

# ELDER JUSTICE AT THE STATE LEVEL

Building an  
Infrastructure  
for Sustained  
Effort

**Iris C. Freeman  
Amanda Vickstrom  
Carmen Castaneda**

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Annual  
Conference  
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2014**

# CONTENT

- **Background**
  - The Vulnerable Adult Justice Project (VAJP)
  - The S.A.F.E. Minnesota Elders Initiative
  - Turning point and decision-making
  - Getting to a new level
- **Today and the foreseeable future**
  - Mission and early priorities
  - Partnerships and collaboration
  - Replication
- **What this means for Adult Protective Services in our state**
  - Community support for APS
  - Legislation that works
  - APS staff enrichment
- **Discussion**

# MINNESOTA ELDER JUSTICE CENTER

Roots,  
assets,  
process

# NAPSA 2012 CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

- The Vulnerable Adult Justice Project – began 2007
- Diverse stakeholders
- Academic partner
- Legislative initiatives with an organizational outcome
- Shared purposes
- Policy initiatives through 2013

# THE GOOD SIGNS

- Meaningful deadlines
- Written record [www.vajp.org](http://www.vajp.org)
- Reaching the passage of legislative priorities
- Working to measure system outcomes
- Attendance was growing with newly interested people from many disciplines.

# GREAT BIG CHALLENGES

- Attaining and maintaining purpose and focus
- Inclusivity without losing purpose and focus
- Common ground that means more than lowest common denominator
- Informality (despite the rigor) – unincorporated, no by-laws, budget or formal operating protocols
- Resources and sustainability

# NAPSA 2013 CONFERENCE PLENARY

- a multimedia, multidisciplinary collaborative

The image is a composite graphic. The top left features the text 'S.A.F.E. Elders' in white, bold, sans-serif font against a dark background with a repeating floral pattern. Below this, the background transitions to a light blue-grey color. On the left side, there is a small, dark, oval-shaped portrait of a person. To the right of the portrait, the text 'stop abuse & financial exploitation' is written in a black, monospaced, typewriter-style font. The overall image has a soft, blurred quality.

S.A.F.E. Elders

stop abuse &  
financial exploitation



# S.A.F.E. MINNESOTA ELDERS

- Documentary film made in cooperation with TPT-Minnesota
- [www.safemn.org](http://www.safemn.org) website with film, tool kit for training, and additional resource information
- App for investigators
- Prosecutors' Trial Notebook
- Increased requests for speakers on elder abuse topics
- Increased media attention

# TIPPING POINT



# WHAT WAS OUR INVENTORY IN JUNE 2013?

<b>Vulnerable Adult Justice Project</b>	<b>S.A.F.E. Minnesota Elders Initiative</b>
<b>Multidisciplinary collaborative</b>	<b>Multidisciplinary collaborative</b>
<b>2007 – present</b>	<b>2012 - present</b>
<b>Monthly in-person meetings with program agenda and ongoing initiatives</b>	<b>Monthly telephone meetings for planning and maintaining educational initiatives</b>
<b>Participants – approx. 50 orgs, assoc., public agencies</b>	<b>Partners/Participants – approx. 40 orgs, assoc., public agencies</b>

# WHAT WAS OUR INVENTORY IN JUNE 2013?

**Budget - William Mitchell College of Law provided \$7500 and space from 2008-13. Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, WMCL will provide \$3200 (Iris' adjunct salary) and space through June 30, 2014.**

**Purpose: ongoing network for monthly informational meetings and researching, planning, & advocating change in laws and service system**

**Budget – Project located and staffed in Anoka County Attorney's office. \$60,000 raised from among the partners/participants to produce the video, duplicate educational materials and begin the website. That budget is close to depleted.**

**Purpose: produce documentary and toolkit for training for WEAAD premier, 6/14/13; ongoing training resources to professionals and the broader public**

# WHAT WAS OUR INVENTORY IN JUNE 2013?

<b>Notable: law student policy research; advances in state law; WEAAD annual professional conference; provide resources (info and presenters) for other interdisciplinary training events; highly regarded locally and nationally; have an offer of pro bono help to file for IRS 501(c)(3), as an independent nonprofit, from an attorney at a prominent MN firm</b>	<b>Notable: partnership with TPT-MN; capacity to raise funds for concrete initiatives; law student R&amp;D for mobile investigators' app and prosecutors' trial notebook</b>
<b>Website: <a href="http://www.vajp.org">www.vajp.org</a> (archives VAJP meetings, subcommittee work, and plentiful historical documents and reports)</b>	<b>Website: <a href="http://www.safemn.org">www.safemn.org</a> (resources for training and professional development)</b>
<b>As we stood then...considerable high regard and support, but no sustainability plan nor funds.</b>	<b>As we stood then...considerable high regard and support, but no sustainability plan nor funds.</b>

