The 2021 New York State Adult Abuse Training Institute (AATI)

It Happened! What’s Next?

- Navigating
- Reconnecting
- Rethinking
- Solutions

October 4-6 2021

The Learning & Development Projects
Silberman School of Social Work

Office of Children and Family Services
This Year...

We continue to experience the shifts and impact of all that the years 2020 and 2021 brought with them. Many people have experienced loss, and many have reassessed their commitment to social justice. We salute all of the frontline service providers who continue to serve vulnerable adults: some of the unsung heroes of our time. In the second year of this time of change, and during our second all-virtual conference, let’s use the opportunity to come together in October to take stock and to look forward.

Aims of the AATI

• To build knowledge, skills and networks of professionals working with vulnerable adults
• To promote the exchange of information, innovative thinking and practice

Who Participates in the AATI?
Adult Protective Services, criminal justice, healthcare, law enforcement, mental health, public health, aging, domestic violence and a variety of other professions and disciplines that interact with abused adults.
Opening Remarks

MONDAY
October 4

Shelly Fiebich
Director
OCFS Bureau of Adult Services

Shelly brings with her over 30 years of experience in human services garnered in various statewide capacities. Throughout her career in both non-profit and state service, she has supported and advocated for our communities’ most vulnerable and underrepresented populations. From being a youth advocate, counselor and affirmative action administrator, and through her work as a child welfare manager and special projects coordinator, she has helped to achieve positive outcomes for individuals and groups alike in urban and rural settings across New York State.

Shelly has helped develop systemic change through programs and policy designed to provide access to services and strengthen impacted groups and targeted populations. In her current role, she leads a team of dedicated professionals committed to supporting the dependent and vulnerable adults of our communities as well as the social services staff and providers who keep our population safe while respecting their dignity and independence.

Sheila J. Poole
Commissioner
NYS Office of Children and Family Services

Sheila is commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). She joined the agency in 2007 as associate commissioner in the Division of Child Welfare and Community Services before being promoted to executive deputy commissioner.

As former commissioner of the Albany County Department for Children, Youth, and Families, Sheila brings a comprehensive understanding of local social service agency needs to OCFS. She led the transformation of the former Albany County Department of Social Services to the current model of an integrated social services district providing child welfare, early intervention, youth development and children’s mental health services.

Sheila began her career in the not-for-profit mental health sector, creating community-based housing and rehabilitative services for individuals transitioning from state institutional settings. She also spent five years working in the Tennessee child welfare system. Sheila earned a master’s degree in psychology from Russell Sage College in Troy, New York, after completing her undergraduate work in psychology at Siena College in Loudonville, New York.
Peter Lichtenberg

Director, Institute of Gerontology
Distinguished Professor of Psychology
Wayne State University

Peter A. Lichtenberg, Ph.D., ABPP is the director of The Institute of Gerontology and the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, and a Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He received his bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and his master’s and doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Purdue University. After his internship he completed a postdoctoral fellowship in geriatric neuropsychology at the University of Virginia Medical School where he also became a faculty member. A clinician and researcher throughout his career, Dr. Lichtenberg, one of the first board-certified clinical geropsychologists in the nation. He devotes his clinical and research efforts to better understand the intersection between cognitive impairment, financial capacity and financial exploitation, finding ways to balance autonomy and protection for older adults. Across the past decade he has created several tools to help assess financial vulnerability, and financial decision-making capacity and partnered with the State of Michigan to have his tools implemented by Adult Protective Services. His website https://olderadultnestegg.com has attracted thousands of professionals, caregivers and older persons where narrated trainings and his scales can be found and used. The recipient of several major professional awards, Dr. Lichtenberg has authored seven books and over 190 scientific articles in Geropsychology.
Greg Olsen is the acting director of the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA). In this role, he is responsible for the development, implementation, and administration of programs and policies that help older New Yorkers and overseeing the administration of federal and state funded programs that assist more than 4.6 million older adults and 4+ million informal caregivers across New York State. Working with public and private partners at the state and local level, Greg is leading the effort to combat ageism, generalizations, and stereotypes about what aging is and demonstrating the value of not only the older population to their families, communities, and the state, but also the value of the network of aging services professionals in addressing social determinants of health and their role in helping older adults maintain their independence with dignity.

