

ELDER ABUSE AND ELDER JUSTICE

THE STATUS OF CURRENT EFFORTS IN OHIO

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PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES

- Public perception and ageism
- Increased interest by advocates
- Increased recognition by government
- The challenge of competing mandates and priorities

Unified Long Term Care Budget

- Governor and state departments committed to achieving a shift in Medicaid funds toward increased home and community based care
- Recognition of the vital role of elder protection in both institutional and home care
- Participation of OCAPS in the Workgroup and committees

OHIO AGING NETWORK COALITION

“Voices Across Ohio Supporting Older Adults”

- Supports a comprehensive long-term care system that provides information and access to quality care setting based on need and choice, is provided in a cost-effective manner and is integrated with other consumer supportive services....
- Funding for adult protective services is needed to ensure statewide access to an adequately funded system of APS and regional long-term care ombudsman programs.
- The Coalition is convened by the Ohio AARP.

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Department of Justice Law Enforcement Training Grant on Elder Abuse: Sheriff, Prosecutor, Domestic Violence and Adult Protective Service (OCAPS) Training Team 10/07-10/10
- Training for Prosecutors and Judges with grant
- Elder Abuse Commission, established 4/2009

ELDER ABUSE COMMISSION

PRINCIPLES

- Equal Protection: every older adult has the right to expect protection from abuse.
- Protection of Rights: Autonomy and decision-making of older adults are valued.
- Victim Centered Approach: Respect older victims through engagement, not imposition.
- Presumption of Competent Professionals and Systems: Enhance Ohio's current elder abuse framework.
- Commitment to Public Input: Public input informs our process.
- Prevention is Important: Promote proactive strategies.

Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services

- A statewide coalition that strives to enhance the provision of services to adults at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation through education and advocacy.
- Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant 7/1/09-9/30/10 to develop a web resource for older victims of crime, including abuse, neglect and exploitation: www.OhioHOPES.org
- Victims of Crime Act grant 10/1/10-9/30/11 to enhance, promote and continue education regarding the rights and resources for crime victims
- Resource to local consortium and coalitions to enhance services, educate professionals and promote advocacy.

Challenges and Opportunities

- Build on the increased attention and understanding from advocates and state administration. Focus more on the General Assembly.
- Increase the visibility of local successful collaborations, highlighting those focused on the civil and criminal justice systems responding to victims of elder abuse.
- Educate and energize the public to demand protection.
- Rebuild a broken system of APS to prepare for federal funds and mandates.