

State Elder Justice Coalitions: Informing Services and Influencing Public Policy

June 2, 2020



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ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE

The mission is to support and coordinate the Department of Justice's enforcement and programmatic efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams that target older adults.

The Initiative does so by—

- Promoting justice for older adults.
- Helping older victims and their families.
- Enhancing state and local efforts through training and resources.
- Supporting research to improve elder abuse policy and practice.

elderjustice.gov



Outreach Materials

Get involved, get safe community presentations, pamphlets, and materials on all types of elder abuse.



Prosecutor Video Series

Training videos geared toward successful prosecution of elder abuse cases.



Elder Abuse Research

References to articles, books, and government reports on all types of elder abuse and financial exploitation topics.



Elder Abuse Statutes

State statutes relevant to elder abuse cases.



MDT Guide & Toolkit

Start or grow a local elder abuse case review multidisciplinary team with this research- and resource-rich toolkit.



Financial Exploitation & Reporting

Learn about financial scams and find the right reporting agency.



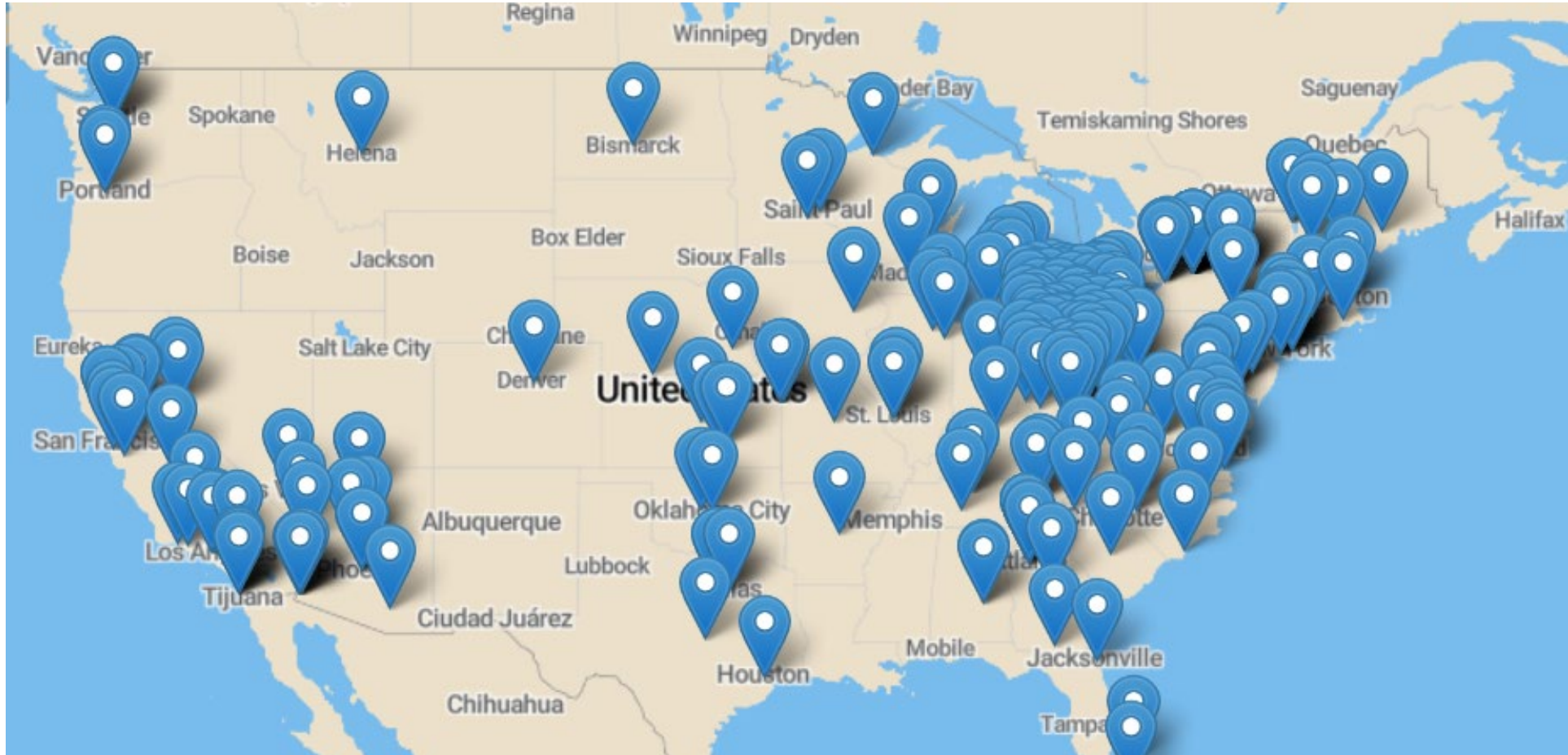
Webinars

Webinars targeted to elder abuse professionals and those interested in elder abuse topics