With almost 30 years of experience in a variety of capacities serving older New Yorkers and their families, Greg served as chief of staff and legislative and policy director for Assemblyman Steve Englebright, former chair of the Assembly Standing Committee on Aging. He was the first executive director of the New York State Alliance for Retired Americans and served as executive director of the New York State Coalition for the Aging, a nonprofit membership organization representing more than 200 community-based organizations providing non-medical long-term care to the state’s older adult population. He received his master’s degree in social work with a specialty in gerontology from Syracuse University’s Maxwell School.
### Conference Schedule

**MONDAY**

October 4

#### Session 1

**10:00am – 12:00pm**

- **Preventing Financial Exploitation of Older Adults: The Basics of Bystander Intervention**
  - Jenny Ackley & Loren Ulrich

- **Substance Use Disorders and Older Adults**

- **APS Legal Practice, Part I**
  - Mark Maves

- **Living with Vision Loss: Accessing Services and Maintaining Independence**
  - Julie Hovey & Laura Murphy

#### Session 2

**1:00pm – 3:00pm**

- **APS Legal Practice, Part II**
  - Mark Maves

- **Recognizing and Preventing Scams and Frauds That Target Older Adults**
  - Gary Brown & Donna M. Harris

- **Collaborating for a Defined Purpose: Evaluating Social Isolation Through a Racial and Poverty-informed Lens**
  - Lori Klivak, Jenny Ackley, Marissa Saunders & Denise Welch

- **Engaging with Native American Tribal Nations**
  - Heather A. La Forme-Maldonado, Patricia Fischer
Session 3

10:00am – 12:00pm

Physiological Aspects of Aging: What’s Normal and What’s Not
Richard Machemer

Article 17A Guardianships, the MOU between OCFS and OPWDD and Court Activism
Morgan Thurston

Caregiver Resources – Tools for the Caseworker’s Toolbox
Deana Prest, Abbey Lavazzo & Doris Green

NYC HRA Adult Protective Services: Pivoting During a Pandemic
Deborah Holt-Knight, Rima Rivera, Gili Hershkovich-Kim, Sandra Brown & Donna Cooper

Session 4

1:00pm – 3:00pm

At the Intersection of Ageism and Racism - Promoting Equal Access to Justice in Our Courts
Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Michelle Smith & Joan Levenson

Power of Attorney: Friend or Foe to Financial Exploitation?
Tina Janssen-Spinosa & Deena Schwartz

Supportive Supervision for Frontline Workers
Stacey B. Plichta

Sustaining E-MDT Teams and Maintaining Team Cohesion Remotely
Allison Granata, Kasey M. Stewart, Rebecca Bradley
**Conference Schedule**

**WEDNESDAY**

October 6

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**9:30am – 9:45am**

**Closing Remarks**

- **Greg Olsen**
  Acting Director - New York State Office for the Aging

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**10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Session 5**

- **Preventing Abuse and Exploitation in Individuals with Alzheimer’s or Dementia**
  Erica Salamida

- **Right By Your Side: The Role of Concerned Persons in Mitigating Elder Abuse**
  Peg Horan, Nancy Oatts, Philip C. Marshall & Serena Ross

- **Protecting Your and Your Client’s Personal Identifiable Information (PII)**
  Donna M. Harris, Michael DelGiudice & Hope Cerda

- **Considering Cultural Competence and Advancing Equity in E-MDTs**
  Ayana Mortley, Leigh Goulbourne, Katie Block, Paul Caccamise & Zach Gassoumis

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**1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Session 6**

- **Elder Financial Exploitation and Domestic Violence**
  Katherine Grant

- **Self-Care Strategies for Front-line Workers**
  Stacey B. Plichta
Workshop Descriptions

Preventing Financial Exploitation of Older Adults: The Basics of Bystander Intervention

