

# 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.

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## October 2009

Greetings, 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  
Coordinator, Elder Abuse Services  
[eap@ioaging.org](mailto:eap@ioaging.org)  
415-750-4180 ext. 222

## Gatekeeper Submissions

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

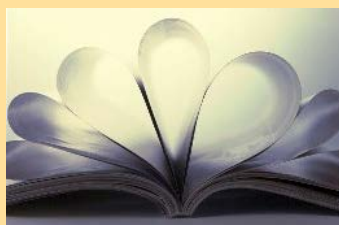
Want to include your event in our next publication?

Contact us:

[eap@ioaging.org](mailto:eap@ioaging.org)  
415) 750-4180 ext. 222

## Dispatches from the Field

### Elder Abuse Prevention (EAP)



#### Program Activities

The EAP program has been busy raising awareness about elder abuse. Here's what we've been doing.



#### Bus Shelter Ad Campaign

We collaborated with members of the San Francisco Elder Abuse Forensic Center on a bus shelter ad campaign. This idea evolved from Forensic Center meetings where it became apparent that several seniors had been approached at bus stops in the Richmond district and targeted for financial exploitation. The posters we produced aimed to raise awareness of several types of financial scams targeting seniors in our community (see the picture to the left.)

We will soon translate this ad into Spanish and Chinese to make it culturally relevant and representative of

current financial crimes being perpetrated in our communities. If you would like to assist us in this process, please email Talitha Guinn [tguinn@ioaging.org](mailto:tguinn@ioaging.org). Our goal is to have this project ready for next year's Elder Abuse Awareness Month.

### **Train the Trainer**

We also collaborated with Mary Twomey, MSW, Co-Director of the Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect at UC Irvine, to develop an effective train-the-trainer course. This course teaches people like you how to present elder abuse trainings to other professionals. The curriculum includes not only a PowerPoint presentation, handouts, and facts about elder abuse, but it also gives participants an opportunity to practice public speaking skills in a supportive environment with positively framed feedback. Our first class graduated 12 new trainers, many of whom have already gone on to train others in the community about elder abuse. We will be providing this training again in 2010, so check out the next issue of the Gatekeeper for further details.

### **Helen Karr, Esq. Retires from the District Attorney's Office**

Helen Karr, the much beloved elder justice advocate, has just retired from her position at the District Attorney's office. Helen decided to go to law school at the tender age of 60 and was sworn in as an attorney on her 64th birthday. She is a passionate, well informed, and thoughtful advocate for the senior community.



Helen was also appointed by Speaker of the Assembly Herb Wesson to the California Commission on Aging. Her testimony before the California legislature in 2005 was instrumental in passing a law that requires financial institutions to report suspected elder financial abuse. Her tireless advocacy also resulted in the legislature designating May as Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Month in California.

While Helen has retired from her position at the DA's office, she assures us that she will continue to fight elder abuse through her many other professional associations and activities.

### **Adult Protective Services (APS) Welcomes New Program Manager**

Julie Peck has been selected as the new San Francisco APS program manager. She is a licensed clinical social worker with many years' experience working in programs serving older adults and adults with disabilities. Most recently, she worked as manager of the Case Management Division of Aging and Adult Services Bureau in Contra Costa County, whose programs included APS, MSSP, Linkages, and Information and Assistance. She also has many years' experience working in long-term care and mental health programs. She has been described as someone who is an accomplished team builder, has strong clinical skills, and is experienced in working with the team to develop consistent standards of practice. She also comes with strong recommendations as a manager who can help build systems and advocate for APS. Julie has worked in San Francisco County (for DPH), San Mateo County, and Contra Costa County.



A Refuge.  
An Advocate.  
A Strong Voice  
Against Domestic  
Violence.

### **News from La Casa De Las Madres**

La Casa De Las Madres, one of the Bay Area's leading providers of services for those experiencing domestic violence, is in the process of launching a special project to develop services targeted to

older victims of domestic violence in San Francisco. In order to design outreach strategies and interventions that most effectively address the needs of older adults, La Casa De Las Madres is conducting a community needs assessment.

The community needs assessment will include two elements: an anonymous individual questionnaire and four focus groups. The questionnaire, which can be completed on paper or on-line, asks the respondent to indicate which types of services and outreach are likely to be the most helpful and effective. The focus groups will gather together women of shared cultural and/or linguistic backgrounds to discuss outreach and services strategies in greater detail. The focus groups will be conducted by a facilitator and translation services will be available.

The only criteria for participation in the community needs assessment is that participants must live and/or work in San Francisco.

