



Staying Connected:

Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness News

February 2022

Volume 2, No. 8

BE THE SPARK

The Five C's of Effective Communication

(Cheryl Keates, PCC [FORBES.COM](https://www.forbes.com))

Be Clear

Make sure that you understand the issue that you are attempting to communicate and stay on topic.

Be Concise

Simple, direct and to the point.

Provide a Compelling Request

Since communication is about negotiating with the other party to come to a solution that all parties will be happy with, start off presenting your request and why it is important.

Be Curious

Consider the other party's issues and objectives, remember it is not always about us.

Be Compassionate

You do not always have to agree, but make an attempt to understand what the other party is communicating.

Have you ever tried to communicate with a brick wall? It was probably rough.

As we strive to be the problem solvers that our fellow Kentuckians expect of us, we must move away from communicating at people and embrace communicating with people. Research has shown an improvement in outcomes when people spend time communicating effectively.

To continue working on our spark, we should take some time to strengthen our communication skills, focusing on being open and honest.

So, what are some of the benefits of having an open and honest communication plan?

TRUST

When you take time to openly communicate with someone you begin laying the foundation necessary for a trusting relationship. Since trust is not earned over night, we must nourish it by continuing and consistently communicating open and honestly.

INCLUSION

As you continue to communicate your action plans, your goals, and your vision, you are showing the person that you are communicating with, that they deserve to have this information and you value them. This simple step will help people feel like they are a part of the bigger picture.

ENGAGEMENT

In its simplest form, engagement is small talk. However, meaningful engagement means that we have two-way communication occurring at more than a surface level. With an open and honest communication plan we can increase engagement with individuals to ensure that they feel their presence and contributions are valued.

ACCOUNTABILITY

There is a good chance that prior to communicating information, the presenter has spent time making sure that the information is accurate to the best of their ability. So by having an open and honest communication plan, you are implementing a certain level of accountability. This accountability will be a mix of internal (self imposed) and external (feedback) factors.

UNITY

As we build on trust, increase inclusion, and engage on a more meaningful level, we start to see the building of unity. As unity blossoms, the focus begins to shift from working on individual goals towards working on shared goals. By this point, the shared goals have probably shifted to incorporate the unique perspectives and experiences of everyone. As Aristotle once said, "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

As you can see, most of the benefits of having an open and honest communication plan feed off of each other. In order to build trust, you have to be more engaging, inclusive and accountable. In order to have unity, you have to have the trust of your group, accountability and have effective engagement.

So now comes the hard part, building a communication plan that incorporates honesty and openness. Just like with most change, this may appear daunting, but the benefits will outweigh the effort that is expended.

Next month we will spend some time on ways that open and honest communication can be cultivated in your community.

Resources

[Association for the Study of African American Life and History](https://www.africanamericanhistory.org/)

[National Museum of African American History and Culture](https://www.nmnh.gov/african-american-history)

[Kentucky African American Heritage Commission](https://www.kyaa.org/)

HELLO!



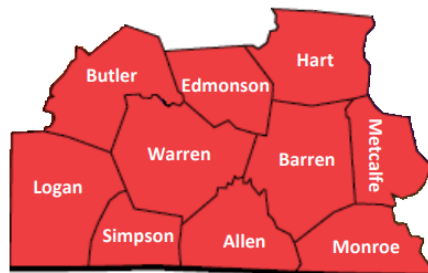
MEET THE TEAM

The Barren River Local Coordinating Council on Elder Abuse Prevention

The Barren River Local Coordinating Council on Elder Abuse Prevention held its first meeting in January, 2004. The formation of the Council was originally patterned to reflect the model of successful Child Abuse Prevention groups. Various agencies and individual citizens meet every other month (6 x per year) on the 3rd Thursday of the month for approximately one hour to join hands with state and national endeavors toward protection of the elderly population throughout the community.

The Council regularly participates in numerous community-focused events including bank teller trainings, health fairs, senior scam seminars, Silver Ribbon campaign activities, and other worthwhile efforts within the region.

Protection of the elderly includes attempts to eliminate physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and other factors which constitute abuse and mistreatment of elderly individuals. The Council is open to the public and welcomes agencies and/or individuals to partner as members.



APS Findings:

What are they and how are they determined?

In volume 1, number 4 of the Staying Connected newsletter, we discussed what is considered an APS investigation. Now we need to understand the findings of an investigation.

A finding addresses the question of whether abuse, neglect or exploitation has occurred. 922 KAR 5:070 section 5 provides APS with the criteria for substantiating an investigation. It states that the statutory definitions of abuse, neglect and exploitation found in KRS 209.020 will be the starting point.

So in order to determine if the allegations match the definitions of abuse, neglect and exploitation, APS will collect evidence to address the allegations. This evidence may include witness statements, medical records, financial records, videos and pictures.

Once all of the evidence is gathered the worker will consult with their supervisor to determine if there is a preponderance of evidence to substantiate. Preponderance of evidence is an evidentiary standard used in a burden of proof analysis. The standard requires that APS show that there is a greater than 50% chance that the allegations are true.

If APS was not able to find a preponderance of evidence they would select an unsubstantiated finding. An unsubstantiated finding does not mean that the abuse, neglect or exploitation did not occur, it means that APS was not able to gather enough evidence to reach a the level of a preponderance at this time.

Another finding that is rarely used is unable to locate. A finding of unable to locate is reserved for situations where APS has no way to locate the adult to conduct the investigation.

It is important to know that a finding made by APS is not a judicial finding. The finding may be shared with local law enforcement, the county attorney or the commonwealth attorney when there is an indication a criminal investigation may be necessary.

Protective services will always be offered to an adult whether the case is substantiated or unsubstantiated. If an adult wants to continue working with APS, they may request an on-going case to address risk or safety concerns that have been identified.



Mistreatment of African American Elders

[Click Here](#)

Bluegrass Transitional Care Dementia Program

[Click Here](#)

SAFTA

Senior Abuse Financial Tracking and Accounting Toolkit

[Click Here](#)

"The Long, Long Road of Covid"

APS TARC Blog

[Click Here](#)

Looking for Love? Avoid the Sweetheart Scam

[Click Here](#)

WHAT DID THE PAPER CLIP SAY TO THE MAGNET?

*

"I find you very attractive."



2/24/22 1:00-2:00pm (ET)

Dementia Training for Law Enforcement Personnel: Building Partnerships to Enhance Community Safety

[Register Here](#)

3/3/22 2:00-3:00pm (EST)

High Prevalence of Elder Abuse during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Risk and Resilience Factors (No Registration Necessary)

[Click Here](#)



WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Mark your calendar and make sure everyone knows that you are busy on June 15, 2022. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day will be here before you know. More information on events and awareness activities coming soon. If you are interested in helping to plan events statewide, please feel free to reach out to cliff.bryant@ky.gov.