# IGNITING CONVERSATION

- Starting with leaders of VAJP and S.A.F.E. (And btw, the first time is NOT a charm.)
- Meeting with leaders in aging, victim services, and community advocacy (AARP)
- Analysis of where we were, other models around the country, potential resources, opportunities with deadlines, and a decision to move forward
- Start-up grant proposal to Wells Fargo Advisors

# STEERING COMMITTEE

- Iris Freeman (Coordinator, VAJP)
- Tony Palumbo (Anoka County Attorney, S.A.F.E.)
- Amanda Vickstrom (ditto)
- Sean Burke (Legal Aid, active in both projects)
- Amy McDonough (AARP, active in both projects)
- Carmen Castaneda (APS and VAJP leader)
- Sue Voigt (Health Lawyer, VAJP leader)
- Suzy Scheller (Elder Lawyer, focus on victims)
- Connie Moore (Alexandra House, Domestic Abuse expert, S.A.F.E)

# COMMITMENT

- Work with College to assure meeting space for VAJP and steering committee meetings through June 30, 2014.
- Arrange for free or affordable space for after that.
- Combine and incorporate the projects with volunteer legal assistance – graciously offered by local tax attorney
- Founders' Board of 3 people, with continuing work by steering committee
- Gain IRS 501(c)(3) status (granted in July 2014)
- Generate donors for start-up, at least enough to hire a full-time staff person
- Develop a Board of Directors that reflects the diversity of stakeholders in the VAJP and S.A.F.E.



# THE TO-DO LIST

- Monthly steering committee meetings (by phone) with tight agendas, deadlines, and assignments
- Business plan
- Fundraising plan
- Marketing plan
- Ongoing conversations with the College about academic partnership, space considerations, rental costs for office and monthly stakeholders meetings, and auditorium/breakout room space for the annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.
- Logo design
- Website development
- Taking the conversation to our networks and asking for support
- Do it all fast enough and well enough to announce a new Center at the 2014 WEAAD Conference!

# ANNOUNCING THE NEW CENTER WEAAD CONFERENCE JUNE 2014



Opened office on October 1, 2014, The Vulnerable Adult  
Justice Project + S.A.F.E. Elders Initiative =

MINNESOTA  
ELDER JUSTICE  
CENTER

RENEWED  
AND  
EXPANDED  
WORK TO  
PROTECT  
VULNERABLE  
ADULTS

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF

- Iris C. Freeman, President, Adjunct Professor, WMCL
- Suzy Scheller, Secretary, Scheller Legal Services
- Sue Voigt, Treasurer, Voigt, Rodè, & Boxeth, LLC
- Connie Moore, Executive Director, Alexandra House
- Sandi Lubrant, Co-Chair, VAJP Public Awareness Committee
- Sue Gray, Reference and Circulation Librarian, College of St. Catherine
- Scott Campbell, Duluth PD, Retired
- Jean Fichtel, Executive Vice-President, U.S. Bank
- Mamie Segall, Chief Administrative Officer, Fairview Pharmacy and Clinical Services
- Amanda Vickstrom, MPP, Executive Director

# ANCHOR DONORS 2014-15

- Wells Fargo Advisors
- Minnesota Board on Aging
- Care Providers of Minnesota
- AARP Minnesota
- Minnesota County Attorneys
- Aging Services of Minnesota

# TODAY AND FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE

Mission,  
priorities,  
work

# MISSION

**Mobilizing communities to  
prevent and alleviate abuse,  
neglect, and financial exploitation  
of elders and vulnerable adults**

# ACTION FOR THE FUTURE

- Public awareness
- Professional education and practice
- Public policy



# CENTER PRIORITIES 2014-15

## IN A NUTSHELL

### ■ Administrative Capacity/Budget

- Establish office
- Develop Board of Directors
- Hire Staff
- Further develop and diversify funding
- Strategic planning

### ■ Public Awareness

- Merge [www.vajp.org](http://www.vajp.org) and [www.safemn.org](http://www.safemn.org) websites to become [www.elderjusticemn.org](http://www.elderjusticemn.org)
- Outreach to faith communities

# PRIORITIES IN A NUTSHELL - 2

## ■ Professional Education/Practice

- Outreach to financial services
- Research opportunities and fellowships for law students
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

## ■ Public Policy

- Sustain VAJP as the “Center Partners” meetings and working groups
- Within capacity, present or monitor pertinent legislation during the 2015 session
- Build capacity for biennial “Elder Justice Summit” at the MN Legislature, beginning in 2016