The electronic version of the questionnaire can be found by clicking the link below:

[Questionnaire](#)

Please contact consultant Shelagh Little at (510) 433-0300 or [Shelagh@abbottlittle.com](mailto:Shelagh@abbottlittle.com)

[www.lacasadelasmadres.org](http://www.lacasadelasmadres.org)

## In the News

The Washington Post

### **When the Mind Falters, Is Sex a Choice?**

By Marie-Theresa Connolly Sunday, September 20, 2009

**Summary:** This article examines the complexities of cognitive capacity, dementia and decision making as these functions relate to human sexuality. It is a frank and thought-provoking article that is both well researched and well written. This is a subject that is sure to become more widely discussed as the Boomers generation ages.

[Read the article](#)

## Fraud and Scam Alerts

### **Local Ponzi Scheme**

Hundreds of Bay Area residents have fallen victim to a recent Ponzi scheme perpetrated by a long-time San Francisco resident and businessman. The FBI has taken over the investigation of this crime and while information is still being gathered, it appears that over 300 victims have lost a cumulative fortune conservatively estimated at 50 million dollars.



According to San Francisco Chronicle, the alleged perpetrator ran a tax preparation company on for over 30 years on Irving Street that he had inherited from his father. He gained the trust of his clients, convinced them to invest money with him and made payments to previous investors with the funds he obtained from new clients. In this way, his scam was a

typical Ponzi scheme; however, his investments seemed sound and the returns were conservative, averaging 4%-5%, allowing him to run his scam without raising concerns among his clients. Many of his victims had no idea that anything was amiss up to the very end, and most counted him as a close friend.

It appears that quite a few of his victims could well be Bay Area seniors; however, no elder abuse charges will be filed due to the fact that there are no federal elder abuse statutes on the books. Many elder abuse prevention advocates have noted that the Elder Justice Act would be useful in a case like this to bring additional charges against the defendant and provide additional funds for the investigation. (For more information on the Elder Justice Act, see the Legislative and Policy section below.)

The impact of these crimes is not merely financial since the emotional ramifications can be devastating. The Institute on Aging responded by hosting a community meeting on September 9, 2009 to offer support services and assess the needs of victims. This supportive intervention was well received and another meeting is being planned for November.

For more information about the community meeting or to RSVP please contact Talitha Guinn, Elder Abuse Services Coordinator 415-750-4180 ext. 222 or email [tguinn@ioaging.org](mailto:tguinn@ioaging.org)

[SF Chronicle article](#)

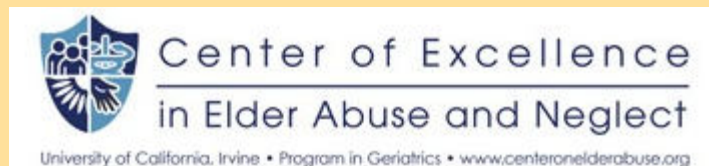
[ABC News article](#)



## Spotlight Research

Research is essential to moving the field of Elder Abuse forward. For this issue of Gatekeeper, we spotlight important research findings, and we connect you to current research projects that need participants.

### Research Findings



#### **Bruising in Older Adults: Accidental Bruising and Bruising from Physical Abuse**

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

- The 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 25% 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:

- Bruises caused by abuse are 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.
- Bruises could be anywhere, but note especially if they are on face, lateral or anterior (inner) 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.
- And please, Ask the older adult about bruises -- gently and in private; as 90% of older adults with bruises who have been physically abused can tell you how they got their bruises. This includes many older adults with memory problems and dementia.

For additional information visit [www.centeronelderabuse.org](http://www.centeronelderabuse.org) information,

## Current Research

### **Overwhelmed by too much stuff?**

A research study is taking place at the University of California, San Francisco to learn more about hoarding behaviors in older adults. If you are 65 or older, are English speaking, and believe you have hoarding and cluttering behaviors, we are looking for your participation! Participants will be interviewed by a nurse researcher. The interview takes about 90 minutes and participants will be paid \$20 as a thank you for time spent.

### **For more information about the study or to enroll, contact:**

Monika Eckfield, RN, PhD  
Phone: 650-219-0555.

### **Elder Mistreatment among Chinese and Korean Immigrants: An Exploration of Definitions and Experiences in a Community Setting**

This study will provide the basis for the development of an innovative, culturally competent tool for the measurement of elder mistreatment, intervention, and service coordination in order to meet the unique needs and concerns of mistreated Chinese and Korean older adults.

