

GATEKEEPER

Gatekeepers are people who come into contact with elders and other vulnerable adults through their jobs and everyday activities. They are crucial eyes and ears in our community, a vital means of finding those most at risk of abuse.

December 2009

Happy Holidays Gatekeeper Readers:

The Elder Abuse Prevention program (EAP) thanks you for reading and contributing to Gatekeeper eNewsletter. We hope you find the topics and resources listed here useful in your work. Please feel free to contact us with any suggestions or feedback you have as we continue our efforts to improve the quality, usability, and pertinence of Gatekeeper.

Sincerely,

Talitha Guinn
Elder Abuse Services Coordinator
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415-750-4180 ext. 222

Dispatches from the Field

Home for the Holidays: What to look for during your annual visit to elderly relatives

**By Mary Twomey, MSW
Co-Director, Center of Excellence in
Elder Abuse & Neglect**



For many of us, the holidays offer a once-a-year time to visit with elderly relatives who live at a distance. These holiday visits are a good time to assess any assistance parents or other elderly loved ones might need. There are many issues to consider. Does an elderly loved one require help with chores or housekeeping, personal care, shopping and meal preparation, money management, transportation, medical checkups, or medications? Are they isolated or do they live with others? If living with another, are they dependent on that person for care? Is that person an appropriate caregiver? During your visit, keep an eye out for warning signs of self-neglect, or abuse or neglect by others. If, before you make your trip, you suspect that your loved one needs extra assistance, plan a longer stay so that you can visit local aging service organizations during regular work hours. Allow enough time during your visit to accomplish

necessary tasks. [Read more...](#)

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Gatekeeper Submissions

Gatekeeper eNewsletter is published quarterly by Institute on Aging, Elder Abuse Prevention Program.

Want to include your event in our next publication?

Contact us:

eap@ioaging.org
415) 750-4180 ext. 222

The Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect

www.centeronelderabuse.org

A program at the University of California Irvine, the College of Education conducts research, training, and advocacy on the issue of elder abuse and neglect.

Eldercare Locator

www.eldercare.gov

Since 1991, the Eldercare Locator, a nationwide toll-free service provided by the U.S. Administration on Aging, has helped older adults and their caregivers find local services for seniors. Visit the website or speak to an information specialist who has access to a database of more than 4,800 entries. The toll-free Eldercare Locator service operates Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern time) and can be reached at 1-800-677-1116.

AARP

aarp.org

AARP provides caregiving worksheets and tips on "Long-Distance Issues"

In The News



Mary Twomey, M.S.W. Honored

This year the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) honored Mary Twomey , M.S.W. (Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect, University of California, Irvine) with the Collaboration Award for her numerous contributions to the field of elder abuse and for her ability

to bring people and organizations together in productive partnerships. As many of you already know, Mary was the director of the Elder Abuse Prevention (EAP) program here at Institute on Aging for many years, and she continues to partner with us on elder abuse prevention activities. This year she worked with the EAP to develop a Train-the-Trainer program that graduated 12 new volunteer elder abuse educators. Mary has cultivated many fans and friends in the elder abuse community so please join us in congratulating her on this well earned award.

To see a full list of NAPSA award recipients visit: www.apsnetwork.org

What We Can Learn From Brooke Astor

The waning years of prominent celebrity socialite Brooke Astor reflect a growing and serious trend in many elders' lives. Some critics have called Mrs. Astor's death from Alzheimer's disease and the subsequent allegations of financial elder abuse an epidemic. That said, we know that thousands of people in our country suffer and die each year from various forms of dementia, but reliable data are scarce and successful prosecutions of elder financial abuse are rare.

The legal case against Mrs. Astor's son, Anthony Marshall, already 85 years old, and his codefendant, one of Mrs. Astor's estate planners, was extremely complicated and highlighted numerous legal and emotional

issues that many of us will face sooner or later. A New York jury convicted both of grand larceny and several other related crimes on October 8, 2009 after a long trial. Mr. Marshall will serve at least one year in prison and perhaps as many as 25 years.

