



Staying Connected:

Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness News

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BE THE SPARK

The 4 Questions to Ask When You Debrief on a Project (hbr.org)

What were we trying to accomplish?

Start out the debriefing by bringing everyone back to where it all started, the objectives.

Where did we hit (or miss) our objectives?

Take an open and honest look at the results of the project.

What caused our results?

This is the opportunity to really take a deep dive into what happened during the project. Don't just stop at the obvious causes, really try to root out underlying causes as well.

What should we start, stop or continue doing?

First and foremost, be willing to change. Identify things that will help be more successful.

*"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but building on the new."
- Socrates*

Originating in the military, a debriefing is a structured learning process that is designed to elicit thorough and thoughtful insights in to a project or incident and assist with evolving plans while they are being executed.

If used effectively, a debriefing will allow us to gather valuable insights in to what is happening during our projects. When used incorrectly they have the tendency to become a rehashing or recapping of the project.

Deciding to do a debriefing is easy, but getting others on board may be more difficult. If open communication is not the norm where you work or in your community, then you may spend some time talking up the benefits to debriefing.

The first step to effectively using a debriefing during a project is to make sure that it is incorporated in to the initial project planning. Make it clear to all parties that the intent is to utilize debriefing throughout the project.

Depending on the team and the project, debriefings may be routinely scheduled or may be at the spur of the moment when issues arise. Since many individuals are rather busy, it may be helpful to schedule routine debriefings with the understanding that if no issues or needs have arisen, that the meeting can be cancelled.

Just like with all things we do, make sure that the debriefing environment is one that solicits open and honest communication. This means you may have to establish ground rules to make it a safe place to share opinions to help learn and improve. Establish that everyone's input should be valued, no

matter their role in the project. As the Army expression goes "leave your stripes at the door."

For each debriefing meeting, you should have clear objectives. These objectives will help to focus the attention on specific information or details so that the meeting does not go down a "rabbit hole." For routine debriefing the objectives will be determined by the progress on the project or problems that has arisen.

As the meeting gets underway, remember that honesty is going to be the key to success. If something bad happened, take responsibility for the outcome, identify why it happened and offer up a solution that will help to ensure that it does not happen again. Just remember the Japanese proverb, "everyone makes mistakes; that's why there is an eraser on every pencil."

On the flip side, remember to also celebrate the successes along the way. Use this as an opportunity to ask "why were you successful?" Identifying the root-causes will help to pull out strengths that can be re-used or re-purposed in the future.

Before you end the meeting, take some time to recap what was discussed. This will provide opportunity to make sure that everyone is on the same page and received the same information.

Debriefing has been shown bring teams closer together by strengthening effective communication, foster team learning and helps the team to be more aligned with the mission and vision of the team.



Each year on June 15th, we take time to bring awareness to Elder Abuse. The DCBS Adult Protection Branch, Statewide Elder Abuse Council and the Local Coordinating Councils on Elder Abuse will be hosting an event at the Capitol Garden from 9:30 – 12:00pm on Wednesday, June 15th, 2022. Feel free to join us to plant a purple flag (with a statement of how you will raise awareness) as a champion for the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

American Rescue Plan Act: Kentucky's Operational Plan

We envision an adult protective services (APS) system where adults are empowered to be self-sufficient and free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Through use of ARPA funds, APS will:

- increase staff efficiencies and effectiveness by employing innovative technology and trainings;
- improve outcomes for adults through temporary emergency assistance until risk is minimized and alternative services are secured; and
- improve communications with community partners, stakeholders, and the public to access and develop additional services/resources necessary to support adults.

Kentucky will strengthen partnerships between APS and stakeholders to enhance services available to adults who are abused, neglected, or exploited.

Kentucky will increase positive outcomes for adults by strengthening evidence-informed practices through enhancements to intake/assessment tools and an increase in data collection and analysis.

Goals

Kentucky will enhance public awareness/knowledge of APS through implementation of a communication plan and the development of trainings designed for community partners, stakeholders, and the public.

Kentucky will support the APS workforce through enhancements in training protocols, consultative services, technological advancements, and continuous quality improvement.

After completing a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) assessment, the following projects were identified to work on over the next 3 - 5 years. Phrases that are in bold are directly from the responses received in the SWOT analysis.

Goods and Services

Lack of funding for services and lack of resources are the contexts for funding a goods and services project to help staff address immediate safety concerns while working with community partners on long term solutions.

Communication Shortfalls

Communication with professionals (acceptance/denial and outcomes), communication with community partner/stakeholders, and APS presence in the community are the contexts for the funding of a comprehensive communication plan that will include technology, trainings, and increased APS presence in local communities.

