

# STAYING CONNECTED: ADULT MALTREATMENT PREVENTION & AWARENESS NEWS

This past month, all over Kentucky, a sea of purple erupted in honor of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. On June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year, individuals across the globe take a moment to bring awareness to the blight that is adult maltreatment and/or elder maltreatment.

Adult maltreatment is considered to be significantly under-reported. This means that we may never truly understand the scale of the problem. We do know, however, that there are a lot of individuals who are doing great work to make sure that our most vulnerable citizens are free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

During the annual event at in the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort the CHAMP (Champion of Adult Maltreatment Prevention) awards were given to Mary Crowley-Schmidt and the Buffalo Trace Area Development District – Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living (AAD-AAAIL).

Across the state, Local Coordinating Councils on Elder Abuse supported awareness

through different activities, events, and promotions.

The Big Sandy Council painted a rocking chair purple that made stops at different places around the community. This rocking chair had a sign that identified the hotline telephone number for reporting abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The Tri-County Abuse Council for Elders (TRACE) held balloon releasing events at the Corbin Senior Center, Knox Senior Center, and the Whitley Senior Center.

The Buffalo Trace Council hosted a lunch and learn, while the Bluegrass Mental Health and Aging/Elder Abuse Coalition hosted their annual Empowering Mindfulness Conference.

Preventing abuse, neglect and exploitation of adults is everyone's responsibility, everyday. For more information visit about the various forms of maltreatment and how you can support prevention and awareness efforts, visit [www.KYESTEAM.ky.gov](http://www.KYESTEAM.ky.gov)

## **CHAMP Award Winners**

### **Mary Crowley-Schmidt**

"Mary has dedicated her career to serving the elderly and advocating against elder abuse. Mary has worked at the Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging for over 35 years." "Mary is known across the 17-county region as the person to go to for guidance when there is any suspected maltreatment of older adults." She has ensured that everyone is educated about the indicators of abuse/neglect and exploitation.

### **Buffalo Trace ADD – AAAIL**

"The many staff members at BTADD who work with the aging population take pride in their work to reduce adult maltreatment." In addition to mandates, the staff have participated in Senior Advocacy Day in Frankfort, hosted resident forums for long-term care residents, hosted a caregivers conference and maintained a presence on social media.

Where was the Declaration of  
Independence signed?  
On the bottom of the page!

## ROCKING CHAIRS CREATED TO RAISE LOCAL AWARENESS OF WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH



Highlands Community  
Ministries, Louisville



Woodford Co.  
Senior Center



Bardstown  
Senior Center



Lake Cumberland  
Coordinating Council



Rowan County  
Senior Center



Frankfort Senior Center  
(Capital City Activity Center)



Carrollton Senior Center



Berea Senior Center



Scott Co. Senior Center

**“HOW CAN I ENSURE THAT MY REFERRAL MEETS CRITERIA?”**

This is not as simple as sprinkling in a few key words or phrases. Just because you say abuse, neglect, exploitation, or caretaker does not mean that the referral is going to screen in for an investigation.

It is important to remember that your role as a mandated reporter is to share your suspicions that an adult has suffered from maltreatment. You do not have to prove that something has occurred.

The most important thing for you to consider when making a report is how the individual meets the definition of adult in KRS 209.020(4). In short, you need to articulate that the individual is over the age of 18, has a mental or physical dysfunction that is impairing their ability to meet their activities of daily living, manage resources or protect themselves from maltreatment (abuse, neglect, or

exploitation) without assistance from others and may be in need of protective services.

It is okay if you do not know a specific diagnosis. You only need to describe how you believe that the individual has a mental or physical dysfunction. Also keep in mind that intake workers are not going to make assumptions about how a specific diagnosis impacts an individual. This means that you will need to clearly describe how the mental or physical dysfunction impacts the individual’s abilities.

Once the intake worker has determined that the individual meets the definition of adult, they will then be able to consider the maltreatment allegations.

Let’s start with abuse, specifically the physical abuse aspect. The intake worker is looking for a description of pain or injury that was inflicted by someone else on the adult. There are times when there may be a bruise of unknown origin, so if the injury is to a critical area of

the body (head, face, neck, genitals, abdomen), please ensure that this is clearly articulated.

For sexual abuse, the intake worker is looking for information about the conduct or behavior that results in nonconsensual sexual contact.

For unreasonable confinement, the intake worker is looking for information about conduct or behavior that results in involuntary seclusion.

For intimidation, the intake worker is looking for information about conduct or behavior that is being used to evoke fear in the adult.

Lastly, regarding punishment, the intake worker is looking for information about extreme or unusual conduct or behavior that is used to control or discipline an adult, resulting in pain, injury, or mental injury.

Next month we will continue this discussion by looking at the important information to share for neglect and exploitation.



- July 24, 2024 1:00pm ET Foundations of the PCTI (Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed) Approach – [Register Here](#)
- August 12, 2024 3:00 – 4:00pm ET Dementia Friendly Clark County, Nevada: What Happens in Vegas Affects the World – [Register Here](#)
- August 13, 2024 1:00 – 3:00pm ET Person-Centered Approaches in Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) – [Register Here](#)
- Structured Decision Making (SDM®) in Kentucky – [Click To Access](#)



- Database of Promising Interventions to Prevent and Respond to Abuse of Older People - [Click To Access](#)
- FBI Elder Fraud Report 2023 - [Click To Access](#)
- Power of Attorney Revocations – [Click To Access](#)
- Aging in the United States: A Strategic Framework For A National Plan on Aging – [Click To Access](#)