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Ohio Post-National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Report

Co-sponsored by:

***Ohio Attorney General's Office
Ohio Department of Aging***

Hosted by:

***Consortium Against Adult Abuse
Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS)
Southwest Chapter of the National Committee for the
Prevention of Elder Abuse***

***Report Prepared by
Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
Summit Planning Committee***

July 31, 2003

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions from the summit participants, listed below. We appreciate the group's willingness to share experiences and expertise about these complex and interdependent issues. We would like to particularly thank Bob Blancato, President of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, for sharing his expertise and guidance. We would also like to thank the Ohio Department of Aging for their support and assistance throughout the project. A very special thanks goes to Georgia Antzeberger, Shantha Balaswamy, Phyllis Carlson-Riehm and Brenda Lovenshimer for coordinating the summit and their assistance with the production of this final report.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	--
Introduction	1
Background	2
Ohio Post-National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Summary	3
Action Plans	5
Next Steps	10
Appendices	11
➤ National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Action Agenda, 2002	
➤ NEXUS, “Activating the “Action Agenda”	
➤ Proposed Ohio-Post National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Survey Results	
➤ Evaluation of Ohio’s Adult Protective Services: Structure, Operation, and Costs Report	
➤ Summit Participants	

Introduction

Enclosed is the report of the Ohio Post-National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse that was held Monday, March 24, 2003, in Columbus. The summit was hosted by Ohio's three affiliate members of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA); the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS), Consortium Against Adult Abuse and the Southwest Chapter of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. The Attorney General's Office and the Ohio Department of Aging co-sponsored the event.

The purpose of the summit was to develop action plans related to three priority initiatives identified at a pre-summit forum and subsequent survey completed last year. The three priority initiatives were:

- re-framing the National Policy on Elder Abuse Summit's recommendations for local and regional implementation throughout Ohio;
- promoting linkages across organizations and systems to foster mutual understanding of roles and responsibilities, enhance service delivery for victims and increase prosecution of perpetrators; and
- developing an advocacy campaign to promote implementation of the policy recommendations contained in the Evaluation of Ohio's Adult Protective Services: Structure, Operation and Cost conducted by Ohio State University (OSU October 2001).

This report outlines the action plans and identifies organizations suited to assuming leadership roles in their implementation. Additionally, the report specifies OCAPS next steps in furthering implementation of the action plans.

Background

It is estimated that each year 1.5 to 2 million older persons in domestic settings are abused and that for each report of elder abuse, at least five go unreported. Per the National Prevalence Incident Study (1996), it is probable that up to 150,000 older Ohioans experience some form of elder abuse. Last year, Ohio's Adult Protective Services agencies received and investigated more than 13,000 reports of elder abuse. The majority of these reports were substantiated and received services.

In 2000, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services contracted with the College of Social Work at The Ohio State University to conduct a statewide comprehensive assessment of the current status of Ohio's Adult Protective Services program. The department was interested in exploring the performance and quality of the program since the passage of the APS statute in 1981. The research examined the service delivery system structure, operation, cost analysis and inter-organizational dynamics. In October 2001, the results of the study were published including recommendations of the researcher and national/local consultants.

The first National Summit on Elder Abuse was held in December 2001. The summit brought together experts from across the country with the purpose of recommending a national policy agenda for protecting America's most vulnerable elders. Ten essential priorities were identified and, subsequently, United States Senators John Breaux (D-LA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) introduced the Elder Justice Act of 2003 - S. 333. This legislation attempts to address elder abuse in both community and institutional settings by supporting and strengthening the health care, social services, and justice systems responsible for preventing and responding to the problem. In addition, it ensures federal leadership and coordination of efforts to combat elder abuse through the establishment of related offices in the Administration on Aging, Department of Health and Human Services and Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice. Most recently, companion legislation--HR 2490--was introduced in the United States House of Representatives by Representatives Rahm Emanuel (D-IL), Roy Blunt (R-MO), and Peter King (R-NY). Leading advocacy for the passage of these bills is the Elder Justice Coalition, launched by the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, currently with 166 organizational and individual members.