Jenny Ackley, MSW, Abuse in Later Life Program Director, Vera House
Loren Ulrich, Abuse in Later Life Prevention and Outreach Coordinator, Vera House

Learning Objectives:

• To understand the role of primary prevention in the field of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation
• To learn the research around the bystander effect and barriers to action
• To learn the 5 Ds of bystander intervention, which provide actionable steps when encountering abuse
• To understand the importance of an anti-racism/anti-oppression lens when determining the way to approach various situations

For almost all social justice issues, there are bystanders who have the opportunity to recognize problematic attitudes, beliefs and behaviors and address these before an individual is harmed. Passive bystanders who choose not to intervene may put the victim at risk for further abuse. In this session, participants will learn about the bystander effect, benefits of intervention and barriers to action. Actionable and practical examples will be used and will include the importance of using an anti-racism/anti-oppression lens.

Substance Use Disorders and Older Adults

Ann OIln, MA, CRC, CASAC, CCM, Program Manager, Geriatric Addictions Center, Lifespan of Greater Rochester Inc.
Ramona Sharp, LMSW, Addictions Counselor, Lifespan of Greater Rochester
Clara De Sanctis Johnson, Program Coordinator, NYS DOH, New York State Opioid Overdose Prevention Initiative

Learning Objectives:

• Learn patterns of substance misuse, including misuse of opioids, among older adults in the US
• Recognize symptoms of misuse and learn reasons underlying abuse of alcohol, prescription drugs and opioids
• Learn about the harm reduction model of substance abuse treatment
• Learn how to administer an opioid overdose reversal agent (Naloxone or NARCAN)

This workshop will provide an overview of the misuse of substances by older adults in the US including alcohol, prescription drugs and opioids. Workshop presenters will cover what constitutes a substance use disorder, reasons behind misuse, and signs and symptoms of misuse among older persons often missed by family and professionals. The workshop will also focus on the growing trend of opioid misuse among older adults. Presenters will discuss preventive and harm reduction treatment options tailored for the older adult population.

NARCAN training will also be incorporated into the workshop. Participants will learn how to administer the single step nasal spray, NARCAN (Naloxone), and how to obtain a NARCAN kit at little or no cost.
Workshop Descriptions

APS Legal Practice, Part I

Mark E. Maves, Esq., Curriculum Writer/Trainer, Silberman School of Social Work

Learning Objectives:

- To provide a comprehensive overview of APS legal practice for the County or DSS attorney
- To provide a comprehensive presentation of issues related to capacity that may confront a county or DSS attorney in APS practice

This presentation would address the non-Article 81 aspects* of APS practice, including the statutes, regulations and OCFS directives related to APS. Particular emphasis is placed on the issues related to APS client capacity, including the need to assist APS in seeking the “least restrictive” intervention for their client consistent with their mental capacity.

* MHL Art. 81 guardianships will not be extensively covered in this program, as that would be redundant to the Pre-Intensive Art. 81 program.

Living with Vision Loss: Accessing Services and Maintaining Independence

Julie Hovey, CRC, Associate Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor NYS OCFS (Office of Children and Family Services)-Commission for the Blind
Laura Murphy, Outreach Coordinator, NYS OCFS (Office of Children and Family Services)-Commission for the Blind

Learning Objectives:

- Learning the general causes of blindness
- Understanding the ways to engage someone with vision loss
- An overview of available rehabilitation services and how to get started
- Tips for recognizing blindness in the people being served

This workshop will describe the general causes of blindness and the varying degrees of vision loss. We will discuss ways to help identify vision loss and engage the people being served when possible vision loss is identified.

This workshop will include an overview of the rehabilitation services available through the NYS Commission for the Blind and our private partner agencies. The services available can help people lead more independent lives.

