

**Key Recommendations from the
New York State Elder Abuse Summit
May 10, 11, 12, 2004
Albany, New York**

The summit brought together 100 government officials and experts in elder abuse to develop a common definition of the problem, identify service gaps, and explore innovative intervention approaches in law enforcement, health care and social work.

NEW YORK STATE LAWS ON ELDER ABUSE

- New York State should enact and reform laws to protect the elderly from abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.
- Develop, enact and enforce state laws and policies that target prevention, intervention and prosecution of financial exploitation among older adults.

DATA COLLECTION/PREVALENCE

- Require statewide, uniform data collection related to elder abuse to support decisions on resource allocation for programmatic intervention to prevent financial exploitation.
- Conduct a statewide study to define the nature and scope of Elder Abuse, establish the baseline of prevalence and incidence through research and develop a methodology for ongoing data collection and analysis for policy decisions, planning, program development and evaluation.

FOCUS ON PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Develop a multidisciplinary statewide training council in order to encourage the education of professionals concerning elder abuse.
- Design and execute a multidisciplinary statewide outreach and education campaign in order to raise awareness, detect, prevent and resolve issues of elder abuse.
- Create a statewide multidisciplinary team in order to promote a positive image of aging to reduce elder abuse and improve the quality of life for older adults.
- Create statewide and local training programs that help providers of care and services to identify self-neglecting individuals and implement appropriate interventions.
- Develop mandatory, discipline specific, culturally sensitive, training curricula and tools focusing on recognition, assessment, intervention and utilization of appropriate resources to protect the elderly.
- Implement a comprehensive mandated educational/training program to increase the knowledge of professionals and paraprofessionals about elder abuse, including the identification of vulnerable individuals and options for care in order to decrease incidence of abuse.
- Carry out a statewide comprehensive public information campaign to educate citizens concerning abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of elders.
- Conduct statewide evidence-based training for first responders and community partners to recognize the indicators of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation to increase referrals to social services, law enforcement, court systems and to effect successful prosecution.

EFFECTIVE INTERVENTION

- Establish interdisciplinary collaborations that effectively identify and meet the needs of older self-neglecting adults in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
- Create and evaluate 10 broad based demonstration interdisciplinary teams across the state in order to assess reports of elder abuse, conduct case conferences, offer peer support and create a multidisciplinary treatment plan to address reported abuse.
- Create a statewide resource center on elder abuse promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships providing a single point for information and resources
- Determine the causes and progression of self-neglect to develop prevention and intervention models that increase the quality of life for at-risk elders.
- Develop and evaluate a continuum of community driven initiatives for the identification, prevention and intervention of elder mistreatment.
- Increase offender accountability by enhancing the effectiveness of the criminal justice system to detect, investigate, prosecute, deter and mitigate financial exploitation of older adults.