

## **NAPSA Launches Partnership on Elder Fatality Review Teams**

**Washington, DC** – The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) is partnering with the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (NCFRP) at the Michigan Public Health Institute to build and expand elder death review teams (EFRTs) in order to prevent deaths among older victims of maltreatment.

While older people die at higher rates than children and younger adults, research increasingly indicates that abuse, neglect, and exploitation may lead to premature death among older adults and people with disabilities. Lachs and Dong have found that elder victims of abuse are three times more likely to die within a given period as similar older adults who did not suffer abuse.

Multi-disciplinary fatality review teams have been in existence for well over two decades for children and at least 15 years in the domestic violence field. These teams identify factors that lead to untimely deaths and implement changes in various policies and practices to prevent similar deaths in the future. Elder fatality review teams examine fatalities related to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Establishment of these teams will substantially increase knowledge of how older victims of abuse are dying and the changes needed to prevent such deaths in the future.

Elder fatality review teams are currently being developed across the country. In 2011 NAPSA conducted a survey of all Adult Protective Services (APS) programs regarding elder fatality review teams in their state. Nineteen states indicated that they had an elder fatality review team at the state or county level. Since then there has been increasing interest in the development of these teams.

Despite this increased interest, there is currently no mechanism for linking teams to share information, best practices, and gather findings. The NAPSA and NCFRP partnership will build baseline data and develop the first national network for existing and developing teams. These efforts will include networking and resource opportunities such as a listserv and the sharing of information.

For anyone interested in EFRTs and this new networking initiative, there will be an information-sharing meeting from 12:30 – 1:30 PM on Tuesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> (room TBA) at the NAPSA Annual Conference at the Loews Hotel in Philadelphia. Attendees should bring their own lunches.

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