



Staying Connected:

Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness News

June 2022

Volume 2, No. 12

BE THE SPARK: A Year In Review

Introduction of Goods/Services Fund

Thanks to the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSA), APS had access to funds to assist adults with paying for necessary goods or services.

3—5 Year Operational Plan

Thanks to funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, APS received approval of a plan designed to improve and enhance APS services over the next 3—5 years.

KYESTEAM.ky.gov launched phase I

Thanks to CRRSA funds, Kentucky was able to launch a modernized, user friendly website that provides educational opportunities and resources. (stay tuned for phase II)

2nd Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Event at the Capitol Garden

This event brings together collaborative partners to raise awareness of prevention efforts.

Over the past year we have looked at how we can be the spark to end adult maltreatment. We recognized that our spark would need to ignite lasting changes in our communities and our work environments to help spread awareness of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults.

We have learned that the first part of igniting lasting change is to “explain the why.” Through the process of “explaining the why,” we can build confidence in our communities and work environments to trust that we have a clear vision and purpose. We are also helping to increase community involvement and drive critical thinking and innovation.

Now that we have the confidence of our communities and colleagues, we learned about different ways to build and maintain enthusiasm in our vision because according to Emerson “nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

Never give up! Possibly the three most important words we learned during our lesson on enthusiasm. Your community and colleagues’ enthusiasm level will shift between non-existent and high throughout your project. This means that you are going to have to commit to always having forward momentum. Although you may suffer setbacks, your forward momentum will push you towards achieving your vision. The best lessons are often learned through setbacks.

Remember that your community and colleagues have confidence in your vision and are rooting for you to succeed. Believe in yourself and your team.

Through a growth mindset, we learned that our capacities and talents can be improved over time. By surrounding ourselves with others that challenge us to grow and learn how to overcome obstacles.

As we embraced a growth mindset, we turned inward briefly to help identify our personal strengths. By identifying your strengths, you were able to “use your signature strengths and virtues in the service of something much larger than you” (Martin Seligman, Authentic Happiness). In focusing on these strengths, we are able to build a strategy for our teams to move the vision forward.

We also touched on the importance of effectively communicating with our teams, community, and collaborative partners. Open and honest communication will go a long way with maintaining trust and confidence. Remember that talking with people is more effective than talking at people.

An open-door policy is a good start but will only be effective if you are also willing to ensure that you are listening to the feedback. Closing the feedback loop is accomplished by making sure that you follow up with the individuals that took time to provide feedback. Taking time to consider each piece of feedback and following up with the individual will increase the likelihood that additional feedback will be received in the future. Remember that even negative feedback will provide an opportunity to strengthen your project to ensure that the vision is attained.

Conducting a debriefing or a lessons learned was the final step in our spark. This process can look different based on the needs and makeup of your team or community. Make sure that you are tailoring this process to fit your needs to ensure that it is effective. If used properly it has been shown to strengthen teams, improve effective communication, foster team learning and assist all team members to be more aligned with the mission and vision.

**Share your World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event pictures
for inclusion in next month’s newsletter!
Email to cliff.bryant@ky.gov**



DCBS Office (Left to Right): Jonathan Cornett, Cliff Bryant, Stacy Carey, Tammy Ricks, Melanie Taylor, Tara Cecil



DO SOMETHING GREAT

This month we take some time to honor Candy Pettry. Candy is a strong advocate for the adults in Kentucky. As an Eldercare Navigator at the University of Kentucky Hospital, Candy works closely with the adults to make sure that they are able to get their needs met in the least restrictive fashion. In her role as the chair of the Bluegrass Elder Abuse Prevention Council she promotes awareness about abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults in Fayette and Jessamine counties. Candy promotes collaboration of elder abuse topics amongst stakeholders as a member on the Statewide Elder Abuse Committee. Candy also serves as a member of the Dementia Friendly Action Team. In addition to all the above mentioned roles, Candy has volunteered her time to promote awareness at conferences, trainings and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) events. Candy is such an amazing advocate in her community; she has sparked many positive lasting changes for the adults of Kentucky.

The APS Branch personally thanks her for volunteering her precious time to help make this year's WEAAD event a success. Candy helped with putting together 2,000 WEAAD bags, distribution of the bags, setting up/breaking down the WEAAD event at the Capitol, and assisting with getting individuals to the correct location in the extreme temperatures. Without her dedication and support, the event would not have had the level of success that was achieved.

THANK YOU, VERY MUCH!

How Can I Support Adult Maltreatment Awareness?

No matter your role in an adult's life, it is important to help support adult maltreatment awareness efforts to help protect our most vulnerable Kentuckians from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The first and possibly most important step is to educate yourself about abuse, neglect and exploitation. Visit KY ESTEAM at www.kyesteam.ky.gov for flyers on [adult abuse](#), [neglect](#) and [financial exploitation](#). Feel free to look around the website for other important information. You can also access national material at the [National Center on Elder Abuse](#).

If you are interested in getting a group together to learn from the Adult Protection Branch, visit the training [link](#) on KY ESTEAM to request one of three different training opportunities.

Now that you have some knowledge about adult maltreatment, make sure that you talk about it with others. Word of mouth is one of the most effective ways to spread awareness.

If you have a passion for prevention and awareness efforts, consider joining a Local Coordinating Council on Elder Abuse. Check out the [map](#) to locate a council near you. If you do not see a council in your community, consider starting one.

If you have resources that you believe would benefit adults in Kentucky, and they are not currently listed on KY ESTEAM, please take some time to make a recommendation through the "contact us" feature.

While you are at the "contact us" feature feel free to make any suggestions on how adults in Kentucky can be protected from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

At minimum, remember that if you suspect that an adult is being abused, neglected or exploited, report it to the hotline or via web portal.

**877-KYSAFE-1
(877-597-2331)**

[WebReferral \(ky.gov\)](#)

**"See Something
Say Something."
- unknown**



Senior Medicare Patrol

[Click Here](#)

Which chronic diseases in older adults increase risk of elder mistreatment and why?

[Click Here](#)

How at Risk for Abuse Are People with Dementia?

[Click Here](#)

Internet Crime Complaint Center
Public Service Announcement

[Click Here](#)

Happy Pride Month



My wife and I just had a daughter, we named her JuneJulyAugust.

We call her Summer for short!



7/29/22 8:30am—4:30pm
Empowering Mindfulness Conference
Learn about: The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the wellbeing of the elderly, mindfulness and self-care for caregivers, values, boundaries, and mindfulness

[Register Here](#)

On-Demand
Asking Inclusive Demographic Questions—
How To Do It and Why It Matters

[Click Here](#)

11/2/22 9:00am—4:00pm (EST)
*** Save the Date ***
Virtual Senior Hunger Summit