In March 2002, the Ohio Coalition of Adult Protective Services and the Ohio Association of Probate Judges initiated a dialogue with advocates from various disciplines serving adults on the ten priorities established by the National Summit. Additionally, it was unanimously decided that Ohio should have a post-national policy summit. The Ohio Post-National Policy Summit was held in March 2003.

Ohio Post-National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Summary

The Ohio Post-National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse brought together elder abuse experts from across Ohio, including practitioners, advocates, academics, law enforcement, and medical professionals. Prior to the summit, participants reviewed the following documents.

- National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Action Agenda, 2002
- NEXUS, “Activating the “Action Agenda”
- Proposed Ohio-Post National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Survey Results
- Evaluation of Ohio’s Adult Protective Services: Structure, Operation, and Costs Report

Robert Blancato, President, National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA) opened the summit with an update on the National Policy Agenda and Elder Justice Act. Mr. Blancato stressed the importance of state and local efforts in supporting and implementing the national policy agenda. Additionally, he informed summit participants that NCPEA would be giving out several grants to aid organizations in their advocacy efforts.

Brenda Lovenshimer, Chair, Summit Planning Committee, reviewed the survey completed by participants of the Ohio Coalition of Adult Protective Services (OCAPS) 2002 pre-summit forum. The survey results identified the following three priority policy initiatives:

- Give local meaning to the National Summit action agenda by re-framing recommendations that have relevance to Ohio and creating a strategy for implementing them locally;
- Develop an advocacy campaign to promote implementation of policy recommendations contained in the Ohio State University Adult Protective Services Evaluation; and
- Promote linkage across organizations and systems to foster better understanding of roles and responsibilities in addressing elder abuse as well as to enhance service delivery for victims and prosecution of perpetrators.

Representatives of the Summit co-sponsors (Roland Hornbostel, Ohio Department of Aging and Scott Longo, Ohio Attorney General’s Office) and hosts (Erika Taylor, OCAPS; Tracey Collins, Southwest Chapter NCPEA, and Carol Dayton, Consortium Against Adult Abuse) set the stage for discussion by expressing their commitment to the protection of Ohio’s older citizens. Additionally, Scott Longo announced the

formation of a new division at the Attorney General's Office that will focus on child and elder protection.

Summit participants divided into groups to formulate action plans for each of the three priority policy initiatives. The groups' discussions identified many shared needs and recommendations. The action plans that follow were developed from the groups' notes and adopted by the summit's co-sponsors.

Action Plans

Goal Statement #1: Give local meaning to the National Summit action agenda by reframing recommendations that have relevance to Ohio and creating a strategy for implementing them locally.

Top 3 Priority Issues:

1. Communication Plan
2. Reporting/data/research collection
3. Services for victims

Objective 1: Develop and disseminate information/materials on APS to promote education and awareness of APS.

1. Identify message/slogan and strategy.
2. Consider various media types/opportunities and identify media that will be used.
3. Develop materials.
4. Link with central “clearinghouse” i.e., state press communication, town meetings, etc. to publicize release of materials
5. Disseminate materials through appropriate media/educational opportunities.

Lead: OCAPS – development of message and materials
ODA – disseminate materials

Objective 2: Develop an uniform paper/computerized reporting system to track reports, investigation outcomes, services/interventions, victim and perpetrator demographics, etc.

- 1) Identify and define report criteria/data elements.
- 2) Consider existing computerized programs available; i.e., CRIS-E, other states’ systems, etc.
- 3) Consider a statewide elder-abuse predator list/central registry.
- 4) Determine needs/secure software capabilities and revise current form.
- 5) Assure HIPAA compliant.
- 6) Require all APS agencies to use computerized system.
- 7) Train APS agencies on system.
- 8) Monitor report submission by county/agency to assure compliance.
- 9) Make available quarterly statewide data.
- 10) Develop and disseminate statewide report annually.