The importance of this case cannot be overestimated. Elder abuse of every stripe continues to go underreported, yet we know that social and economic class provide no protection and present no barrier.

[Read More](#)

Red Tape Stands in the Way of Police Volunteers

By Brent Begin

San Francisco Examiner

Summary: The San Francisco Examiner reported on a recent police commission meeting on elder abuse. Police Chief George Gascon is looking for creative solutions to address issues of elder abuse in San Francisco. Dr. Erika Falk, director of the Geriatric Assessment Program at Institute on Aging (IOA), discussed with the panel her attempts to collaborate with volunteers who are experienced in financial auditing who could assist the understaffed fraud detail in sorting through complicated financial abuse case documents. These efforts resulted in a collaborative effort with IOA and the San Francisco Police Department to recruit and vet qualified candidates.

[Read the Article](#)

Fraud and Scam Alerts

Common Cons

Scams against seniors come with every imaginable kind of made-up stories, pleas, and outright lies. For many, the bottom line is this: If you have to give someone money (or confidential financial information) to get money, you should beware!



[Read more](#) about each of these common cons:

- Foreign lotteries
- Identity crime
- Home repair scams
- The "Pigeon Drop"
- Cold callers
- Pickpockets

Is Elder Financial Abuse the Crime of the 21st Century?

In the current economic climate, more and more financial crimes targeting seniors are being uncovered. Take a moment to view a fantastic resource on financial abuse put together by Witness. It includes an excellent video with real victims of financial elder abuse, links to resources, and a good summary of the issue.

[Read More](#)

Bay Area Bank Thefts Uncovered

KPIX Channel 5 News

By Anna Werner

November 12, 2009

Summary: A bay area man who lost his ATM card discovered that the

money missing from his account was actually taken by the bank teller who was supposed to be helping him get a replacement card.

[Read More](#)



Spotlight

In the last issue of Gatekeeper, we reported the findings of a bruising study done by The Center of Excellence, UCI School of Medicine Program in Geriatrics.

They have now finished phase two of this study that looks at bruising in abused adults. Below are the summaries of both phases of the bruising study.

For more information visit www.centeronelderabuse.org

I. Key findings from a study of accidental bruising in older adults:

- Color of a bruise did not indicate its age. A bruise could have any color from day one.
- 90% of accidental bruises were on the extremities rather than the trunk, neck or head.
- Less than a quarter of older adults with accidental bruises remembered how they got them.
- Older adults taking medications that interfere with coagulation pathways were more likely to have multiple bruises, but the bruises did not last any longer than the bruises of those who didn't take these medications.

II. Key findings from a study of bruising in older adults who have been physically abused were:

1. Large. More than half of older adults with bruises who had been physically abused had at least one bruise 5 cm (about 2 inches) in diameter or larger.
2. Could be anywhere, but note especially if they are on face, lateral (same side as the thumb) or anterior (same side as the palm of the hand) surface of the arm, or on the back. Older adults with bruises who had been abused had more bruises in these areas than older adults whose bruises were accidental.
3. Ask the older adult about bruises - gently and in private. 90% of older adults with bruises who have been physically abused can tell you how they got their bruises, and this includes many older adults with memory problems and dementia.

Legislative & Policy News

AB 590 Has Arrived

We have good news to report on the civil rights front. Governor Schwarzenegger just signed AB 590 into law, which provides legal assistance in civil cases to the poor. This includes senior citizens, who are now entitled



to legal representation in cases of foreclosure, domestic violence, and elder abuse, including guardian or conservator matters.

Introduced by Assemblyman Mike Feuer, (D-Los Angeles), this bill documents the "dire need for legal services for poor Californians," and notes the increasing number of individuals who go to court without representation because they cannot afford it.