Projects

Consistency with Decision Making

Consistent decision making (intake/investigations), assessment skills, and technology are the contexts for the funding of tools designed to assist APS staff in structured decision making at intake and for safety and risk during the investigation/assessment.

Long-term Planning/Service Implementation

Collaborations with adult service providers for increased knowledge of available services, lack of mental health services, and ongoing services are the contexts for funding a self-neglect pilot project designed to create a multi-disciplinary approach to serving adults who are at a higher risk to require additional APS interventions in the future.

HELLO!



MEET THE TEAM

Kentucky River Council Against
Maltreatment of Elders (C.A.M.E.)

The KY River Council Against Maltreatment of Elders has been in existence since 2003. The council has always worked to raise awareness in our community of elder abuse and who to make reports of elder abuse to. KY River C.A.M.E is a Regional Council consisting of community members from Lee, Owsley, Breathitt, Wolfe, Knott, Letcher, Leslie & Perry counties. KY River C.A.M.E meets monthly.

The goal of our council is to educate our community on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The community partners that work with the council are invaluable in order to help raise this awareness in the community and hopefully keep our elderly safe and free of abuse.

The council hosts its annual Awareness Conference each year in March to educate professionals in the community. Prior to the conference each year the council accepts nominations for its annual Elder Abuse Awareness Awards that are presented at the Awareness Conference each year. The awards are to honor those who have went above and beyond in the community in their work with the elderly population. The

council also holds its annual Elder Abuse Awareness poster contest in the Fall each year. Council members select one overall poster to have placed on the back of the annual Elder Abuse Awareness t-shirt that the council produces each year. The t-shirt that the council does serves as an awareness tool but also a fundraiser for the council. The t-shirt is sponsored each year by all the LTC Facilities in the KY River Region. The council has also most recently partnered with the Big Sandy Elder Abuse Council to hold the Steve Jones Elder Abuse Awareness Poster Contest to raise awareness of elder abuse in the Eastern Mountain Service Region and to also honor long time & founding Big Sandy Elder Abuse Council member Steve Jones. The council holds its annual Elder Abuse campaign in October each year to raise awareness of elder abuse in the community before the winter months. There is normally participation from schools, senior centers and partnering agencies on this October campaign. The council also promotes May Elder Abuse Awareness Month with a Regional Wear Purple Day, public service announcements, activities at our Senior Centers, proclamation signings, and walks. Also, in May the council has a lot of partnerships that help with awareness efforts such as soil conservation who partners in our area to do plantings for elder abuse, schools (pinwheels & flyers), banks (pinwheels & flyers), restaurants (flyers & elder abuse badges) and others.

KY River C.A.M.E is always open to new ideas and ways to get the word out about elder abuse. Anyone is welcome to attend our council meetings and assist with projects.

What is an Aftercare Plan and how does it help an adult?

The aftercare plan is a tool used as a part of the case closure process. It may be used during the closing of an investigation or the closing of an ongoing case. Just like most other things in the Adult Protection realm, aftercare planning is voluntary.

An aftercare plan may be offered to assist an adult whether the case is substantiated or unsubstantiated. The primary purpose of an aftercare plan is to provide the necessary resources and information for the adult to lower their risk of continued abuse, neglect or exploitation and maintain self-sufficiency.

Once it has been decided to close out an investigation or on-going case, the APS worker will offer the adult an aftercare plan. If the adult agrees to complete the plan, the APS worker will begin documenting information that may be beneficial to the adult.

The aftercare plan may be written or verbal. If the adult chooses to have a verbal plan, the APS worker will still provide written documentation of any contact information for services identified.

The APS worker and adult will start with items that pertain to the highest risks that were identified in the assessment. With guidance from the adult, the APS worker will document any services that would assist with minimizing these risk.

For any services or providers that are documented on the case plan, the APS worker will provide contact information as well as any necessary information to assist with initiating services when needed.

After the highest risks are addressed, the APS worker and adult will brainstorm any other needs that may need to be addressed in the future.

Although not necessary, the APS worker may document the statewide hotline telephone number to make it easier for the adult to access preventative services from DCBS in the future.

Once the aftercare plan is completed, the adult will be offered an opportunity to sign the plan. The adult will also be advised that this plan will be incorporated in to the digital file.

At the request of the adult, this aftercare plan may be shared with other individuals.



Elder Justice Roadmap:
A Progress Update

[Click Here](#)

Help for Judges Hearing
Guardianship Cases

[Click Here](#)

Empowering the APS Workforce:
Featuring Field Safety Tools,
Search Engines, and GPS
Technologies

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Smart911—Kentucky

[Click Here](#)

Why couldn't the flower ride its bike?



It lost its petals!



On-Demand
Impacts and Innovations of Isolation and
Mental Health

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6/14/22 (Virtual)
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Global
Summit

[Register Here](#)