



## Staying Connected: Adult Maltreatment Prevention & Awareness News

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### Inspiring Solutions!!!

*“Focusing on solutions fuels progress”*  
- Michelle Gielan

*“The important thing about a problem is not its solution, but the strength we gain in finding the solution.”*  
- Seneca the Younger

*“Sometimes the situation is only a problem because it is looked at in a certain way. Looked at in another way, the right course of action may be so obvious that the problem no longer exists.”*  
- Edward de Bono

*“All the problems sitting there are an invitation for you to be creative, make use of your skills and resources and find a solution.”*  
- Bill Drayton

*“To solve any problem, here are three questions to ask yourself: First, what could I do? Second, what could I read? And third, who could I ask?”*  
- Jim Rohn

*“Make small commitments and keep them. Be a light, not a judge. Be a model, not a critic. Be part of the solution, not the problem.”*  
- Stephen Covey

Over the next year, let’s start to focus on inspiring solutions to end adult maltreatment.

To get to the solutions we need to first recognize that there are going to be some barriers to our problem solving efforts. According to Forbes, there are six main barriers ([The Six Main Barriers Against Problem-Solving And How To Overcome Them \(forbes.com\)](#))

The first barrier is the difficulty associated with recognizing the problem. Those of us working in the field of adult maltreatment see the problem each and every day. Those in the public at large that have not experienced a situation of maltreatment may not be aware that the problem exists.

The next barrier is the size of the problem. A lack of research and data has led to the inability of state and national programs to truly gauge the size of the problem. Without accurate data, programs can only provide anecdotal evidence. Anecdotal evidence may help pull at the heart strings, but it is not usually successful in pulling at the purse strings.

Another barrier is when a problem is framed poorly. If we do not understand what the problem is, then we are less likely to be able to formulate solutions. It is important to take time to learn about the background of the problem.

Ask yourself, can you explain the problem to several different individuals and they all understand your framing of the problem.

Consider what Albert Einstein had to say about solving problems. “If I have an hour to solve a problem, I’d spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about the solution.”

Another potential barrier is not following the possible rhythms of a solution. This is more than just making sure that you are in the right place at the right time. We need to have enough information about the problem and the different paths the solution may take to

ensure that we are taking action at the proper time.

We have all experienced situations where things are just not going the way that they should and we struggle to identify the exact problem. This barrier is our inability to identify the root of the problem.

If we fail to get to the root of the problem, we will tend to try to fix the symptoms. Addressing symptoms will not be sustainable for problem solving.

Another barrier that we may face is the failure to identify the different parts of the problem. When you identify a problem, it is important to take some time to figure out as much as you can about the different aspects of the problem and anything that may affect your solution. This will allow you to tailor your solution to address the whole picture, and have a better chance at success.

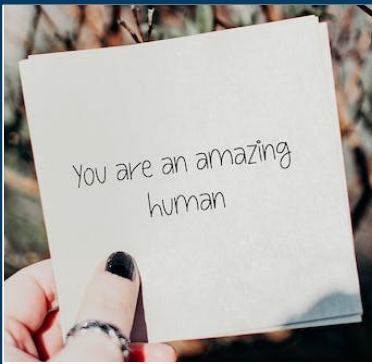
Each and every day, there is a lot of great problem solving going on across the state. Sometimes this great work is done in a silo, and sometimes it is done on the community level.

One of the biggest problems we experience is learning how to take these solutions that have been successful on the individual and community level and expand them to other communities all across the state?

Impeding our ability is the lack of larger communication networks and awareness of these great efforts. So over the next year we are going to launch town halls in as many communities as we can to start improving the communication.

To help with the planning process we are asking that you complete the following survey to identify great things that you know your community has done, and what questions or problems still need to be addressed. This [anonymous](#) survey will stay open till August 11th, 2023 at 11:45pm.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)



**Brooke Gibson**  
Nurse Consultant/Inspector  
Adult Protection Branch

Brooke has been a valuable member of the APS team for 15 years. During this time he has worked hard to build relationships with frontline APS staff, supervisors, and community partners. He is so well regarded by his community partners that he was recently nominated for the CHAMP

(Champion of Adult Maltreatment Prevention) award.

Brooke is very active in his local community with spreading awareness and encouraging prevention of adult maltreatment. He has chaired the Tri-County Elder Abuse Council and participates as a board member on the Pennyriple Elder Abuse Council. Through his membership, he was able to assist in the coordination of mini-grants to further their mission to spread awareness in their area of the state. Some of the community outreach events include a sponsorship for the Kiwanis Club golf scramble, a sponsorship and booth at the Senior Games and billboards.

Brooke continues to provide his expertise and medical opinion to support efforts to ensure that the adults of Western Kentucky are free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

**“APS didn’t do anything with the report I made!”**

One of the most common statements we hear is that “APS didn’t do anything with the report I made.”

There are various reasons why this is a common perception.

Let’s start at the very beginning when you make a report to the hotline or the web-portal. The information that you provide is screened through acceptance criteria that is outlined in 922 KAR 5:070. If the information provided meets criteria, the report will be sent to an APS worker to start an investigation/assessment. If the information provided does not meet criteria, an APS worker will not be made aware of the report.

When you make a report you should always request the intake or web ID. This number will allow you to follow up on the status of the report. You can easily check the status of a report at [WebReferral \(ky.gov\)](http://WebReferral.ky.gov) by clicking on the “report status search” button directly below the TEAM Kentucky logo.

If you disagree with the screening of a report that you made, it would be beneficial to talk with the staff at central intake to get clarification. You can reach them at 877-592-2331.

If the report was accepted and assigned to an APS worker, they will then try to meet with the adult. Sometimes there are barriers to meeting the adult that prevent further action. For instance, the adult may no longer be at the location you provided, and the worker has no way to identify the new location.

In this situation if the reporting source was anonymous or does not know any other options to meet with the adult, the case would have to be closed out.

Another reason why it might seem that APS did not do anything is when the adult maintains their decisional capacity and refuses to participate with services. The APS worker will always honor the adult’s right to self determination.

If the adult is adamant that they will not be participating in protective services, the APS worker will have no choice but to close out the case.

Unlike child protective services, APS court interventions are not based on safety threats, but on the adult’s decisional capacity and ability to make informed decisions.



The Value of Being Heard:  
Loneliness and Social Isolation in  
Long-Term Care

[Click Here](#)

About the Long-Term Care  
Equality Index (LEI)

[Click Here](#)

U.S. Senate Special Committee on  
Aging: Order Free Resources

[Click Here](#)

Internet Crime Complaint Center  
Public Service Announcement

[Click Here](#)

Input Needed: Proposed Update  
to Older Americans Act Program  
Regulations

[Click Here](#) (rule language)

[Click Here](#) (comment directions)

**Why doesn't fire take off  
on the 4th of July?**

**Because fire works!**



8/9/23 2:00pm (EST)  
Measuring Outcomes of an APS-Geriatrics  
Collaboration (add to your calendar, no  
registration needed)

[Click Here to Attend](#)

8/29/23 3:00—4:00pm (ET)  
Memory Connections: Helping Families  
Navigate Their Dementia Journey with a  
Menu of Program Options.

[Register Here](#)

On-Demand (Podcast)  
Specifically for Seniors—The Podcast  
Elder Abuse Awareness

[Click Here](#)

