organization representing adult protective services and clients; 600+ members from every state

• The national voice of vulnerable adults, advocating for the services they need, and providing professional training and information to the APS field

• Grantee for the National Adult Protective Services Resource Center (NAPSRC) funded by the US Administration on Aging

• An annual conference (St. Paul 2013) – a newsletter, various active committees, webinars and more
The term ‘neglect’ means--

(A) the failure of a caregiver or fiduciary to provide the goods or services that are necessary to maintain the health or safety of an elder; or

(B) self-neglect.
Self-neglect – EJA

The term ‘self-neglect’ means an adult's inability, due to physical or mental impairment or diminished capacity, to perform essential self-care tasks including--

(A) obtaining essential food, clothing, shelter, and medical care;

(B) obtaining goods and services necessary to maintain physical health, mental health, or general safety; or

(C) managing one's own financial affairs.
About APS

Purpose

• To investigate reports of abuse, neglect, self-neglect and exploitation of adults with disabilities age 18+ (42 states at minimum).
• To intervene to protect and help the victim to extent possible.

Authorization

• APS is the statutorily authorized entity under each state’s laws to receive and investigate reports of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.
APS ≠ APS

- APS can differ from state to state & county to county:
  - Definitions
  - Client eligibility: age; disability; residence
  - Type of abuser (trusting relationship, e.g.)
  - Mandated reporting
  - Resources
Age & Vulnerability Criteria

- 18+ vulnerable
- 18-59 vulnerable/60+
- 18-59 vulnerable/65+
- 60+ only
- 2 APS programs

- 38 categories
# Case Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State 1</th>
<th>State 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Client Eligibility</td>
<td>+ 65 years old</td>
<td>Vulnerable to abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of abuse investigated</td>
<td>Physical, Sexual, Caregiver Neglect, Emotional Abuse, Financial Exploitation (by a person in a position of trust), Self Neglect</td>
<td>Physical, Sexual, Caregiver Neglect, Emotional Abuse, Financial abuse, Abduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jurisdiction</td>
<td>Client’s Own Home</td>
<td>Community and Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>Investigation and Crisis management</td>
<td>Investigation, long term case management and conservatorships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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APS Code of Ethics

• Adults have the right to be safe.
• Adults retain all their civil and constitutional rights unless some of these rights have been restricted by court action.
• Adults have the right to make decisions that do not conform with societal norms as long as these decisions do not harm others.
• Adults are presumed to have decision-making capacity unless a court adjudicates otherwise.
• Adults have the right to accept or refuse services.
Neglect & Self-Neglect

- Most frequent types of APS cases
- 36% of all reports to APS*
  299,650 of 821,737 reports
  Self-neglect = 60% of all neglect

* 47 states & DC reporting for all reports
  29 states reporting for self-neglect
  31 states reporting for neglect by others

Neglect & Self-Neglect

- Neglect is the most underreported of all types of elder abuse
- Victims by definition often unable to report
- Abusers may be:
  - after the victims’ money and assets
  - Incompetent/unable to provide adequate care
  - motivated by power and control
- Self-neglect carries significant risk of increased mortality and abuse by others in future
APS Administrative Homes

- State admin.: 33
- County admin.: 8
- Other: 11

Legend:
- State admin.
- County admin.
- Other
APS Administrative Homes

• County-administered states:
  California
  Minnesota
  New Jersey
  New York
  North Carolina
  Ohio
  South Carolina
  Virginia

• Other:
  Contract agencies
  Prosecutor offices
APS Investigator Training

Weeks of Pre-Service Training in States

- None: 5
- < week: 4
- 1 week: 10
- 2 weeks: 9
- 3 weeks: 7
- 4 weeks: 5
- Up to locals: 7
- Other: 10
Investigator Training - Content
APS Supervisor Training

- APS Specific: 22
- Not APS Specific: 20
- None: 10

Graph showing the distribution of APS supervisor training categories.
APS Multi-Disciplinary Work

States

- 7 states: APS participates in MDTs
- 43 states: APS does not participate

Funding

- 31 states: Not funded
- 8 states: Local funds
- 4 states: OAA funds
- 2 states: VAWA funds
- 1 state: State funds
Challenges: Cases $\uparrow$ $$$ $\downarrow$

- More cases with more complexity
- Many cases with multiple types of abuse and multiple abusers
- Increased awareness $\Rightarrow$ more reports

Funding – State Level

- 48% of APS staffs were cut since 2008
- 87% of APS programs had increased reports and higher caseloads since 2008
Challenges

Funding – SSBG

• 2/3s of states use SSBG for APS ($216M)
• SSBG reduced by 10.2% last half FY2013
• Amount available will continue to be reduced by 5.1%/year as long as sequestration lasts
• SSBG may be entirely eliminated in final budget deal

Funding – Direct federal support for APS

• Elder Justice Act: $100M authorization
  $ 0 appropriation
Challenges Reported by States

• 29 states state the lack of adequate funding and staffing as one of their most serious challenges

• Other serious issues cited:
  • Lack of/decreased support for training
  • Dearth of community services (esp. MH)
  • Need for improved data collection
  • Lack of prosecutions
Responding to Challenges

- Underway:
  - Identify evidence-based practices for APS
  - Learn how APS best copes with budget cuts
  - Continue providing latest research to APS practitioners
  - Create a sustainable, national core competency training program for APS investigators/caseworkers and supervisors
  - Translate all 23 APS core competency curriculum modules into accessible and affordable modalities
  - Establish national standards for APS programs
  - Continue offering only national, annual conference for the field
Responding to Challenges

- In planning stages:
  - Update recommended national caseload standards
  - Participate in evidence-based research into APS services
  - Lay foundation for national APS data system
  - Continue to expand APS training and networking opportunities
Strengthen APS Workforce

- **Resources - #1**
- Recognition – role, responsibilities, achievements
- Training
- Research
- Multi-disciplinary work
- Public Awareness
Thank you

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