



Staying Connected: Adult Maltreatment Prevention & Awareness News

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Inspiring Solutions!!!

5 Tips for Building Effective Community Partnerships (uniteus.com)

Understand Where A Service Provider Lies On The Engagement Continuum Before You Interact With Them.

Just like individuals, organizations are all unique and should be approached differently.

Be Personal—In Real Life and Online.

Be authentic! To form a genuine connection with others, you will want to get to know them. Send personalized emails.

Build Trust By Using All The Tools Available To You And Solving People's Problems Before They Know They Exist.

Every organization has their own set of tools, so select the ones that are going to help with solutions.

Set Expectations Early On To Make Communication Smooth Throughout The Whole Process.

Outline what can be expected from you as well as what you expect.

Hang In There—Building Effective Community Partnerships Takes Time.

“Teamwork makes the dream work.” This is a common phrase that we have heard our entire lives. Simply put, if we want to achieve our dreams we will need to work with others.

We know that strong community partnerships may help with increased funding opportunities, increased awareness, expanded capabilities and resources.

So how we can best build partnerships to support and expand our team of fierce adult maltreatment advocates?

Just like with most things in life, we need start with some clear goals or wishes to help achieve our desired outcomes through these partnerships. Do you believe that the community needs more resources? Do you believe that there needs to be more visibility in the community?

Creating a vision for the partnership allows you to compare it to your potential partner's goals, mission and culture. You will want to ensure that all the organizations that you partner with have goals that are harmonious to furthering the vision.

If you aren't sure who you can build partnerships with, start by looking at your network. Take some time to learn your local network so you can become more familiar with who and what are available.

This simple step will help you identify potential partnerships while also learning about resources that you can use in the future. Any opportunity to connect with others in your community should be viewed as a win-win.

Once you have decided on the partnerships that you would like to foster, you will need to determine the parameters of this partnership. Use the original goals that you started the process with to guide the agreement.

Outline the roles and responsibilities for each partner. Take into consideration that each partner will have differing levels of resources and capacities. Set up the partnership for success by honoring each other's limitations.

Although there is a pie in the sky idea leading the way, agree on key objectives that can be evaluated regularly. By establishing agreed upon objectives, you are attempting to prevent or lessen conflicts or disagreements as the partnership grows.

After establishing the key objectives, start collecting data. Data is used to regularly evaluate how the partnership is helping achieve the desired outcomes. If the data suggests that you are not heading in the right direction, work collaboratively to adjust the partnership to ensure that you are meeting everyone's goals.

Don't give up, building relationships takes time and effort.

Coming Soon

Structured Decision Making (SDM)[®] Adult Protective Services Intake Tool

The Department for Community Based Services is proud to introduce a new tool developed in partnership with Evident Change. “This project is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$543,600.00 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.”

WHAT DOES THIS TOOL DO?

This intake tool will help central intake workers determine if the current report requires a response (investigation, general adult services, interdisciplinary team report or alternate care assessment) from Adult Protective Services. This tool will also help central intake workers determine how swiftly an investigation must be initiated after the report is accepted.

HOW WILL THIS TOOL WORK?

The tool will guide central intake staff through specific questions based on statutory (KRS 209.020) and regulatory (922 KAR 5:070) definitions of adult, abuse, neglect and exploitation. The tool will provide the staff with expanded definitions to help each individual reviewing the referral come to the a similar decision after working through the tool.

HOW WAS THIS TOOL DEVELOPED?

This tool was developed with several key partners in the intake process (intake workers, supervisors, front-line APS staff, and policy experts). Workgroups reviewed all of the statutory and regulatory definitions to develop expanded definitions and examples to help intake workers screen referrals. Upon completion of the workgroups a draft tool was developed and inter-rater reliability testing was completed with all intake staff. The results were analyzed and any identified changes were made to the manual and tool.

WHAT WILL NOT CHANGE WITH THIS TOOL?

