

NEW YORK STATE ELDER ABUSE PREVALENCE STUDY

Lifespan of Greater Rochester Inc. was recently awarded a grant to conduct a statewide elder abuse prevalence study. The project is a partnership between **Lifespan**, the New York City Department for the Aging (**NYC DFTA**), and **Cornell University**. Principal investigators will be **Mark Lachs**, MD (Cornell) and **Jackie Berman**, PhD, (DFTA).

This will be the first in-depth, statewide study of elder abuse prevalence in the nation. The project is funded, in part, through the **New York State Children and Family Trust Fund**, a program administered under the **NYS Office of Children and Family Services**.

Participation by all members of the NYS Coalition on Elder Abuse will be crucial to the success of this study. Everyone on the general Coalition membership e-mail list will be kept informed as we move forward with plans for the study.

Objectives:

- **Conduct a scientifically rigorous survey** of the prevalence of all forms of third party mistreatment of community-dwelling adults age 60 or over, throughout New York State.
- **Survey NYS Adult Protective Services (APS)**, other governmental agencies, and non-governmental agencies who deal with elder abuse **to estimate the prevalence of identified elder abuse cases**.
- **Estimate rates of elder abuse underreporting** through a comparison of survey data.
- **Identify demographic and other characteristics** of elder abuse cases in NYS and determine referral patterns.

Method:

- **Random-sample telephone survey** of a statistically significant sample of older New Yorkers conducted by Cornell Survey Institute.
- **Survey of gatekeepers and intervention agents:** APS, Offices for the Aging, direct service providers, law enforcement, DA Offices, domestic violence providers, etc.
 - **Lifespan** will survey upstate counties; **NYC DFTA** will survey downstate counties.

Expected products and impacts:

- **Reliable data** concerning the extent and nature of elder abuse in New York State.
- Identification of **regional differences** and **social/economic characteristics** in elder abuse cases.
- Data to advocate for **legislative and policy changes**.
- Data to use to petition for **adequate resources** to respond to elder mistreatment.
- Platform for **review and reprioritization** of the NYS Elder Abuse Action Agenda developed during the 2004 Elder Abuse Summit.

TRAINING & CONFERENCES

I.

Date: Friday, **December 7, 2007**; 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

Event: Annual Central New York Elder Abuse Conference

Theme: *Who Is Protecting Our Elders? Effective Legal & Community Response to Elder Abuse*

Presented by: Syracuse Area Domestic & Sexual Violence Coalition Elder Abuse Committee

Location: Oncenter Complex, 800 South State St., Syracuse, NY

Conference Highlights:

Keynote address:

Elder Abuse and the Criminal Justice System: A Prosecutor's Perspective by **Elizabeth Loewy**, Attorney in Charge of the Elder Abuse Unit, New York County District Attorney's Office.

Workshop options:

- *Civil & Legal Issues for Elders* (**Joe Greenman**, Esq.)
- *Elder Abuse 101* (**Lisa Earle**, MS, Vera House)
- *Prosecuting Elder Abuse & Financial Exploitation Cases* (**Beth VanDoren**, ADA, Onondaga Co. DA's Office)
- *Community Resources* (**Eleanor Carr**, Catholic Charities; **JoAnne Spoto Decker**, Onondaga Co. Dept. of Aging & Youth; **Nancy Calhoun**, LMSW, CSW, University Geriatricians; **Diane Adler-Farnach**, MS, RN, Long-Term Care Resource Center; **Janis Cieply**, BSN, RN, PACE CNY)
- *Issues of Capacity and Older Adults* (**Nina Kohn**, Esq., Assistant Professor, SU Law School)
- *Adult Protective Services* (**Carol Fisher**, Onondaga Co. APS; **Morgan Thurston**, Esq.)

Registration: Please **register by November 28**. Registration fee: \$10 for registration only; \$40 for registration plus CLE credit (3 CLE credits pending). Parking: \$4 for conference attendees at the Oncenter garage. **For registrations after Nov. 28** – please fax form and write “pay at the door” or call Lisa Earle (see fax and other contact info below).

For more information:

Conference **flyer with registration** form is available at:

<http://www.verahouse.org/coalition/coalitioncalendarofevents.htm>

Please note: For your convenience, the Conference flyer with registration information will be included as an attachment in the 2nd *News Bulletin* e-mail, which will be sent immediately following this e-mail.

If you have questions, please contact **Lisa Earle** or **Loren Cunningham** at Vera House, phone (315) 425-0818, fax (315) 425-8942, or learle@verahouse.org.

II.

