

Staying Connected:

Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness News

October 2020

Volume 1, No. 4

CONNECTED TO END ELDER ABUSE INITIATIVE 2020

Goal 2:

Connect the Councils' great work to positive outcomes for adults

Thank to you to everyone that took the time to complete the survey on data collection for the Local Coordinating Councils. This information will be useful to start formulating a plan to see how to effectively and efficiently gather data to evaluate different strategies for prevention and education of elder abuse.

The survey results can be found on page two.

For those of you that expressed interest in participating in developing a strategy on how to start gathering data, a meeting will be scheduled within the next month. For anyone that did not have an opportunity to participate in the survey but wants to participate in a strategy meeting, please contact Cliff Bryant at cliff.bryant@ky.gov

October in Kentucky brings horse racing, going to pumpkin patches, fall festivals and a little hocus pocus.

October is also Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a great opportunity for us to refresh ourselves of the signs and indicators of domestic violence. You can visit the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence at kcadv.org for all things related to domestic violence in Kentucky.

In the 2017 legislative session, Kentucky removed the requirement that Adult **Protective Services (APS)** complete investigations for allegations of spouse/partner abuse. This shift was to allow survivors of domestic violence the opportunity to seek out information, resources and services rather than having to participate in an investigation. This shift also speeds up the connection of the survivors to the information that they need to maintain their safety.

APS will still work with survivors of spouse/partner abuse that do not meet the definition of adult per KRS 209.020, if they are requesting services through a general adult services referral. This type of referral matches the intent of the legislature by allowing the APS worker to work closely with the survivor to access needed

services and resources.

It is also important to remember that sometimes the survivors of domestic violence will meet the definition of adult for APS and will be afforded an adult abuse investigation. This investigation, like all APS investigations, will attempt to focus on protective services for the adult.

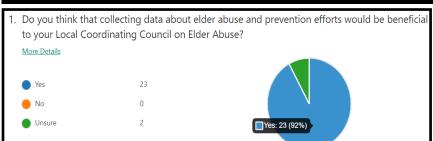
One such protective service may be assisting the adult with filing for an emergency protective order. In Kentucky, the following are qualifying relationships for a protective order:

- Family members (spouse, former spouse, parent, child, grandparent)
- * Members of an unmarried couple
- * A dating relationship where the relationship is of a romantic or intimate nature
- * A victim of stalking or sexual assault.

Another key strategy in assisting an adult survivor of domestic violence is to work on a safety plan that will work best for the adult.

If you come in contact with a survivor of domestic violence and need to help them find services, information or resources please feel free to contact KCADV at 800-799-SAFE.

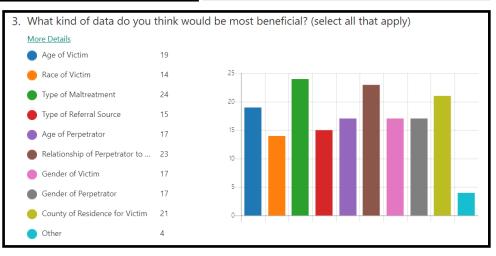
LOCAL COORDINATING COUNCIL DATA COLLECTION SURVEY



"I think it is important to have the data referenced above so we can share information about prevention efforts in other regions - this helps generate ideas for our council. Also, when we have awareness events or provide printed materials to seniors, it is always helpful to include some numbers and statistical data about this issue so seniors/ professionals can have a better understanding of the prevalence of elder abuse (regardless of the fact it is under-reported)."

Other Suggestions:

- "Convictions"
- "Location of Incident (residence, nursing home, etc.)"
- "Arrest (Yes or No)"
- "Protective Order (Yes or No)"
- "Agency coordination"





Other Suggestions:

- "data kept in CSV format with cross reference"
 - "dash board"

"Utilization of data during pandemic may not be true indicator of use in the future" "Perhaps a trial would allow to see if too time and labor intensive to collect a distribute data"

"I think this data will be extremely helpful in targeting underserved areas and populations" "Quantitative and qualitative research should be done to ensure well rounded data" "this is absolutely
essential when it comes
to advocating for any
kind of legislative
change as well as for
request for funding"

"Any and all data will be helpful." "I definitely think it would be very beneficial to the efforts of the councils."

