ELDER JUSTICE AT THE STATE LEVEL

Building an Infrastructure for Sustained Effort
Iris C. Freeman
Amanda Vickstrom
Carmen Castaneda
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
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
- 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
a multimedia, multidisciplinary collaborative

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerable Adult Justice Project</th>
<th>S.A.F.E. Minnesota Elders Initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary collaborative</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary collaborative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 – present</td>
<td>2012 - present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monthly in-person meetings</td>
<td>Monthly telephone meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with program agenda and ongoing</td>
<td>for planning and maintaining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>initiatives</td>
<td>educational initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants – approx. 50 orgs,</td>
<td>Partners/Participants – approx. 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assoc., public agencies</td>
<td>orgs, assoc., public agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget - William Mitchell College of Law</strong></td>
<td><strong>Budget - Project located and staffed in Anoka County Attorney’s office.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>provided $7500 and space from 2008-13. Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, WMCL will provide $3200 (Iris’ adjunct salary) and space through June 30, 2014.</td>
<td>raised from among the partners/participants to produce the video, duplicate educational materials and begin the website. That budget is close to depleted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> ongoing network for monthly informational meetings and researching, planning, &amp; advocating change in laws and service system</td>
<td><strong>Purpose:</strong> produce documentary and toolkit for training for WEAAD premier, 6/14/13; ongoing training resources to professionals and the broader public</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WHAT WAS OUR INVENTORY IN JUNE 2013?**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>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</th>
<th>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</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.vajp.org">www.vajp.org</a> (archives VAJP meetings, subcommittee work, and plentiful historical documents and reports)</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://www.safemn.org">www.safemn.org</a> (resources for training and professional development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As we stood then...considerable high regard and support, but no sustainability plan nor funds.</td>
<td>As we stood then...considerable high regard and support, but no sustainability plan nor funds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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.)
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
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
Administrative Capacity/Budget
- Establish office
- Develop Board of Directors
- Hire Staff
- Further develop and diversify funding
- Strategic planning

Public Awareness
- Merge www.vajp.org and www.safemn.org websites to become 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.
Collaboration on the education and policy levels

APS ROLES IN THE CENTER’S WORK
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.
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
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
  - 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
  - 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 55401
  - Email: carmen.castaneda@hennepin.us
  - Phone: 612/348-6978