We will share resources that are available to help locate a service provider and how to help someone access these rehabilitation services.
Workshop Descriptions

APS Legal Practice, Part II

Mark E. Maves, Esq., Curriculum Writer/Trainer, Silberman School of Social Work

Learning Objectives:

• To provide a comprehensive overview of APS legal practice for the county or DSS attorney
• To provide a comprehensive presentation of issues related to ethical issues that may confront a county or DSS attorney in APS practice

This presentation would address the non-Article 81 aspects* of APS practice, including the statutes, regulations and OCFS directives related to APS. Particular emphasis is placed on the issues related to ethical issues that the APS attorney may encounter.

*MHL Art. 81 guardianships will not be extensively covered in this program, as that would be redundant to the Pre-Intensive Art. 81 program.

Recognizing and Preventing Scams and Frauds That Target Older Adults

Gary Brown, Statewide Elder Abuse Coordinator, Office of the New York Attorney General
Donna M. Harris, Public Information Representative, U.S. Postal Inspection Service

Learning Objectives:

• Explain how common scams and frauds work
• Raise awareness of the warning signs of scams and frauds
• Help prevent clients from being victimized
• Learn how to work effectively with law enforcement

In this workshop on elder financial abuse, experts from the United States Postal Inspection Service and New York Attorney General’s Office will take you behind the scenes to reveal the latest techniques being used to defraud vulnerable older adults by phone, mail, Internet and in person, and will outline how APS workers can spot the warning signs, help prevent clients from being victimized and work effectively with law enforcement. There will be special emphasis on COVID-related scams.
Workshop Descriptions

Collaborating for a Defined Purpose: Evaluating Social Isolation Through a Racial and Poverty-informed Lens

Lori Klivak, PhD, Director, Senior Services, InterFaith Works of CNY
Jenny Ackley, MSW, Abuse in Later Life Program Director, Vera House
Marissa Saunders, Owner, Essential Conceptions
Denise Welch, Associate Program Manager, National Black Leadership Commission on Health, Syracuse Office

Learning Objectives:

• Understand the impact of social isolation on older adults and how COVID-19 exacerbated these issues
• Learn about the importance of deeply listening to community members and building relationships and partnerships
• Recognize the importance of coalition leadership, consultants and membership that intentionally includes diverse older adults and professionals
• Identify and engage in conversation around lessons learned during the strategic planning process that ensured future plans included a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) lens

The Greater Syracuse Aging Services Coalition is a new initiative focused on increasing social connectedness, equity and access for older adults in Onondaga County. In this workshop, learn how this coalition is addressing social isolation through building relationships and strategic partnerships. Learn how results-based accountability methods were used to develop a community action plan and the importance of consistently using a diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) lens throughout the process to ensure community needs are deeply understood.

Engaging with Native American Tribal Nations

Heather A. La Forme-Maldonado, Native American Affairs Specialist, NYS Office of Children & Family Services
Patricia Fischer, Tuscarora Community Health Worker, Tuscarora Nation

Learning Objectives:

• Learn best practices of engaging with Tribal Nations
• Learn about the history of Tribal Nations in NYS

This workshop will assist participants in learning about the significant historical events of the American Indian/Native American population and how it has affected families and their descendants. With this learning objective the workshop will teach participants how to respect and engage American Indian/Native American adult clients and families.
Workshop Descriptions

Physiological Aspects of Aging: What's Normal and What's Not
Richard Machemer, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Depts. Of Biology and Gerontology, St. John Fisher College

Learning Objectives:

• Learn what to expect in the normal aging process
• Dispel common myths about aging
• Recognize resilience in yourself and your clients as individuals who are aging

Misconceptions about the aging process are common, even among those who work with older adults professionally. Recent research has shed new light on what it means to grow old. In this workshop Dr. Machemer will cover what constitutes normal aging versus disease process, with a focus on persons with life-long disabilities. Learn about what's normal and what abnormal physiological changes you may expect as your clients – and you – grow older.

