

Staying Connected:

Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness News

December 2020

Volume 1, No. 6

CONNECTED TO END ELDER ABUSE INITIATIVE 2020

Goal 3:

Connect Agencies that serve Adults through enhanced communication.

Over the next few months we will begin focusing on how different agencies handle prevention efforts for abuse/neglect and exploitation. Each month an agency will provide information about what they are tasked with, how they accomplish their prevention efforts and how they work with other agencies to achieve these efforts.

Next month we will begin this series with the Long-Term Care Ombudsman. If you have any questions that you would love answered, please email cliff.bryant@ky.gov by 12/30/20 for inclusion. The holiday season is upon us. This one will be considerably different for many families all over Kentucky.

Referrals of abuse, neglect and exploitation typically increase in January because of the all of the visits from loved ones during the holiday season. Since many visits will have to be postponed or even cancelled this year, we need to come up with ways to help make sure that we are able to still identify maltreatment and report appropriately.

If you have the ability to talk with loved ones and friends via video chat, please do so. This provides you an opportunity to see the individual, to look for subtle changes in their personality, any bruising, or things that may be out of place in the home.

If video chat is not available, make routine calls. The more conversations you have with someone, the more likely you are to pick up on subtle changes in their voice or personality that may indicate something is going on that may require additional questions.

Be mindful, that when talking with someone via video chat or on the telephone, there may be others in the room listening to what is said or even intimidating the victim to not disclose of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

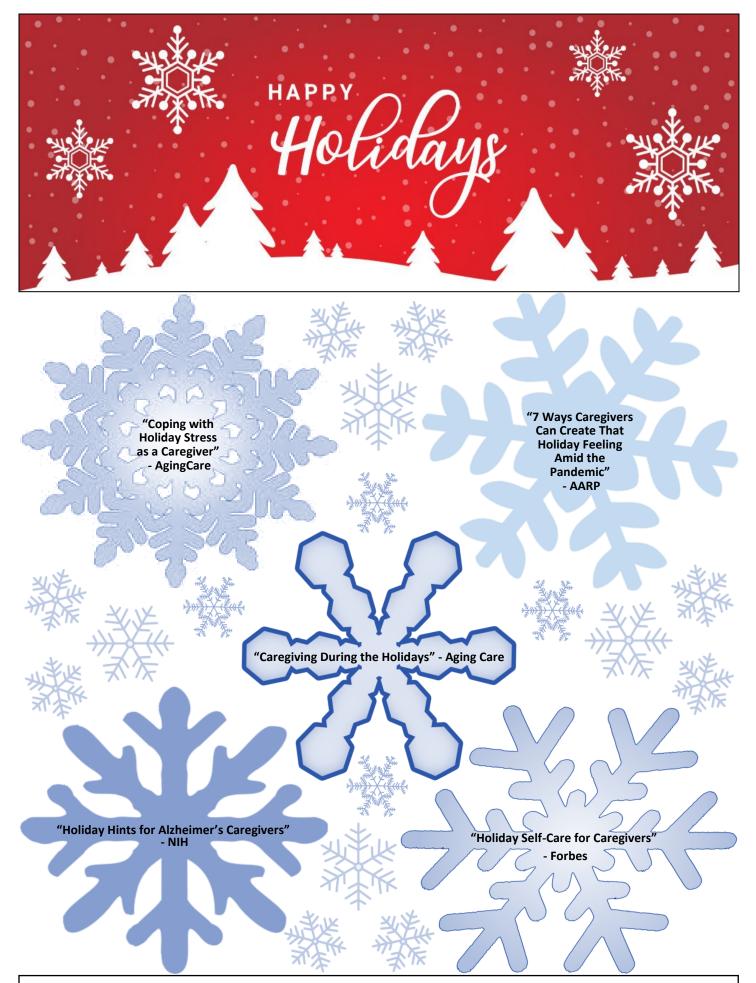
Remember that asking an individual if they are being abused, neglect or exploited does not always lead to a disclosure. So asking different questions

becomes essential when you are not able to be there face to face. Here are some examples of questions that might help:

- "So what was for dinner last night?"
- "When I was a kid I loved that diamond ring you wore, it would always sparkle, do you still clean it regularly?"
- "I am struggling with what to get you for Christmas this year, do you have any bills that need to be paid?"
- "What all has so-and-so been doing for you lately?"

Although these questions may not get a disclosure of some type of maltreatment, the answer may lead to other questions or may help make the adult more comfortable with you to open up more about their current situation.

The moment that you suspect that maltreatment is occurring, contact the central intake hotline at 1-877-597-2331. Remember that the duty to report does not end when your work day ends, all Kentuckians are obligated to report their suspicions. Always follow up with your referral to see if it is accepted. If it is not accepted, you may be able to provide additional information to help it meet criteria to be investigated.



Click on the large snowflakes for helpful articles about caregiving during the holidays!



The Lakes Service Region serves Ballard,
Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian,
Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman,
Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall,
McCracken, Muhlenberg, Todd and Trigg
counties. This region has two
designated Adult Protective Services
teams. The Service Region Clinical
Associate for this region, Janet Doyel,
provides the regional leadership support
for the APS teams. A Family Service
Office Supervisor (FSOS) leads each
team. Jessica Hayes provides support to
the APS teams as the Specialist.T

West Lakes

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Home for the Holidays: If you visit, plan ahead Click Here

Tech Safety + Older Adults Click Here

Why the holidays are prime time for elder abuse, and what you can do to thwart it

Click Here

3 Tips for Preventing Elder Abuse during the holiday season

<u>Click Here</u>

Home for the Holidays: What to look for during your annual visit to elderly relatives

Click Here



Due to the holidays there are currently no trainings scheduled.

Feel free to check out training videos that are available for all <u>here</u>.

If you have anything upcoming, please let me know so it can be shared here.

What is an Authorized Agency?

KRS 209.020 defines an authorized agency as the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, a law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police, The office of the Commonthwealth's attorney or county attorney; or the appropriate division of the Office the Attorney General.

Authorized agencies are entities that may conduct investigations that involve abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults.

Each agency will conduct their investigations based on their statutory and regulatory guidelines. For specifics on their authority please reach out to their respective offices. We will have articles in future newsletters that may help to address some of those questions.

When a referral is received through our central intake process, the information is shared with the appropriate authorized agency when conditions justify notification. In short, if an authorized agency has a legitimate interest in a case, they are notified.

Adult protective services (APS) will attempt to coordinate with the appropriate authorized agencies during the course of an investigation to better meet the needs of adults. Due to varying laws and regulations, each agency may conduct their investigations on a different time frame. Even with these limitations, each agency still shares information as necessary.

The following agencies could be considered authorized agencies within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services:

- Office of Inspector General
- Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disability
- Department of Aging and Independently Living (Long-Term Care Ombudsman)

• Department for Medicaid Services. For law enforcement purposes, APS will share information with the entity

that has jurisdiction for the investigation. Depending on the area this could be the Sheriff's department, city police, county police, or the Kentucky State Police. The local APS unit will be able to ensure the appropriate law enforcement entity is notified.

The type of allegations will determine if the County versus the

Commonwealth's attorney is notified. The most common division that is notified under the Office of Attorney General is the Medicaid Fraud Unit.