Lead: ODJFS
University as repository?

Objective 3: Ensure victims have services by developing and funding “base line” services statewide.

- 1) Utilize ODJFS APS Evaluation Report to identify “base line” services and service needs; i.e., guardianship programs, and emergency respite (in home/out of home).
- 2) Utilize Area Agencies on Aging to identify aging service needs and/or county variations.

- 3) Utilize other state agencies boards/county plans to identify other service needs by targeted constituent groups and/or county variations.
- 4) Collaborate with local/regional planning agencies to develop service providers as needed.
- 5) Determine and propose statutory/administrative amendments needed to establish “baseline” services statewide.

Lead: Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Additional resources (e.g., content experts, stakeholder, data analysis, etc.):

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio Council for Home Care

OCAPS

Senior Centers, Medical Schools, Geriatrics Law Enforcement

Goal Statement #2: Convene state-level task force to develop definitive recommendations on the APS administrative structure, scope of practice, and adequate funding for the 2006/2007 biennium budget.

Top 3 Priority Issues:

1. Need for state leadership, monitoring and services.
2. Need for statewide consistency in consumers' access to APS and practice.
3. Need for an adequate funding mechanism.

Objective 1: Examine other states structures, per APS Evaluation's suggestions, and determine Ohio's future structure.

1. Utilize the recommendations of other states provided by the APS Evaluation.
2. Consider and collaborate with Ohio's other protective laws/systems for vulnerable adults; e.g. MRDD, MH, law enforcement, institutional vs. domestic, etc and key stakeholders.
3. Determine statutory/administrative amendments needed.
4. Propose recommendations for 2006/2007 budget.

Objective 2: Determine scope of APS practice; e.g., 60+ or 18+disabled/vulnerable; all-vulnerable adult protective services under 1 oversight agency, etc.

1. Consider and collaborate with Ohio's other protective laws/systems for vulnerable adults.
2. Determine practice and financial impact per other state's experience/Ohio's under 60 history.
3. Determine statutory/administrative amendments needed.
4. Propose recommendations for 2006/2007 budget.

Objective 3: Determine funding needed and a funding mechanism to fully implement APS (administrative/direct line staff, training, scope, publicity, service delivery, monitoring, etc).

1. Utilize the recommendations provided by the APS Evaluation.
2. Coordinate with ODJFS to determine projected costs based upon recommended scope.
3. Examine other revenue streams; i.e, elder crime fines, estate recovery, AOA elder prevention \$s, Title XX earmark, off-track betting, etc.
4. Determine/study other service delivery funding streams.
5. Determine statutory/administrative amendments needed.
6. Propose recommendations for 2006/2007 budget.

Objective 4: Identify statutory/administrative amendments needed to implement recommendations and to standardize staff training, practice, operations, reporting, investigation, and multidisciplinary collaboration.

1. Utilize the recommendations provided by the APS Evaluation.
2. Review ODJFS APS workgroup recommendations.
3. Consider other protective systems requirements and protocols.
4. Determine statutory/administrative amendments needed.

5. Propose recommendations for 2006/2007 budget.

Proposed Structure to Implement Goals and Objectives

Timeline: all goals/objectives should be accomplished by January 1, 2006.