Article 17A Guardianships, the MOU between OCFS and OPWDD and Court Activism
Morgan Thurston, Assistant Welfare Attorney, Onondaga County Department of Law

Learning Objectives:

• Review of the current statutory process
• Understanding of the MOU between OPWDD and OCFS
• Review of current case law

An overview of the present status of the 17a guardianship statute, a discussion of the memorandum of understanding between OPWDD and OCFS and its implications and implementation and a review of recent court decisions that illustrate a disfavor for the plenary nature of the 17a guardianship.
Workshop Descriptions

Caregiver Resources – Tools for the Caseworker’s Toolbox

Deana Prest, Aging Services Program Analyst 3, New York State Office for the Aging
Abbey Lavazzo, Long Term Care Systems Specialist, New York State Office for the Aging
Doris Green, Director, New York State Caregiving and Respite Coalition

Learning Objectives:

• Increase knowledge of caregivers in New York State and their needs
• Understand the role of the New York State Caregiving and Respite Coalition (NYSCRC) and the resources available
• Learn about the caregiver supports and resources available through the aging network
• Learn how to use the NY Connects Resource Directory to find caregivers supports

New York State recognizes the value of caregivers and has worked to address caregiver needs and to build capacity in communities across the state. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many caregiver support programs were afforded ongoing flexibility with a person-centered approach to meet the current needs of family caregivers. Participants will be provided an overview of caregiver demographics, identified needs and the resources available to assist caseworkers in their role.

NYC HRA Adult Protective Services: Pivoting During a Pandemic

Deborah Holt-Knight, MS, Deputy Commissioner, New York City Adult Protective Services
Rima Rivera, Regional Director, New York City Adult Protective Services
Gili Hershkovich-Kim, Regional Director, New York City Adult Protective Services
Sandra Brown, Regional Director, New York City Adult Protective Services
Donna Cooper, Training Director, New York City Adult Protective Services

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this workshop, participants will learn how NYC APS:

• Rebooted while in motion
• Managed crisis during a global pandemic
• Overcame barriers
• Facilitated response and recovery

During the COVID-19 pandemic NYC APS, the largest APS in the nation, faced catastrophe that was unlike the events of 9/11, a blackout or Hurricane Sandy, since it was global. The program pivoted amid a pandemic with no pandemic training, no lead time and scarce resources, but with an abundance of conviction and commitment. The NYC APS administrative team will share fears, triumphs, best practices, lessons learned, barriers and next steps to building a stronger APS program. The workshop will allow participants to share innovative strategies through virtual brainstorming that can be implemented in their respective organization/agency.
Workshop Descriptions

At the Intersection of Ageism and Racism - Promoting Equal Access to Justice in Our Courts

Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters of the First Judicial District and Chair, New York State Judicial Committee on Elder Justice
Michelle Smith, Esq., Chief of Staff, NYS Unified Court System Office of Justice Initiatives
Joan Levenson, Esq., Principal Law Clerk to Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan and Counsel to the New York State Judicial Committee on Elder Justice

This session will address ageism, generally, and particularly in the time of COVID-19, the intersection of ageism and racism, and the court's response, including the creation of an Elder Justice Bench Guide for lawyers, judges and nonjudicial personnel. The session will also address, more broadly, the court's system's goal of rededicating itself to eradicating racial bias and ensuring equal justice under the law following the Report from the Special Adviser on Equal Justice in the New York State Courts by Jeh Charles Johnson.

Power of Attorney: Friend or Foe to Financial Exploitation?

Tina Janssen-Spinosa, Esq., E-MDT Program Manager, NYC Elder Abuse Center/Weill Cornell Medicine
Deena Schwartz, Esq., E-MDT Coordinator, NYC Elder Abuse Center/Weill Cornell Medicine

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will receive an overview of power of attorney law and the standard of cognitive capacity
- Participants will identify the changes entailed in the new power of attorney law
- Overcome barriers
- Participants will examine the impact of changes to the power of attorney law on elder abuse and financial exploitation perpetration and mitigation
- Participants will learn how to assess the use of a power of attorney in elder abuse cases

Recent changes to power of attorney law have garnered concern about the new law's impact on elder financial exploitation. This workshop will provide an overview of the newly enacted power of attorney legislation, comparing prior legislation to current legislation. Attendees will learn about the standard for cognitive capacity to complete a power of attorney form, ramifications of the new law, what to consider when presented with a new power of attorney document and ways to curtail potential elder financial exploitation.
Workshop Descriptions