The hotline telephone number (877-597-2331) and web portal ([WebReferral \(ky.gov\)](http://WebReferral.ky.gov)) will still be utilized. The statutory and regulatory definitions for adult, abuse, neglect and exploitation remain the same.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SDM INTAKE TOOL?

If you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to Jonathan Cornett at jonathan.cornett@ky.gov or Cliff Bryant at cliff.bryant@ky.gov

Key Provisions of the 2024 Older Americans Act Final Rule

The updated regulations reinforce and clarify policies and expectations, provide guidance to programs authorized since the last update, promote appropriate stewardship of OAA resources, and incorporate lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, the final rule:

- Clarifies and strengthens provisions for meeting OAA requirements for prioritizing people with the greatest social and economic needs.
- Specifies the broad range of people who can receive services, how funds can be used, fiscal requirements, and other requirements that apply across programs.
- Clarifies required state and local agency policies and procedures. For example, the final rule establishes expectations regarding conflicts of interest.
- Requires state agencies to maintain flexible and streamlined processes for area agencies on aging to receive approval to establish contracts and commercial relationships.
- Includes guidance for the National Family Caregiver Support Program and the Native American Caregiver Support Program, which were authorized since the last update.
- Establishes expectations for legal assistance and activities to prevent elder abuse.
- Clarifies the role of the aging network in defending against the imposition of guardianship and in promoting alternatives to guardianship.
- Updates definitions, modernizes requirements, and clarifies flexibilities within the OAA nutrition programs.

The final rule is the culmination of intensive collaboration over many years with the national aging network. It also reflects input received through a request for information; a series of listening sessions, including consultations with tribes and other engagement with Native American grantees; and more than 780 comments received in response to the June 2023 Notice of Proposed Rule Making from a wide range of organizations in the aging and disability networks. [Final Rule to Update Regulations for Older Americans Act Programs | ACL Administration for Community Living](#)

“Communication With Individuals Diagnosed With Dementia.”

How should we communicate with someone that is suspected to have or has been diagnosed with dementia?

First you should recognize that there are many different types of dementia and each one may impact the individual differently.

These strategies and tips may need to be adjusted based on the unique abilities and limitations of the individual.

Make sure that you are communicating clearly and calmly. Consider using short and simple sentences.

If you need to ask questions, you should try to phrase them in a way that it is easily understood and may require a simple answer. For instance, rather than asking what they want for dinner, you can ask if they would like a grilled cheese or a steak. Limiting the number of choices may help prevent unnecessary confusion or frustration.

Try to limit the number of questions you are asking. You do not want it to seem like you are conducting an interrogation. This may lead to frustration and them withdrawing from the conversation.

If it appears that the individual is having difficulty understanding what you are trying to communicate try to keep from repeating the same thing over and over again. If after one time repeating the statement, consider trying to phrase it differently. You may need to break down the information in to more manageable pieces.

Consider slowing down the conversation. Allow time for the individual to process the information and respond in their own time. There may be pauses that are uncomfortable for you, but they are welcomed by the individual.

Above all else, make sure that you are talking with the individual in a normal tone of voice and at an age appropriate level.



KHC Tax-Exempt Bonds + Gap Financing for Western Kentucky Disaster Response

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Partnerships: The Lifeblood of APS

[Click Here](#)

Mental Health vs. Mental Illness: Distinguishing the Differences

[Click Here](#)

Loneliness and Social Isolation Linked to Serious Health Conditions

[Click Here](#)

What did the snail say on Valentine's Day when his call went to voicemail?

I just crawled to say I love you!”



ON-DEMAND Recommendations for Improving Communication Between APS and Reporters

[Click Here](#)

Collaborating for Justice for Older African Americans Webinar Series (3 parts, one registration)

[Click Here](#)

**3/19/24 1:00—2:30pm CT
Introduction to Collaborating for Justice**

**3/26/24 1:00—2:30pm CT
Guiding Principles of Equitable Collaboration**

**4/16/24 1:00—2:30pm CT
In Conversation About Collaboration for Justice**

celebrating

**Black
History
Month**