# PARTNERSHIPS

- Funders
- National Center on Elder Abuse
- “Center Partners”
  - Formerly Vulnerable Adult Justice Project and MN SAFE Elders Initiative

# CENTER PARTNERS

## THREE COMMITTEES TO BEGIN

- **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference Committee**
  - Annual Statewide Conference
- **Professional Education/Practice Committee**
  - Identify topics and speakers for monthly Center Partners' meetings
  - Identify opportunities for Center staff, Board and volunteers to deliver professional education sessions and material.
- **Public Policy Committee**
  - Current Service/Resource Needs, Civil law, and Criminal Code Committees combine to advance research, legislative and administrative advocacy in any of these areas

# OPERATIONS = COLLABORATION

- Operating Budget
- Key Staff
- BOARD AND VOLUNTEERS

# REPLICATING THIS WORK

- Multidisciplinary partners – advocates, APS, Ombudsman, government officials, law enforcement, prosecution, funders...
- Determine Need
- Determine Mission
- Start up money (likely from your multidisciplinary partners)
- Need a champion who will do the work (likely for free) to get the project off the ground

# ESSENTIAL REMINDERS

- Strategic Plan – develop one and use it!
- Can't do it all in year one (or even year two)
- Don't just follow the money...but do go after the “right” money
- Follow your mission – a good organization is not all things for all people.

# APS ROLES IN THE CENTER'S WORK

Collaboration  
on the  
education  
and policy  
levels



# APS: NO LONGER ALONE

- Protecting elderly and disabled vulnerable adults is bigger than intervention by social services.
  - “It takes a village.”
  - Multiple perspectives from varying disciplines.
  - The community owns the problems and the solutions.
- Like NAPSA, the Center creates a forum for
  - Information sharing
  - Problem solving
  - Improving the quality of services for maltreated vulnerable adults

# APS GETS A LOCAL PLATFORM FOR SUPPORT

- **Real faces, Real cases: Minnesota!**
  - APS workers recognized for role as “Boots on the Ground”
  - Case reviews put a face on the problem of vulnerable adult maltreatment
  - Civil and criminal court cases presented for analysis
  - App for investigators puts information at your fingertips
- **Organizational support for resource development and education**
  - Cross-training occurs on relevant topics (hoarding, guardianships, mediation, background studies, protective orders, power of attorney, scams, prosecution, court cases)
  - Working groups help guide practice
  - Public policy needs are identified and negotiated
  - Research is focused on service needs and best practices.

# LEGISLATION THAT WORKS

- **Bipartisan support for legislation**
  - Multiple stakeholders vetted the issues.
  - Lawmakers trust the Center's legislative positions.
  - APS agencies don't have to stand alone.
- **Legislation supports adult protection**
  - Enhanced laws and penalties to combat financial exploitation
  - Clarified hardship waivers for Medical Assistance (Medicaid) for victims of exploitation
  - Vulnerable adult maltreatment review panel strengthened
  - Higher penalties for caregiver neglect/deprivation

# MINNESOTA GOVERNOR SIGNS VULNERABLE ADULT LEGISLATION 2009



# MINNESOTA GOVERNOR SIGNS VULNERABLE ADULT LEGISLATION 2011





# APS STAFF ENRICHMENT

- Monthly networking opportunities with other Center participants
  - APS workers from other counties
  - State regulatory agencies
  - Law enforcement/county attorneys (prosecutors)
  - Medical professionals
  - Care providers
  - Advocates
  - Consumers/family members
  - Legislators
  - Financial institution representatives
  - Private non-profit agencies

# CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Iris C. Freeman, MSW**
  - President, Minnesota Elder Justice Center; Adjunct Professor, Elder Law Externship
  - William Mitchell College of Law
  - 875 Summit Avenue
  - St. Paul, MN 55105
  - Email: [iris.freeman@wmitchell.edu](mailto:iris.freeman@wmitchell.edu)
  - Phone: 612/834-4747 (direct)
  
- **Amanda Vickstrom, MPP**
  - Executive Director, Minnesota Elder Justice Center
  - William Mitchell College of Law
  - 875 Summit Avenue - #334
  - St. Paul, MN 55104
  - Email: [amanda.vickstrom@elderjusticemn.org](mailto:amanda.vickstrom@elderjusticemn.org)
  - Phone: 651/695-7646
  
- **Carmen Castaneda, MSW, LICSW, Human Services Program Manager**
  - Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department
  - Adult Protection Services
  - A-1400 Government Center
  - 300 South Sixth Street
  - Minneapolis, MN 55487-0140
  - Email: [carmen.castaneda@hennepin.us](mailto:carmen.castaneda@hennepin.us)
  - Phone: 612/348-6978