Supportive Supervision for Frontline Workers
Stacey B. Plichta, ScD, CPH, IHelp, Professor, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy

Objectives:
- Describe new and old occupational hazards faced by front-line workers
- Explain two actions supervisors can take to support workers
- Evaluate current supervisor strategies to support workers
- Draft one new strategy to support front-line workers

This workshop helps supervisors to examine how they currently support frontline workers and to design one new strategy to support these workers in a rapidly changing environment. Information on existing and current occupational hazards is presented along with evidence-based strategies for reducing the risks associated with these hazards. Opportunities for participants to share supportive strategies will be provided. The workshop also provides guidance for supervisors to plan one new strategy to support their workers.

Sustaining E-MDT Teams and Maintaining Team Cohesion Remotely
Allison Granata, LMSW, Statewide E-MDT Initiative Coordinator, Lifespan of Greater Rochester
Kasey M. Stewart, BA, MM, DMA, E-MDT Coordinator/Program Director, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg
Rebecca Bradley, E-MDT Coordinator, Action For Older Persons

Learning Objectives:
- Understand how pandemic conditions affected E-MDT operations – positively and negatively
- Learn how E-MDT administrators and coordinators adapted to adverse circumstances to support organizations that serve elder abuse victims
- Understand what lessons can be learned from the COVID-19 pandemic about maintaining E-MDT programs under adverse conditions and to improve initiative operations going forward

The Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team initiative in New York State is predicated on groups of diverse professionals meeting in person to review complex elder abuse cases and collaborate on a plan to reduce the risk of ongoing mistreatment. Within days of the declaration of the pandemic crisis in March 2020, E-MDTs around the state faced the challenge of converting to an online format. Some regions actually succeeded in launching new teams without ever meeting participants in person. Presenters in this workshop will discuss how the initiative as a whole adapted to a virtual format, the impacts – both positive and negative – on E-MDT operations and on the community response to elder abuse cases, and what lessons have been learned about serving elder abuse victims under adverse circumstances.
Workshop Descriptions

Preventing Abuse and Exploitation in Individuals with Alzheimer's or Dementia

Erica Salamida, Director of Community Outreach, Alzheimer's Association New York State Coalition

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will recognize the common warning signs of Alzheimer's and dementia
- Participants will understand how Alzheimer’s and dementia affects communication and behavior
- Participants will recognize potential safety risks for individuals living with dementia, including the risk for abuse and exploitation
- Participants will identify techniques to effectively communicate with individuals living with dementia and intervene in situations involving abuse, neglect, domestic violence or exploitation

Employees of state agencies and community-based workers are frequently the first to be contacted to provide assistance to people living with Alzheimer’s or dementia during emergencies and when abuse or exploitation is suspected. This population is particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, but the connection between elder abuse and dementia often goes unrecognized. As the number of people living with dementia continues to grow, challenging encounters with individuals with dementia will increase. This workshop will provide information on recognizing the warning signs of Alzheimer’s and dementia, explore the safety risks for this population and provide strategies to effectively intervene in situations involving abuse, neglect, domestic violence or exploitation.

Right By Your Side: The Role of Concerned Persons in Mitigating Elder Abuse

Peg Horan, LMSW, Clinical Program Manager, Elder Abuse Helpline for Concerned Persons, NYC Elder Abuse Center/Weill Cornell Medicine
Nancy Oatts, Founder, Elder Abuse Advocate, Nancy Oatts Design
Philip C. Marshall, Founder, Beyond Brooke
Serena Ross, LMSW, Helpline Clinician, NYC Elder Abuse Center/Weill Cornell Medicine

Learning Objectives:

- To understand the pivotal, caring and often courageous roles that concerned persons take on in the lives of mistreated older adults
- To understand the impact of elder abuse on concerned persons first-hand - from Philip C. Marshall, grandson of Brooke Astor, and Nancy Oatts, who intervened when she learned that an elderly neighbor was being mistreated
- To learn how to incorporate the Elder Abuse Helpline for Concerned Persons in your interventions and how it can support front-line workers and positively affect overall elder abuse outcomes