"All branches of local law enforcement need to be involved" "This should be compared to national data"



Do you know someone that has done wonderful things to help prevent elder abuse in Kentucky? Do you know someone that has gone above and beyond to help support Kentucky's vulnerable adults? We would love to recognize these Heroes. Please send nominations to cliff.bryant@ky.gov.



The Eastern Mountain Service Region serves Breathitt, Floyd, Johnson, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, Owsley, Perry, Pike and Wolfe counties. This region has a designated Adult Protective Services teams. A Family Service Office Supervisor (FSOS) leads the team.



Here are your FSOS, Office Support Assistant, and Social Service Worker/ Clinicians for the Eastern Mountain Service Region along with their office telephone numbers.

LC Dobson, FSOS	(606) 785-3106
Rebecca Pratt, OSA II	(606) 785-3106
Kimberly George	(606) 666-7506
Juanita Bartley	(606) 785-3106
Morgan May	(606) 788-6789
Janie Lemaster	(606) 788-6790
Danny Cornett	(606) 633-0190
Diana Nightingale	(606) 435-6060
Tammy Miller	(606) 435-6060
Jeremiah Ferran	(606) 433-7596



Violence Prevention Resources

<u>CHFS</u>

Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Resources

National Center of Elder Abuse

Publications

Mandated Reporting—Pro's and Con's

Brief

Communicating with people with limited English proficiency

Fact Sheet





On-Demand Training

Understanding Trauma and Ensuring Person-Centered Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic

https://consumervoice.mrooms.net/course/index.php?categoryid=10

10/28/20 at 2pm ET

"An Intersectional and Multi-Disciplinary Look at Elder Maltreatment and the African American Community: Sharing New Resources and Strategies for Impact."

Register here ——> Zoom Meeting

11/6/2020 1:00-3:00pm

UK Senior Caregiving Conference https://www.uky.edu/hr/caregiving2020

What is an APS investigation?

KRS 209.020 states that an investigation shall include a personal interview with the alleged victim, an assessment of individual and environmental risk and safety factors and the identification of the perpetrator (if possible).

Barring a determination of an emergency situation by central intake, the social worker will do their best to initiate the referral within forty-eight (48) hours. Initiation is considered a face to face interview with the alleged victim. This initiation can occur at any location (home, hospital, adult day health, etc.). During this initiation the social worker is going to start assessing the victim for cognitive capacity as well as risk and safety factors that may need to be addressed.

After initiating the report the social worker may talk with collaterals (friends, family, and professionals) to gain additional insights into the victim's current situation. These conversations may appear one sided as the worker may not be able to release much information because of confidentiality laws, but understand that the more information that a collateral provides the more thorough the assessment.

Another step typically taken during the investigation is the collection of records from medical providers, financial institutions and other agencies as needed to strengthen the assessment. These records are gathered as the fact finding piece of the investigation.

After gathering all the necessary information, the social worker will offer protective services to the adult to assist with addressing any risk and safety factors. Protective services are voluntary and cannot be forced upon an adult unless through court order (court action will be discussed in the months ahead). If the protective services are short term, like making referrals, these tasks are completed prior to case closure (typically within 45 days of receipt of the referral). If long term services are needed, the social worker and the adult may negotiate opening a case. Remember that if the adult has cognitive capacity they retain the right to accept or refuse services.

Although a finding of substantiated or unsubstantiated will be made through an investigation, the primary focus of the social worker is to assess the situation and offer protective services. In cases that involve compensated caregivers a secondary focus will be gathering and presenting evidence for consideration of placement on the caregiver misconduct registry.

Next month we will take a look at caregiver misconduct registry cases and their unique role in the protection of adults in Kentucky.