The goals of this project are (1) to develop and refine the theoretical and conceptual constructs of elder mistreatment in these two communities; (2) to increase our understanding of the sociocultural context of that mistreatment; and (3) to lay the groundwork for the development of a culturally congruent measure for Chinese and Korean immigrant older adults.

### **For more information contact:**

Dr. Yeon-Shim Lee, Assistant Professor, SFSU Social Work  
Phone: 415-405-0944 or Email: [YL375@sfsu.edu](mailto:YL375@sfsu.edu)

## Legislative & Policy News

## In the News

### Combating Financial Abuse of Elders

California Lawyer, A Daily Journal  
Publication, by Steve Riess  
August 2009



#### Excerpt:

Notwithstanding the record-breaking budget impasse, state lawmakers did something remarkable last year when they enacted Senate Bill 1140, a groundbreaking expansion of the rights of financially exploited elders. The new statute, written by Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), took effect this January and amends the Welfare and Institutions Code.

To read the full article click on the link below:

[California Lawyer](#)

## 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](mailto: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 service resources. All are welcome.

**When:** 12/10/2009 -- 1:30-3:00 PM

**Where:** 1650 Mission St. 4th floor

#### **Coordinating Council Meeting**

The Coordinating Council is a forum for networking and sharing information and ideas. Attendees are asked to bring business cards and flyers and give short updates regarding their projects. This is a good place to find collaborative partners and to brainstorm about advocacy efforts.

**When:** December 2009, 3-4:30 PM

**Where:** 3600 Geary Blvd. Inside ADHC

### IOA Events

The IOA Education Department provides numerous professional trainings, seminars, and continuing education (CE Credits) opportunities each year. For more information go to: <http://education.ioaging.org>

#### **Financial Elder Abuse - A Growing Shame!**

Presented by Erika Falk, PsyD, Director, Geriatric Assessment & Psychological Services, Institute on Aging

Increasingly, older adults are the vulnerable targets of identity theft and financial abuse scams. Too many seniors are being convinced to take out unsuitable home and other loans they don't need, to involve themselves in fraudulent investment, lottery or other scams.

Unfortunately, financial elder abuse doesn't only involve strangers, but too often involves a known person to the elder who is financially exploiting the elder; i.e., a family member, friend or caregiver. This session will present an overview of a number of the types of financial elder abuses, and will also present important information on how mandated reporters and others concerned can file appropriate complaints with Adult Protective Services, Ombudsman, and/or law enforcement officials.

**When:** November 5th -- 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

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

#### **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.

For more information email: [eap@ioaging.org](mailto:eap@ioaging.org) or call (415) 750-4180 x222

## Other Community Events

Please contact event host individually for more details.

### **Chinatown Resource Fair**

District Attorney Kamala Harris Invites you to the Chinatown Resource Fair.

Featuring: Help from many agencies for problem gambling, healthcare, housing, consumer fraud, emergency preparedness and information on elder abuse and domestic violence.

**When:** Saturday, October 24, 2009 -- 11AM to 2 PM

**Where:** Portsmouth Square at Washington and Kearny Streets

### **Alzheimer's Disease: Circle of Care**

5th Annual Education Conference for Families and Professionals

Featuring:

Dr. Charles DeCarli featured in HBO's The Alzheimer's Project: Momentum in Science and award winning dementia care specialist, Heather McKay

Plenary Closing by Alzheimer's Association's John Timbs: Caregiver Journeys: 20 Years of Learning Crowne Plaza Hotel

**When:** Saturday, October 24, 2009 -- 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Registration begins at 8:00 am

**Where:** Crowne Plaza Hotel

1221 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA

Online registration available at [www.alz.org/norcal](http://www.alz.org/norcal)

to request registration materials, please contact Blanca Vazquez: 800.272.3900 [education@alznorcal.org](mailto:education@alznorcal.org)

## 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:

[www.ioaging.org/gatekeeper/2009apr/resources.aspx](http://www.ioaging.org/gatekeeper/2009apr/resources.aspx)

If you have resources that you would like to see added to this list, please email [tquinn@ioaging.org](mailto:tquinn@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 \*



Institute on Aging  
415-750-4111  
[www.IOAging.org](http://www.IOAging.org)

According to San Francisco Chronicle, the alleged perpetrator ran a tax preparation company on for over 30 years on Irving Street that he had inherited from his father. He gained the trust of his clients, convinced them to invest money with him and made payments to previous investors with the funds he obtained from new clients. In this way, his scam was a typical Ponzi scheme; however, his investments seemed sound and the returns were conservative, averaging 4%-5%, allowing him to run his scam without raising concerns among his clients. Many of his victims had no idea that anything was amiss up to the very end, and most counted him as a close friend.

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