Most elder abuse victims are underserved by systems, but that does not mean that nobody is aware of the abuse. Learn how concerned people - relatives, friends, neighbors – uncover abuse, hearing it through walls, witnessing it and observing the decline of the victim. Learn about the first-ever service dedicated to concerned persons to help relieve their stress while providing information and guidance without judgment or pressure.
Workshop Descriptions

Protecting Your and Your Client’s Personal Identifiable Information (PII)

Donna M. Harris, Public Information Representative, U.S. Postal Inspection Service
Michael DelGiudice, Postal Inspector/Team Leader, US Postal Inspection Service
Hope Cerda, Postal Inspector, US Postal Inspection Service

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding and recognizing identity theft
- Prevention tips to minimize victimization
- Recovering from identity theft
- Best practices

Each year thousands of Americans become victims of identity (ID) theft. We call it a loss of financial DNA; these losses are tremendously violating, hurtful and life-changing to older adults. This workshop will focus on the impact of ID theft and how you can minimize your exposure and your client’s exposure of personal identifiable information (PII) losses. Postal inspectors will also provide a quick rundown on retaining correct information to assist with ID theft investigations.

Considering Cultural Competence and Advancing Equity in E-MDTs

Ayana Mortley, Training Coordinator, New York City Elder Abuse Center at Weill Cornell Medicine
Leigh Goulbourne, Technical Assistance Coordinator, New York City Elder Abuse Center at Weill Cornell Medicine
Katie Block, MSW, MPH, Elder Justice Consultant
Paul L. Caccamise, LMSW, ACSW, Vice President for Program, Lifespan of Greater Rochester
Zach Gassoumis, PhD, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine and Gerontology, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what equity and inclusion mean in the context of the statewide E-MDT initiative
- Learn what individual E-MDT coordinators and teams have done to outreach to underrepresented groups
- Learn what the E-MDT initiative at the state level has done to promote diversity, inclusion and access to the team resources to all populations of older adults in the state.

In the past year the statewide E-MDT initiative has focused on promoting diversity and inclusion in its strategic planning in order to ensure that the program is available and accessible to minority groups and other unrepresented populations of older adults. In this workshop, E-MDT coordinators and technical advisors will discuss what equity and inclusion means in the E-MDT program and how these principles can get translated into practices that serve unique community needs. Participants will also hear what steps the statewide initiative has taken to bring a common understanding of equity to the initiative and to implement inclusion practices throughout New York.
Workshop Descriptions

Elder Financial Exploitation and Domestic Violence
Katherine Grant, LMSW, Domestic Violence Program Administrator, New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Learning Objectives:

- Understanding the intersection of domestic violence and financial exploitation
- Understanding the effects of financial abuse
- Navigating trauma-informed skills for assessing, engaging and responding

Financial abuse is present in 99% of domestic violence cases; however, the severity and impact can often be missed or overlooked. Financial exploitation can have damaging effects on a victim’s journey to self-sufficiency and has been proven as a major barrier to a victim’s ability to leave. This interactive workshop will identify the intersection of domestic violence and financial exploitation for elders and provide trauma-informed solutions through our casework practices.

Self-Care Strategies for Frontline Workers
Stacey B. Plichta, ScD, CPH, IHelp, Professor, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the eight dimensions of self-care
- Explain three new self-care techniques
- Teach one self-care technique to another person
- Develop a plan to implement one new self-care strategy

This workshop helps frontline workers to increase their self-care and to teach simple mindfulness activities to others. The seven dimensions of self-care (resiliency, nutrition, movement, sleep, environment, relationships, spirituality) are discussed. Self-care techniques that impact one or more of these dimensions are introduced. Participants will try several short self-care techniques during the workshop. Participants will leave with a plan to implement one new self-care strategy in their own life.
Scenes from 2021
Scenes from 2021