Funds will be distributed by the State Judicial Council to local organizations, and will be available by July 1, 2010. The IOA is working with partner agencies to determine how these funds will be accessed and made available to seniors in the Bay Area who need it most.

Elder Justice Act

What is the Elder Justice Act?

(Information taken from the [Elder Justice Coalition](#) website.)

The Elder Justice Act creates a combined law enforcement and public health approach to study, detect, treat, prosecute and, most importantly, prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. After 25 years of congressional hearings on elder abuse without a legislative response, the Elder Justice Act marks the beginning of new horizons in the detection and prevention of elder abuse. The bill would:

- 1) Coordinate efforts and develop leadership at the national level by creating an Office of Elder Justice within the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services, creating a federal home and securing funding for adult protective services activities at the federal level, and creating a public and private Elder Justice Coordinating Council to assure coordination of efforts at all levels, including funding and assisting such entities at the state and local levels.
- 2) Create an "Elder Justice Research Center" and library to
 - educate the public and to provide information on the prevention of elder abuse and best practices in addressing the problem to interested entities throughout the country
 - fund research entities throughout the country to better develop our knowledge base on the issue
 - include the area of "at risk" elders, providing a focus on the development of forensic capacity in the area of elder abuse, and increasing the capacity of prosecutors throughout the country to bring elder abuse charges
- 3) Develop resources to protect consumers, increase collaboration and prevent abuse in long-term care settings; and
- 4) Evaluate funded projects and research to identify successful approaches to elder abuse prevention, prosecution, and victim services.

Advocacy Efforts and Further Information

[Elder Justice Coalition](#)
[Witness - Elder Justice Act](#)
[Care for Elders](#)

Calendar of Events

Consortium Events

The Consortium hosts regular educational

and networking meetings detailed below.
For further information please contact the
EAP program: eap@ioaging.org or (415)
750-4180 ext. 222



Multidisciplinary Team Meeting (MDT)

Professionals from the fields of aging meet to review complex abuse cases and to learn about new services and resources.

When: 2010 DATES - 2/18, 4/15, 6/3, 7/29, 9/16, 11/4, 12/30

Where: 1650 Mission St. 4th floor

IOA Events

The IOA Education Department provides numerous professional trainings, seminars, and continuing education (CE Credits) opportunities each year.

For more information go to: education.ioaging.org

Donate Coats to Seniors

Your unused coat could keep a senior warm this winter.

IOA's MSSP and Linkages are working to provide coats and food to seniors. Donated items will be offered to seniors in our Adult Day Health Center and to other San Francisco organizations helping care for seniors in our city. Donations will be received until December 23rd. Contact Rudy Armijo for drop off and donation information.

Email: rarmijo@ioaging.org

Phone: (415) 750-4150 x337

IOA Monthly Professional Training

Topic: What Do I Do Now? - Suggestions to Offer the Caregiver of the Person with Moderate to Severe Dementia

Presenters: Tracy McCloud, Director and Don Wendell, Activity Director, Ruth Ann Rosenberg Adult Day Health Center & Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, Institute on Aging

Families and caregivers can easily become frustrated in trying to manage the challenging behaviors that often accompany the later stages of dementia. It is also common to lose the expectation of meaningful interaction as the person with dementia becomes more withdrawn. In this session you will learn about coping strategies for some of the most common behaviors seen in the later stages of dementia that you can offer families and caregivers. We will also present some ideas for continuing to connect with the person with dementia in a meaningful way. Please feel free to invite family members and caregivers to attend!

When: February 4th, 2010, 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Where: IOA's Adult Day Health Center
3600 Geary Blvd. in San Francisco (at Palm)

Info: education.ioaging.org/monthly_training.html

Elder Abuse Prevention Training

The EAP is available to provide in-service training on topics of elder abuse and neglect and mandated reporting. We also provide a limited training series located at the IOA offices.

Info: email eap@ioaging.org or call (415) 750-4180 x222

Other Community Events

Please contact event host individually for more details.

