



Staying Connected:

Elder Abuse Prevention and Awareness News

March 2022

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BE THE SPARK

Cultivating a Culture of Open Communication

([How to Cultivate a Culture of Open Communication // Qualtrics](#))

Get Transparent

From the top-down, be willing to share information. If it doesn't need to be confidential consider the benefits of sharing.

Open Your Door And Your Ears

Make sure that people know that you are approachable and that you are willing to listen to feedback.

Reach Out

Elicit feedback through the usual channels and through new digital options.

Close The Loop

Acknowledge the feedback and follow up with the people providing the feedback

Lead By Example

Be willing to share your own ideas, ask for your own feedback and be willing to admit to mistakes.

How to begin to cultivate open communication in our work and our community?

First we are going to have to commit to making the change. We have to acknowledge that much of what do and the reasons we do those things can and should be shared with others.

Whether at work or in your community, we are always working on goals. We share these goals when they are made and celebrate them when they are achieved. What we do not always share are the objectives that guided us on the way to success. By sharing these objectives we are promoting transparency, fostering trust and building in some accountability to the goal achievement process.

The next step we can take is setting up routine updates. These updates do not have to be elaborate. A simple email with the status of the various objectives and goals will work. If you have a social media presence, you may be able to reach even more people with these updates.

In addition to sharing updates, we also need to be willing to share our mistakes. No one likes to admit when they make a mistake. We all know that mistakes are going to happen and we need to look at them as opportunities to grow and learn. Part of that growth is sharing the mistakes with others. This level of accountability may spur conversations with others that have made similar mistakes and help us to formulate ideas moving forward.

As a part of this journey to open communication an effort should be made to elicit and receive feedback. Again, this does not have to be complicated or elaborate, it just needs to have a presence in your plan. If you are tech savvy, you can make polls or surveys routinely to elicit feedback on a larger scale. You can also provide an email address or phone number where you will receive feedback.

As the feedback is received, make sure that you take some time to acknowledge

the individual. If they took time out of their busy day to email or call you, the least that you can do is email or call back to let them know that you received their feedback and look forward to following up at a later time to discuss more thoroughly. If you do not acknowledge the feedback, you risk the individual thinking that you do not value their input.

After you have time to review and process the feedback, it is helpful to reach back out to the individual and let them know whether you will be able to incorporate their ideas, or if their ideas may not be a good fit at this time.

If the feedback is negative, remember to not take it personally. Consider this feedback as an opportunity to understand a different perspective of your project. Who knows, maybe this feedback will help you identify something that had not previously been thought of, and now you are able to strengthen your project.

Active listening is a skill that lends itself to open and honest communication. It is important that when we are listening to someone that we do more than just hear what they are saying. We have to make sure that we are also understanding the point or information they are trying to convey. This requires that we provide our full attention and to ask clarifying questions to make sure that we understand.

Another step we can take to help with communication is to engage more individuals in the process when having meetings or presentations. Consider assigning agenda items or tasks to others to present. This will provide an opportunity for others to become more invested and knowledgeable about the goals and objectives. This will also engage others in sharing their points of view with others.

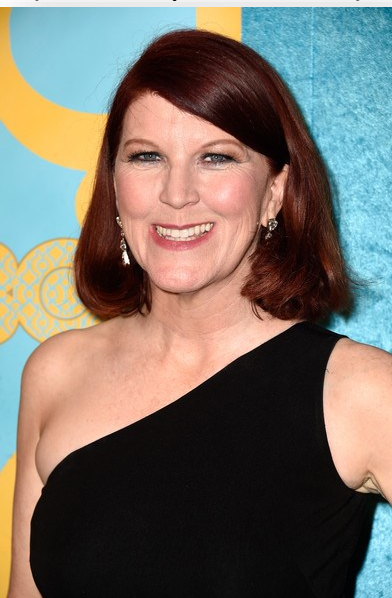
All of these steps and ideas may not fit your agency or community so take some time to customize your own communication plan that will help move your goals forward.



THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR SOCIAL WORK

Thank you to all the Social Workers out there. Social Work is a profession of passion. Passion to protect adults and children from abuse, neglect and exploitation, passion to help families be independent and an all-around passion to help others be the best that they can be. It is a profession that receives very little recognition, but makes such a huge difference in the lives of others. So if you are a Social Worker, know that we appreciate all that you do.

Kate Flannery from The Office
thanking Social Workers
(click on the picture for video)



T-Boz from TLC
thanking Social Workers
(click on the picture for video)



**Thank
You**

HELLO!



MEET THE TEAM

The Madison County Council for Elder Maltreatment Prevention (CEMP)
[Website \(Click Here\)](#)

The Madison County Council for Elder Maltreatment Prevention (CEMP) has been in existence since 2003. The main purpose of CEMP is to aid in the prevention of elder abuse through community education and identification of those at risk. CEMP community meetings include those who work with the elder population and are invited to participate with the Council. CEMP meets each month on the fourth Thursday in Richmond.

The goals of the CEMP council are to develop and facilitate an effective community-wide system of prevention and intervention that is responsive to the needs of victims of elder maltreatment. CEMP also strives to identify and coordinate the roles and services of local agencies and individuals who can assist with the program, as well as serve as a clearinghouse for information regarding elder issues.

The Council hosts several informative and fun community-based events throughout the year including: a Spring Educational Forum, Shop-with-a-Trooper, health fairs, an annual Bowl-A-Thon fundraiser, as well as participates in projects that focus on the needs of seniors within the community.

Education, awareness, and prevention of the various types of elder abuse: verbal, sexual, physical, mental, involuntary seclusion, neglect, and financial exploitation is the primary focus of the CEMP organization. Madison County CEMP is open to the community and welcomes agencies or individuals to participate in council meetings and projects.

What is an APS Ongoing Case?

The primary responsibility of APS is protective services. These protective services may be provided in the short term through the investigative or general adult service process or they may be more long term.

If during the course of an investigation or a general adult services referral it is determined that an adult would benefit from ongoing services, the APS worker would ask the adult's permission to open a case and initiate the case planning process.

It should also be noted that there are two other ways for an ongoing case to be initiated: the request by a court appointed guardian and a court order.

To initiate a case plan, the adult will identify any individuals that should be present during a case planning meeting. The adult has the final decision on who will be present during the meeting, so this could mean that entities currently providing services may not be invited to the meeting. The APS worker will provide the adult with the benefits of having these providers involved in case planning in an effort to have a more inclusive meeting.

At the case planning meeting, the adult will identify goals and objectives that they wish to see accomplished over the next six months. The APS worker will recommend that one objective be established to address the highest risk identified during the investigation and/or assessment. If this is acceptable, the team will then identify tasks to help achieve this objective. There should be at least one task identified for each objective.

If the adult is not agreeable to the recommended objective, the adult will be asked to express their wish for an objective to work towards. The team will then establish tasks to achieve this objective.

If the adult wishes to work on additional objectives, the team will continue to identify additional tasks. The goal is to have all of the tasks and objectives follow the SMART model (specific, measurable, achievable, reasonable and time-based).

No tasks should be assigned directing any individual or agency to do something that they are not willing or able to accomplish.

*** To be continued next month....



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.



"The Why and How of Reframing Aging" (2:37min video)

[Click Here](#)

Preserving Access to Utility Service

[Click Here](#)

Equity and Older Adults: How Systemic Inequities Affect Elder Abuse and Adult Protective Services

[Click Here](#)

VOICES:

Virtual Coaching In Making Informed Choices on Elder Maltreatment Self-Disclosures

[Click Here](#)

Why did the college basketball player sign up for the crafting class?

*

He wanted to learn to make baskets!



ON-DEMAND

Nursing Home Neglect: Preventing It and Getting Help (35 minutes)

[Visit Here](#)

4/5/22 12:30—2:00pm

ElderSAFE: Mobile Integrated Health: A Community-Centered Fire/EMS Approach

[Register Here](#)

April 19—21, 2022

Elder Justice Decision-Making Capacity Symposium

[Register Here](#)