Additional resources (e.g., content experts, stakeholder, data analysis, etc.):

Georgia Antzeberger, nationally recognized elder abuse expert and consultant
Shantha Balaswamy, principle investigator for the ODJFS APS Evaluation Report, 10/2001

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services APS Evaluation Report(10/2001)

National Incident Prevalence Report

National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)

Federal and other Ohio state laws relating to abuse of vulnerable adults

Proposed Leader/s: Governor's Office or Attorney General's Office

Task force members:

Governor's office

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Ohio Department of Aging

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Ohio Department of Mental Health

Attorney General's Office

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Action Ohio for Battered Women

Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Ohio Association of Probate Judges

Ohio Department of Health Patient Abuse

OCAPS

Consortium Against Adult Abuse

Southwest Chapter of NCPEA

Shantha Balaswamy, OSU, College of Social Work, Principle Investigator of the Georgia Anetzberger, National Elder Abuse Consultant

Law Enforcement (State and Local) and County Prosecutors

Ohio Association of County Departments of Job and Family Services Directors

APS Practitioners, CDJFS/Delegated Agencies

County Commissioners

Consumers/consumer advocates

The Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management (possible facilitators)

Goal Statement #3: Promote linkages across organizations and systems to foster better understanding of roles and responsibilities in addressing elder abuse as well as to enhance service delivery for victims and prosecution of perpetrators.

Top 3 Priority Issues:

1. Increase APS accountability.
2. Cross/mandatory training for all professionals
3. Need for local/regional collaboration

Objective 1: Increase APS accountability by standardizing practice and training.

1. Identify practice/s and training requirements to be standardized.
2. Utilize ODJFS APS Evaluation Report recommendations and APS workgroup in identification of practice and training requirements.
3. Consider other state/s requirements/practices.
4. Develop practice and training requirements.
5. Determine and complete statutory/administrative amendments needed.
6. Train APS workers/agencies on practice and training requirements.
7. Oversight agency to monitor APS agencies for compliance with practice and training requirements and utilize trends/findings for future quality improvements.

Objective 2: Mandate APS training for mandatory reporters including health care, law enforcement, and 1st responders.

1. Consider different training methods to increase efficiencies and cost-effectiveness.
2. Identify and develop needed statutory/administrative amendments including expansion of mandatory reporters.
3. Develop training process and curriculum.
4. Develop press release/education campaign regarding new requirements.
5. Complete train-the-trainer training.
6. Track report sources and report outcomes to determine if increase of mandatory reporters reports and reports appropriateness.

Objective 3: Encourage local/regional collaboration among professional practitioners/groups.

1. Oversight agency will track and share innovative/best practices at least annually.
2. Research funding opportunities to promote collaborative funded projects at the local/regional levels.
3. Consider/research development of adult clusters.

Proposed Leaders: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Aging, Attorney General's Office

Next Steps

Following the Ohio Post-National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse, the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS) submitted a proposal and was awarded a \$4,000.00 grant from the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA). In keeping with the Summit's recommendations, OCAPS will use this grant to develop educational and communication materials to promote public awareness of elder abuse.

On July 24, 2003, representatives of the Ohio Department of Aging, Attorney General's Office, Consortium Against Elder Abuse, Southwest Chapter of NCPEA, OCAPS, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging met to review and discuss the action plans and next steps needed to further the implementation of the Summit's recommendations.

After much discussion, the group concluded that Ohio's fragmented elder abuse system needs a statewide approach inclusive of all systems with elder protection responsibilities. Consequently, the group unanimously agreed that a statewide taskforce should be convened. The group also identified and generated a list of potential members for the proposed taskforce. The Ohio Attorney General's Office has agreed to convene the taskforce. The charge of the taskforce is to:

- Elevate elder abuse as an issue of primary concern in Ohio;
- Provide statewide coordination to elder abuse identification, prevention and treatment activities; and
- Recommend policy, funding and programming to effectively address elder abuse statewide.

The taskforce will use the Summit's action plans and recommendations in formulating strategies for strengthening the elder abuse system. The Attorney General's office is proposing to convene the taskforce in September 2003.

Appendices

National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Action Agenda, 2002	A
NEXUS, “Activating the “Action Agenda”	B
Proposed Ohio-Post National Policy Summit on Elder Abuse Survey Results	C
Evaluation of Ohio’s Adult Protective Services: Structure, Operation, and Costs Report	D
Summit Participants	E