

Law Enforcement and Adult Protective Services WORKING TOGETHER

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INTRODUCTION

- Working in the Criminal Justice System since 1998
- Former Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at UMUC
- Investigator in the following sections:
 - Homicide
 - Adult Sex Crimes
 - Child Physical/Sexual Abuse
 - Member of Federal Task Force

Current Assignment

- Supervising the following:
 - Adult Sex Crimes Section
 - Domestic Violence Section
 - Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse Section

Member OF:

- National Institutes of Justice SAFER Working Group
- National Association of Adult Protective Services
- Maryland Domestic Violence Network
- Maryland Commission on Aging
- Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force
- WEEAD Co-Chair for Montgomery County
 - 2014 and 2015

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Member Of:

- National Association of Social Workers
- National Adult Protective Services Association
- Maryland State, Office of Adult Services Policy + Practice Initiative Implementation Advisory Board
- FAST of America (Financial Abuse Specialist Team)
- Montgomery County Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force
- Montgomery County WEAAD Co-Chair (2014-2015)

WHY ARE WE HERE?



Traditional Police Investigations

- Go to the scene
- Get the story from the victim
- Gather evidence
- Find the suspect
- Arrest the suspect
- Transfer the case to the court
- Go on to the next case

Traditional APS Investigations

- Receive an intake from your supervisor
- Attempt contact with the victim to assess them
- Make a determination if the victim requires more assistance
 - Long term assistance
 - Something short term
- Possibly discuss bringing the police in to charge the matter
 - But then there's that matter of HIPPA
- Close or transfer case as appropriate
- Go on to the next case

GRAND SCHEME

- Law Enforcement and APS Investigators conduct a very similar job
- YOU ARE LOOKING TO HELP YOUR VICTIM
 - *And get the suspect away from the victim*
- The methods for this are a little different and there are rules that each group (Police & APS) must follow in order to comply

A little into what the Police are doing

- Most police have little or no interaction with social workers
- When they do:
 - Lack of direct communication
 - Police want to know why APS isn't stepping in faster
- In my experience,
 - Police are frustrated and continue without the social worker

WHY WOULD LE DO THAT?

- Police are taught:
 - Hunt down the suspect and lock him up
 - Take control of any situation
 - Be the “go-to” person for all facets of the investigation
 - To limit the information they receive to other sources with in LE only
 - Fear of information being released and harming the case

APS

- Taught to:
 - Help the victim
 - Assess the victim
 - Provide for the victim
 - Keep information about the victim, and the circumstances confidential
 - HIPPA
 - Continue with follow-up

DO YOU SEE THE DISCONNECT?

Do you have any examples?

How did we fix this problem?

The Right People, in the Right Place, at the Right Time

How We broke down the Barriers

- APS and MCPD Got Together:
 - It was an open meeting where we discussed the idea of pairing up our people for criminal investigation
 - APS started sending MCPD all of their intakes
 - MCPD Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse Investigations soared
 - 2012: 11
 - 2013: 58
 - 2014: 136
 - 2015: 76 (as of 8/31/15)

EVTAAF

- Elder/Vulnerable Adult Abuse Task Force
 - MCPD
 - APS
 - SAO
 - Ombudsman
- This group meets at the Family Justice Center once a month
 - Can have instant meetings if needed

EVTA AF

- MOUs in place
 - HIPPA not an issue in a criminal investigation, as long as it's open
 - If closed, then subpoena relevant records
- The face-to-face collaboration is what makes this work
- Now we all know each other and those mysteries about each agency have been debunked

Police Investigations

- Go to the scene
- Talk to the victim
- Gather evidence
- Interview/interrogate the suspect
- Arrest
- Court
- Prison/Jail

Police Investigation

- Can take a long time
- Other times, they are fast
- Police want to minimize the re-victimization of victim by interviewing only once or twice
 - Further interviews may produce conflicting statements for court
- Due to that, APS and MCPD conduct victim interviews together as much as possible
- The same with suspect interviews

Interacting with the Police

REMEMBER!

**POLICE ARE TAUGHT TO
CONTROL EVERY SITUATION
THEY ARE INVOLVED IN**

Interacting with Police

- Need to get the supervisors together and lay out the ground rules
- If that's not possible, then do this

POLICE/APS Contact?

How many in here have had experiences with the Police?

GREAT Experiences?

POOR EXPERIENCES?

What could BOTH sides have done better?

Remember one of the Biggest things

The Criminal Code has no
emotion, just rules!

Police want to do more, but
sometimes they cannot

Interacting with Police

- As the APS Agent
 - Explain your role **IN PERSON!**
 - In person goes a long way to creating open channels of communication
 - Listen to the Detective
 - If you feel the case isn't getting the attention it deserves, have your supervisor contact the detective's supervisor
 - The police will call if they feel the investigation isn't going well
 - **KEEP THOSE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN**

Interviewing a victim with LE

- Police Detectives are attempting to gather as much information in these interviews.
- Allow the detective to gather what he/she needs and do not interrupt
- Then ask your questions in front of the Detective.
- Remember, you have a huge advantage here, the Detective does not have your knowledge base, this can help his/her case
- **FINALLY:** This way we only make the victim tell the story once

Interview a Suspect with LE

- Follow your local jurisdictional protocols.
- If possible
 - Sit in the interrogation or, watch from a one-way mirror or closed circuit television
 - Have a microphone to communicate to the Detectives
 - If you are in the room, do not say anything unless instructed to do so by the Detective
 - There are lots of rules in interrogation and if you begin your own interview without being cued by the Detective you could damage the criminal case by accident

Interviewing

- Take lots of notes
- Make sure to ask for a copy of the interview/interrogation
 - Interview: Free to Leave
 - Interrogation: You are not free to leave

Meeting with Prosecutor

- Go with your Detective to this meeting, get to know the Prosecutors in your jurisdiction
 - Meet face-to-face
- Prosecutors will review the case and provide a possible to-do list that both you and the Detective can handle

Court and Testimony

- Testimony isn't easy
- Practice makes perfect
- The Prosecutor should prepare you
- Know your case inside and out

Follow-Up

- Review the investigation with your Detective
- Find points to work on for next time
- Exchange final case reports
- Conduct training together
 - Interview/interrogation and physical training

ANY
QUESTIONS?