Network Locator Map

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STATE ELDER JUSTICE COALITIONS

Building Capacity and Influencing Public Policy

National Network of State Elder Justice Coalitions
Webinar for the
Department of Justice's Elder Justice Initiative
June 2, 2020

Presenters

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Content

- State elder justice coalitions
- Origins and organizational models
- Funding and resources
- Priorities and accomplishments
- Advocacy to strengthen state policies
- National Network of State Elder Justice Coalitions
- Discussion

State elder justice coalitions defined

A state (or tribal) elder justice (or elder abuse) coalition is an ongoing multidisciplinary state- (or tribal-) level collaborative with defined membership that is dedicated to identifying and addressing gaps or inadequacies in policy and practice related to elder abuse detection, prevention, and intervention. Besides coalitions, they may be called networks, councils, commissions, associations, partnerships, and task forces.

Origins and organizational models

Beginnings

- Most state coalitions were formed after 2000
- Their impetus tended to be either a perceived need requiring collaboration or a trigger event
- Ohio examples: Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS); Ohio Elder Abuse Commission (OEAC)
- Other examples: Colorado Coalition for Elder Rights and Abuse Protection; New York State Coalition on Elder Abuse

Origins and organizational models

Auspice

- The majority of state coalitions are part of other organizations
- A few are codified into law
- Ohio examples: OCAPS; OEAC
- Other examples: Michigan Elder Justice Coordinating Council; Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition

Origins and organizational models

Mission

- State coalitions typically are wide-ranging in their purpose
- Many address the mistreatment of at-risk younger adults along with that of older adults.
- Ohio examples: OCAPS; OEAC

Origins and organizational models

Mission

- Other examples: Minnesota Elder Justice Center; District of Columbia Collaborative Training and Response for Older Victims
 - MN: Mobilizing communities to prevent and alleviate abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation of older vulnerable adults.
 - DC: Increase the number of victims of elder abuse who are able to locate supportive advocacy, case management, assistance with safety planning, counseling, shelter, and legal assistance through the deployment of outreach activities.

Origins and organizational models

Membership

- Usually state coalitions are open to any interested person or organization
- Some require the payment of dues or official appointment of members
- Ohio examples: OCAPS; OEAC
- Other examples: Coalition of Elder Justice in Connecticut; Maine Council for Elder Abuse Prevention

Origins and organizational models

Structure

- State coalitions routinely have steering or governing bodies and sometimes paid staff
- Work tends to be accomplished within established committees
- Ohio examples: OCAPS; OEAC
- Other examples: California Elder Justice Coalition; North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse

Funding and resources

Wide variety of sources of support

- Government funding
- Foundation grants
- Fees, contributions
- Volunteers
- Organization in-kind support

Funding and resources

New York State Coalition on Elder Abuse

- Established in 2004 following State Summit on Elder Abuse
- Sponsored by Lifespan of Greater Rochester, aging service provider and home of Upstate Elder Abuse Center
- Funded since 2004 by annual grant funding from NYS legislature and NYSOFA
- Full time coordinator; infrastructure support from Lifespan (office space, administrative support, equipment, communication and networking platform, advocacy for continued funding)

Funding and resources

Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (OCAPS)

- VOCA grant funding (Ohio Hopes Project)
- Annual membership dues/conference sponsorships
- Volunteers
- Board of Directors (volunteers)
- “Staff” = self-employed contractors, home-based

The Ohio Elder Abuse Commission

- Initially operated as a volunteer organization
- Now codified; membership established by law
- Housed in Attorney General’s Office
- Members invited by AG

Funding and resources

Minnesota Elder Justice Center (MEJC)

