



## Staying Connected:

## Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness News

April 2021

Volume 1, No. 10

**CONNECTED TO END ELDER  
ABUSE INITIATIVE 2020**

## Goal 5:

**Connect Service Providers  
to help fill gaps and provide  
wrap around services.**

**As you evaluate the services you provide to adults, also consider talking with others about the services they provide. Bounce ideas off each other to help grow the service array that Kentuckians are able to access.**

Next month we will return to the series to talk about agencies that help with investigations. Next month will be the Office of the Attorney General's role in coordination efforts. If you have any questions that you would love answered, please email [cliff.bryant@ky.gov](mailto:cliff.bryant@ky.gov) by 4/30/21 for inclusion.

“April showers bring May flowers.” As flowers use rain to grow in to their beauty, we will use our knowledge to continue to grow our prevention efforts. Over the past month ideas have been gathered for the next initiative to help spread awareness and prevention of elder abuse. If you want to give input as well, please do so by completing a short anonymous survey by clicking [here](#).

As we continue all of our hard work, let us spend a little bit of time trying to identify some of the root causes of abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults. Once we root out the causes, we can start planting services and supports.

Your ideas, knowledge and dedication are assets to the elder abuse prevention efforts. Your continued commitment to these efforts will help increase the public's awareness of our plight and help bring down the number of adults being effected by abuse, neglect and exploitation.



**World  
Elder Abuse  
Awareness  
Day**

**Tuesday  
June 15th, 2021**

sexual assault  
**AWARENESS**  
— MONTH —

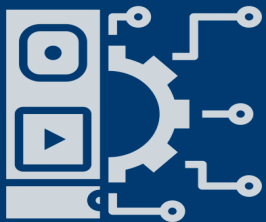
Just like many forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation of older Americans, sexual assault is considered to be significantly under-reported. In some studies, it has been shown that nearly 60% of the perpetrators are not the spouse. Another misconception is that most sexual abuse cases are isolated to nursing homes. The data shows that 72% of sexual abuse cases occurred in private homes while only 23% occurred in facilities. As advocates we need to keep in mind the signs of sexual abuse so that we can report our suspicions and get the adult the services they need. Here are the signs of sexual abuse: evidence of a sexually transmitted disease; irritation or injuries to the mouth, genitals or anus; upset when changed or bathed; fearful of a particular person; loss of bowel and bladder control; and social or emotional withdrawal from others.

# BREAKING NEWS

Kentucky Adult Protective Services (APS) has been awarded \$1,216,527.00 through the "Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021: Grants to Enhance Adult Protective Services to Respond to COVID-19." The intent of this funding is to enhance and improve APS in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you are interested in reading additional information about the funding you can visit the federal registry by clicking [here](#). You can also access frequently asked questions by clicking [here](#).

After requests for ideas from stakeholders and frontline APS workers/supervisors, the Adult Protection Branch submitted a preliminary budget for approval. Check out the boxes for more details on areas in which the funds will be utilized. Feel free to share your knowledge and expertise on any of these topics with anyone in the Adult Protection Branch.



## Equipment and Technology

These funds will allow for the purchase of equipment and associated technologies. This will include tablet screen covers, Super Ear Plus Sonic Ear Personal Sound Amplifiers and enhancements to the Kentucky Elder Abuse Awareness website.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

These funds will allow for the purchase of educational materials (bookmarks, brochures, billboards) that will cover topics like: how to stay connected, identifying COVID-19 related frauds/scams and mandatory reporting. These funds will also allow collaborations with agency partners and Kentucky's Local Coordinating Councils on Elder Abuse to disseminate the information. These funds will also allow collaboration with local television and radio to develop public service announcements (PSA's).

## GOODS & SERVICES

These funds will be used to help clients that are receiving APS services with the goods and services that are necessary to help maintain their health and safety as related to the current COVID-19 emergency.



These funds will allow for the purchase of masks, gloves, shoe covers, thermometers, batteries, hand sanitizer, and wipes. These items may be used by workers as well clients being served.



These funds will be used to develop virtual trainings to address challenges to conducting virtual investigations and assessing capacity as well as assisting supervisors in managing staff virtually.

# HELLO!



## MEET THE TEAM

The Southern Bluegrass Service Region has two designated Adult Protective Services teams, and a Service Region Administrative Associate, Alicia Miller. A Family Service Office Supervisor (FSOS) leads each team.

The teams of Southern Bluegrass have over 100 years of experience in working with vulnerable adults. The teams investigate abuse, neglect and exploitation and complete court ordered guardianship assessments. The teams also work CPS extended commitment cases where the individual meets the definition of an adult per KRS 209.

### Fayette/Jessamine Team

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## What is Continuous Quality Improvement and how can I participate?

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is a process of collecting, analyzing and using data to improve the quality of services being provided by an agency. The CQI process allows agencies to strengthen their services through a coordinated effort on all levels of the organization.

Recently the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) updated their CQI process. DCBS has defined the CQI process as:

- It is a **philosophy**—it places a high value on improvement
- It is a **system**—a coherent set of components that supports the continuous improvement process
- It is a **cyclical process**—it seeks to identify, describe, and analyze strengths and problems and then test, implement, learn from, and revise solutions.

DCBS has identified the following as key features to a CQI System:

- It is **data-informed**, systematic and proactive.
- It is **inclusive**, involving stakeholders and staff at all levels.
- It is **holistic**, incorporating information about multiple aspects of the system and establishing linkages.

To be effective, there has to be a buy-in of the value of the process on all levels. DCBS has committed to bringing education and awareness to the process over the next few months to help build the confidence of all parties involved.

As currently outlined the process will have several teams. These teams will be on the local level (individual offices), the regional level (a grouping of local offices), the statewide level (all of the regional offices) as well as involvement from an executive leadership team and central office divisional teams.

These teams will meet at minimum quarterly to identify issues, barriers, review progress on previous identified issues, review data, offer up suggestions for planning and sharing solutions.

DCBS believes that it is crucial that there is timely responses and feedback in the process. This feedback loop will be managed by a CQI Specialist assigned to each region. This specialist will ensure that issues are tracked and that communication remains open and transparent.

As a stakeholder you can participate in this process at the local level. Your insight and perspective are valuable to ensuring that DCBS services represent a quality that Kentuckians can be proud of.

If your council or agency is interested in participating in the CQI process, please reach out to Melinda Vise at (606) 207-4694 or via email at [melinda.vise@ky.gov](mailto:melinda.vise@ky.gov) to be connected to your local DCBS CQI Specialist.

## RESOURCES

**Nursing Home Discharges and Resident Rights: What APS Needs to Know!**

[Click Here](#)

**"Take Action to Avoid Eviction Using the CDC Order"**

[Click Here](#)

**Sexual Violence in Later Life Information Packet**

[Click Here](#)

**Sexual Violence in Later Life: A Technical Assistance Guide for Health Care Providers**

[Click Here](#)

What did one plate say to the other?  
Dinner is on me!

## TRAINING

**Avoiding Ethical No No's: Exploring How to Maintain our Ethics and Prevent Ethical Breaches in Protective Services.**

- Click [HERE](#) to access the training

**4/22/21 at 2:00pm (EST)**

**Monthly National Scam Advice Call with the Experts.  
(888) 373-2283  
Access Code: 28638**



Older adults retain caregivers. The caregivers work their regular shifts, then request to sleep at their client's home overnight to avoid traffic or a long drive home. No caregiving services are provided during the night. After the caregivers leave their employment, they retain attorneys to sue their former clients and/or their family members for back pay or overtime compensation.