



**Staying Connected:
Adult Maltreatment Prevention & Awareness News**

November 2023

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Inspiring Solutions!!!

9 Creative Solutions to Empower Small Communities (daisie.com)

Promote Local Businesses

“...it’s about building relationships, celebrating local culture, and fostering a sense of community pride.”

Create Community Gardens

This can bolster local food security.

Organize Community Events

Brings people together, can inspire individuals to take action and contribute to community well-being.

Establish Mentorship Programs

Professional or life skills mentorships.

Provide Access To Education Resources

Share information through workshops, classes or online.

Form Local Volunteer Groups

Groups helping the elderly.

Promote Sustainable Practices

Implement Neighborhood Watch Programs

Get to know your neighbors.

Encourage Civic Participation

Host town hall meetings to elicit feedback from the public about solutions.

How do we get to solutions when we are being bombarded by venting sessions, complaints and suggestions?

First you have to accept that complaining is not a bad thing in and of itself. It provides an opportunity to vent, to express doubts and to ask for help.

So to help make sure that we are being productive with the complaints that we hear, we need to understand that there is a reason that we are hearing about them. We need to take time to listen to what the individual is trying to convey.

We are not just trying to hear what they are saying, we are trying to gain some understanding about their perceptions of the problem.

If we hope to work towards a solution for the identified problem, we are going to have to gain as much information as possible.

To help have a productive conversation, it may be beneficial to allow the individual to lead at the beginning.

Once you have reached a point in the conversation where the individual has naturally stopped, or is asking for input, you can start to ask questions to gain some insights. At this point, you should not just jump to asking what they believe is the solution.

Start with questions that will help you get a better grasp of the problem. Make sure that you ask

some questions that give you some insight in to their perception of the problem.

After you have some grasp of the problem, you can start moving to questions that will help you all formulate some potential solutions together. Questions can start out simple. Your goal is not to put pressure on the individual to come up with their own solution to the problem. It should be a collaborative process.

Once you all have reached a point where you understand the problem, and believe that you have a plan of action to enact a solution, agree to some next steps.

It is okay to say that the solution may take some time to implement. Not all problems have a quick solution. You just have to remain committed to addressing the problem in a reasonable timeframe.

Make sure that you maintain some type of feedback loop after you agree to your next steps. There is always the potential that things are not going to go the way you all intended, and you may need to work on a solution for a barrier in your original solution.

Building partnerships with our co-workers, community partners and families to share ideas, even when they may appear as complaints, provides us an opportunity to formulate solutions that are going to improve outcomes for all involved.



Kristen Stormes
Social Service Worker I
Northern Bluegrass Service Region

Kristen was recently working with a client in Harrison County to address some hoarding concerns and a pest infestation. During this case, Kristen worked with community partners to help reduce safety and risk factors to help the adult maintain her self sufficiency.

Mary Crowley-Schmidt with the Bluegrass Area Agency Aging said that she was able to easily schedule a co-visit with Kristen to assist with assessing the situation. Mary said that Kristen had an “untold” number of follow up contacts with the adult in arranging for the delivery of all items need to get the pest infestation handled.

Mary said that she has been working in this field for 37 years and she can recognize a social worker who is dedicated to her job. She stated that Kristen is one of those social workers. She also stated that Kristen has wonderful rapport building and communication skills.

Kristen’s supervisor, Mandie Graham, stated that she is also positive and willing to help teammates and volunteers to do extra when a teammate is overwhelmed.

Way to go Kristen!!! The adults of Kentucky are blessed to have you on their side.

“What does least restrictive alternative mean?”

A common legal definition of least restrictive alternative is the treatment and conditions of treatment which, separately and in combination, are no more intrusive or restrictive of freedom than reasonably necessary to achieve a substantial therapeutic benefit to the adult, or to protect the adult from physical injury.

When applied to working with adults, this means that long term planning should always begin with minimal changes that will be able to address the concern.

For instance, take a situation where an adult is living independently and is experiencing some trouble with keeping themselves safe in their home. This could be due to fall hazards or sanitary conditions. Rather than having this adult move into a family member’s home, or an assisted living facility, we should take some time to find out what is going on that lead to the current situation.

After gathering some additional information, we can start making a plan to address the safety factors to see what is going to be the least restrictive alternative. A good first step would be to try to make the home safe again (clean, remove hazards, etc.). If there are medical needs involved, have those addressed by a professional.

The next step could be to see if the first step corrected the problem, or if another action step is necessary. If another action step is needed, you can consider hiring someone to maintain the safety in the home for the adult.

From this point, you can just continue with more action steps until you reach a point where the adult is again safe in their environment.

Remember, going to the extreme as the first step is going to be stressful on the adult, and will strain your ability to work with the adult to maintain their safety.



Protecting Older Consumers
2022-2023:

A Report of the Federal Trade Commission

[Click Here](#)

Comprehensive Older Adult and Caregiver Help (COACH): A person-centered caregiver intervention prevents elder mistreatment

[Click Here](#)

Annual Report to Congress on Department of Justice Activities to Combat Elder Fraud and Abuse

[Click Here](#)

Final Rule for Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities; Medicare Providers’ and Suppliers’ Disclosure of Private Equity Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts

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Why did the turkey cross the road?



He wanted people to think he was a chicken.



11/28/23 2:00—3:00pm ET
Resources for Supporting Residents with Mental and/or Behavioral Health Needs
[Click Here](#)

11/29/23 2:00—3:00pm ET
Legal Basics: Medicare Parts A, B, C
[Click Here](#)

12/12/23 3:00-4:00pm ET
Scams and Fraud Webinar Series: Building Your Toolkit of Resources
[Click Here](#)

ON-DEMAND
You Can Make a Difference: Defending Against of Terminating Guardianship
[Click Here](#)