- Incorporated as a not-for-profit in 2014 by leaders of two prior stakeholder coalitions
- Predecessor coalitions were predominately volunteer with partial funding from small foundation grants
- Current budget – MN Crime Victim Services, Federal OVC, local foundations and corporations, individual contributions and revenue from annual WEAAD Conference
- Founders represented DV/SA and law enforcement, health and human services, long-term care and regulatory worlds.
- Founder backgrounds have influenced policy direction and opened access to funding sources

Funding and resources

The North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse

- Grass roots effort to address abuse, neglect & exploitation of vulnerable adults
- All volunteer, self-funded organization
- Member dues, contributions and revenue from an annual conference
- Individuals, agencies and businesses support the work of the Partnership

Funding and resources

Montana Elder Justice Coalition

- Example of voluntary, member-driven state coalition
- Voluntary participation by MT government agencies (AG's office, prosecutors, law enforcement) and financial institutions
- Support from Montana Financial Education Coalition (MFEC), a chartered, nonprofit.
- Informal arrangement, no contractual agreement

Priorities and accomplishments

Support to local MDTs and Coalitions

- MT set up FASTs, tracks results using computer software, reports to governor
- NYS disseminated RFPs to select regional hub organizations to sponsor new Enhanced MDTs
- CEJC worked with state VOCA administrators to develop county MDTs

Priorities and accomplishments

Mentoring and Leadership Development

- MN has offered internship opportunities to law school and graduate school students
- NC collaborates with SW work program at NC State University on annual conference to use students' talents and attract a more diverse audience
- CEJC partnered w/CSLA economics class to map APS disparities

Priorities and accomplishments

Research, Needs Assessment, Planning

- NYS helped identify need for incidence data, secure funds, & disseminate results
- Ohio Elder Abuse Commission has longstanding research interest: hosting 2011 symposium on Ohio research needs; standing Research Committee last 4 years, including statewide stakeholder surveys on Ohio research priorities.
- MN annually updates strategic plan addressing needs at individual, community, systems levels

Priorities and accomplishments

Coordination and Support

- NC provides support to senior advisory council, senior legislature, “friends of” LTC residents. Collaborates with SUA to gather case scenarios from counties to show state legislators how abuse affects their constituents.
- CEJC helped secured state APS Liaison to facilitate coordination among counties, state agencies, and national entities

Priorities and accomplishments

Other

- Multiple states hold conferences, trainings, summits, webinars; produce newsletters, blueprints
- Ohio operates HOPES helpline to support/assist callers access resources, report crimes
- MN produced manual to help residential care workers spot and respond to financial exploitation by families and other trusted persons

Priorities and accomplishments

COVID-19 Related

- OCAPS tracks COVID-related service trends. Help-line calls increased 16 percent as APS calls decreased. Offers expertise on outbreak/re-opening in congregate living facilities
- Maine developed brief videos and PowerPoint on COVID-19
- NY distributes COVID-19 resources via website, news bulletin, emails w/focus on scams, census, relief payments. They spotlighted a new local “Virtual Coalition” in Orange County that was created in response to the shutdown and offers podcasts and a website.

Advocacy to strengthen state policies

- Encompasses work to:
 - Enact and amend laws
 - Promulgate and amend rules
 - Create and amend policies, and
 - Design response systems at the local, state, and federal levels
- Objectives
 - To protect those at risk
 - To improve tools for redress
 - To improve working relationships among responders

Advocacy to strengthen state policies

- Minnesota Elder Justice Center - stakeholders' public policy work preceded establishment of the Center.
- Targeting financial exploitation
 - Redefined financial exploitation in the criminal code
 - Amended penalty levels, statutes of limitation, aggregation and venue options
 - Advanced communication between investigators and financial institutions (with training)

Advocacy to strengthen state policies

MN, continued

- Protecting those in residential care settings – continuing, focus on Assisted Living
- Defining terms and redefining practice – continuing, focus on definitions of caregiver and self-neglect
- Funding for Adult Protective Services and Long-term Care Ombudsman
- Guardianship and conservatorship – promoting less restrictive options (e.g., Practice of Supported Decision-making)