Date: Tuesday, **December 18**, 2007; 8:30 am – 2:15 pm

Event: Elder Abuse Conference and Training

Theme: *Overview of Elder Abuse and Training for Prevention*

Presented by: Jewish Home & Hospital Lifecare System (JHHLS) Professional Education Center

Location: Columbia University, Alfred Lerner Hall, 2920 Broadway (115th Street), New York, NY

Program Highlights: Focusing on the role of home care service providers in addressing early identification and intervention in cases of elder abuse and neglect in community settings.

- *Reporting Elder Abuse: Obstacles and Solutions in the Community* (**Arlene Markarian**, Chief of the Elder Abuse Unit, Kings County DA's Office)
- *Enhancing Early Identification of Elder Abuse in Home Care* (**Laura Radensky**, Associate Director of Social Workers, Community Programs, JHHLS)
- *Perspective from a Home Health Aide*
- *Panel: Identifying and Properly Reporting Elder Abuse* (**Maria del Carmen Arroyo**, Chair, NYC Council Aging Committee; **Arlene Markarian**, ADA, Kings Co. DA's Office; **Jocelyn Groden**, LMSW, NYC Dept. for the Aging; **Deborah Holt-Knight**, NYC Adult Protective Services; **Arnold Ng**, Home Care Services; **Ken Onaitis**, LCSW, The Carter Burden Center)
- *A Model for Intervention in Elder Abuse Cases* (**Dr. Sara Alon**, Director of Programs on Elder Abuse & Neglect, JDC-ESHEL, Israel)

Registration: Pre-registration required. \$40 registration fee – see online registration link below.

For more information:

Conference **flyer with online registration** form is available at:

https://www.lifecareinstitute.org/public/ViewAgenda.cfm?Event_ID=75

If you have any questions, please contact **Patrice Gordon** at JHHLS, (212) 870-4783 or pgordon@jhha.org.

RESOURCES

I.

New Web Site:

www.ncea.aoa.gov (previously www.elderabusecenter.org)

Visit the **new, redesigned website** for the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA). The state resource directory section of the website has links to many useful training materials and documents, including the **2004 NYS Elder Abuse Summit Report**.

NCEA is an excellent national resource center, dedicated to the prevention of elder mistreatment. Sign up to receive **NCEA E-News** and keep up-to-date with all the latest information from around the country. And watch for an **upcoming series of articles covering the progress of the NYS Elder Abuse Prevalence Study**.

Some of the features/services available on the NCEA website:

- Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (**CANE**) – largest collection of references and literature on elder abuse and related topics
- NCEA **Listserve** – an electronic forum allowing professionals to communicate regarding elder abuse and related concerns
- NCEA **Training Library** – collection of training and educational resources for APS and other aging services professionals

II.

New Reference Book:

Financial Exploitation of the Elderly:

Legal Issues, Prevention, Prosecution, Social Service Advocacy

Authored by:

Rose Mary Bailly, J.D., Executive Director, NYS Law Revision Commission

Elizabeth Loewy, J.D., Attorney in Charge of the Elder Abuse Unit, NY County DA's Office
with

Margaret A. Bomba, J.D. and **James J. Lynch, M.D.**

Please note: Both authors participated in the 2004 NYS Elder Abuse Summit and now serve on the NYS Coalition on Elder Abuse Advisory Board.

Financial Exploitation is the fastest growing form of elder mistreatment. This **new loose-leaf reference book** offers professionals “proven strategies and step-by-step guidelines for aiding elderly victims of fraud, deception, theft and breaches of fiduciary duty.”

The **focus is on financial exploitation of the elderly:** “what it looks like, how it can be detected, who the players are, whether criminal charges or a civil cause of action may be warranted, and how to investigate and prepare an exploitation case for trial.”

For the **table of contents and other information** about the book:

http://www.civicresearchinstitute.com/pdfs/FEE_TOC.pdf

For a **brief summary** of the book and **purchasing information:**

<http://www.civicresearchinstitute.com/fee.html>

Coalition News Bulletins are sent to interested parties throughout the state. Please feel free to share it with others or contact us if you know of someone who would like to be added to the list. If you have questions or comments about the NYS Coalition on Elder Abuse or the News & Information Bulletin, or have topic suggestions for future publications, please contact:

Denise M. Shukoff, Esq.

Special Projects Coordinator

Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc.

1900 South Clinton Avenue, Rochester, New York 14618

Phone (585) 244-8400 ext. 186; Fax (585) 244-9114; dshukoff@lifespan-roch.org

Lifespan provides staff support for the NYS Coalition on Elder Abuse. Funding for the Coalition is provided in part by the New York State Office for the Aging and by a grant from The New York Bar Foundation.