Aging in America

2010 Annual Conference of the National Council on Aging and the American Society on Aging

The NCOA-ASA Conference, with 4,000 attendees, is recognized as a showcase for programs and projects that can be replicated, a forum for policy discussion and advocacy, and a prime source of information on new research findings in aging. It is the largest gathering of a diverse, multidisciplinary community of professionals from the fields of aging, healthcare and education, along with business leaders from across the United States.

Attendees come from around the country and abroad to find the answers, the experts, the research, the best practices, and the most comprehensive educational offerings available to professionals. It is the place to be if you want to learn about what's new, what works, and how you can make it work to respond to the ever-growing demands of serving an aging population. The conference provides attendees with the opportunity to network with new and old friends, gain insight from voices from the front line and find new grassroots and national partners for advocacy.

When: March 15-19

Where: Chicago, IL

Contact: 415-974-9600(tel), 415-974-0300(fax)

Email: info@asaging.org

Info: www.agingconference.org

National Summit on Interpersonal Violence and Abuse Across the Lifespan

Forging a Shared Agenda

- Discuss integration of research, practice and policy to affect public awareness, training/mentoring, community action/capacity building
- Identify gaps and issues facing the field of interpersonal violence prevention
- Speakers, workshops, and poster session focusing on Child Maltreatment, Children Exposed to Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Teen/Youth Violence, Elder Abuse, Diverse Populations, Community Violence, Substance Abuse
- Moving from dialogue to action
- Cost-effective conference with state-of-the-science information
- Networking and collaborating emphasized
- Multidisciplinary and multicultural strategies
- 19 hours of CEs provided by the Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma (IVAT)

When: February 24-26, 2010

Where: Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas, TX

Info: For information about NPEIV, the Summit, or the Call for Submissions, visit: www.npeiv.org or www.uncg.edu

Elder Abuse Resources

The EAP has put together a list of resources that we find valuable when working on issues of elder abuse. While this is not an exhaustive list, we

hope you will find it useful. To view these resources visit:

<http://www.ioaging.org/professionals/gatekeeper>

If you have resources that you would like to see added to this list, please email tguinn@ioaging.org

Consortium Members

Institute on Aging * Department of Aging & Adult Services * SF Department of Public Health * SF District Attorney's Office * SF Ombudsman Office * SF Police Department, Fraud/Domestic Violence Units * Rape Treatment Center SFGH * Alzheimer's Association * Asian Women's Shelter * Bay Area Legal Aid * Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center * Bethany Center Senior Housing * California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform * Canon Kip Senior Center * Catholic Charities * Debra J. Dolch Fiduciary Services * Edgewood Center for Children & Families * Family Caregiver Alliance * Family Service Agency * Francis of Assisi Community * Glenn Hammel, Ph.D. * HGA Personal Care Consultants * Hearing Society for the Bay Area * Home Sweet Home Care * Independent Living Resource Center * IHSS Public Authority * IHSS Consortium * Italian-American Community Services Agency * Jewish Family & Children's Services * Kaiser Hospital * La Casa de las Madres * Laguna Honda Hospital * Lakeside Senior Medical Center * Legal Assistance to the Elderly * Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly * Marchi & Smith * Meals on Wheels of S.F. * National Council on the Aging * Network for Elders * New Leaf Outreach to Elders * Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach * Planning for Elders in the Central City * Recreational Center for the Handicapped * Riley Center * Russian American Community Services * St. Anthony Foundation * St. Francis Hospital * San Francisco Adult Day Support * San Francisco SAFE * Self-Help for the Elderly * Shalom Bayit * UCSF Mt. Zion Home Care * University Mound Ladies Home * Volunteer Legal Services Program/Bar Association of San Francisco * Woman, Inc.

General Consortium Information at IOA: (415) 750-4180 x222

Institute on Aging
415-750-4111
www.IOAging.org