Advocacy to strengthen state policies

- Financial Exploitation- Montana's Elder Fraud & Exploitation Protection Network – safe harbors for financial institutions who report suspected elder fraud; CA continues to push for measures to provide victim compensation to victims of financial crimes
- Residential Care – Partners organized through the Georgia's Forensic Special Initiatives Unit in GA – DHS working on penalties for care facilities' failure to report abuse and neglect, death of resident as a result of maltreatment
- State statutes and practice – Maine's Council for Elder Abuse Prevention promoted the Governor's Executive Order for a State Elder Justice Coordinating Partnership, whose appointees will adopt a Roadmap for their systems

Advocacy to strengthen state policies

- State statutes and practice, continued - Ohio Elder Abuse Commission codified in state law, APS interdisciplinary teams, expanding mandated reporting; NY disseminates RFPs for elder abuse “mini-grants” to build local capacity (annual process)
- APS – NC working to produce APS case scenarios from every county to illustrate the depth and breadth of elder maltreatment for state lawmakers; CA co-sponsored a bill creating an APS operated eviction-prevention pilot project.
- Surrogate decision-making – NY revised the state’s Power of Attorney law

NATIONAL NETWORK OF STATE ELDER JUSTICE COALITIONS

An Abbreviated Past, Present and Future of the NNSEJC

Building a National Elder Justice Movement State by State

- The American Society on Aging, The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Education Development Center present the Spring 2020 issue of *ASA's Generations*, "[Taking Action Against Elder Mistreatment](#)." The issue offers powerful action strategies and effective models against elder mistreatment and is a roadmap for clinicians and care providers who want to prevent such abuse and to forge treatment programs that yield successful results.

Building a National Elder Justice Movement State by State

- As the response to elder mistreatment gathers force and momentum, especially in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, ASA and The John A. Hartford Foundation are offering free access to "[Taking Action Against Elder Mistreatment](#)."
- Profiles of the California, Minnesota, New York, and Ohio programs begin on page 111 of this issue, in the article, "Building a National Elder Justice Movement State by State."

NNSEJC: Purpose

To advance state coalition efforts to stop elder abuse and promote elder justice through:

- Helping statewide elder justice coalitions attain common goals
- Sharing innovative models and strategic approaches
- Generating networking opportunities
- Assisting new multidisciplinary projects to develop coalitions

It is through collective action that state and national elder justice can be achieved.

Motivations

March 2018: Joint ASA presentation sparked conversation to ignite nat network

- Inspired by state-level elder justice pursuits
- Driven by curiosity to learn from other states
- Encouraged by success of domestic violence field

First Steps

2018: Planning

- Developed purpose and structure, defined eligibility, determined activities
- Identified state coalitions
- Conducted outreach

2019: Launch

- April: Presented at ASA; spoke about NNSEJC at EJ Coalition Policy Peer Group meeting
- May: Conducted webinar for CEJC
- May: Joined EJ Coalition's Leadership Group
- July: Held first quarterly NNSEJC member meeting

Volunteer Steering Committee Efforts

Outward Facing

- Convene and facilitate quarterly member meetings
- Participate on EJC Leadership Group
- Conduct workshops, webinars
- Conduct outreach activities

Administrative

- Minutes, correspondence, planning



Quarterly membership meetings

- 4 meetings held to date
- 10-12 state coalitions represented
- Agenda
 - Coalition in focus
 - NNSEJC updates
 - Presentation from the field
 - Updates from coalitions coast-to coast

Eligibility

- State or tribal elder justice coalitions are eligible for membership
- **Coalition:** "an ongoing multidisciplinary state- (or tribal-) level collaborative with defined membership that is dedicated to identifying and addressing gaps or inadequacies in policy and practice related to elder abuse detection, prevention, and intervention."

Eyes to the future

- Continue membership meetings
- Aim to bring on new coalitions
- Elevate and amplify state coalitions' voices to influence policy and direction at a national level
- Provide members connection with other major national elder justice groups and leaders

Lessons Learned

State coalitions are hugely beneficial, moving elder justice efforts forward

Secrets to Success

- Perseverance, tenacity, shared passion
- Leverage resources
- Don't be deterred when told there's "no money."

To contact and join the National Network

To join NNSEJC, send info to nnsejc@gmail.com:

- Name and address of the state coalition
- Contact person
- Coalition website, if applicable
- Name of designated representative(s) to NNSEJC, and contact information

Designated representatives will receive periodic communications.

Presenter contact information

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Discussion

