Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams

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Participate on an MDT?


Virginia

How many states have an MDT statute?

EA MDT Statutory Review
- 13 States with a Multidisciplinary Team Statute

- 2 states and the District of Columbia permit joint investigations

- 14 state statues contain permissive language

- 16 states make some provisions for sharing information

- 5 states are relatively silent on the issue of information sharing

The Concept of Elder Abuse has Expanded

The increased attention given to elder abuse has illuminated system failures.

An Elder Abuse Case Example:
Response by Multiple Systems

Elderly Victim   Medical

Elderly Victim

Medical

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Elderly Victim

Medical

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Law Enforcement

Elderly Victim

Medical

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Law Enforcement

Elderly Victim

Medical

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Law Enforcement

Neighbors

Medical

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Aging Services Network

Elderly Victim

Law Enforcement

District Attorney

Medical

Neighbors

Elderly Victim

Adult Protective Services (APS)Elder Abuse Services

Aging Services Network

Law Enforcement District Attorney Medical
Neighbor Elderly Victim
Adult Protective Services (APS) Elder Abuse Services Aging Services Network

An uncoordinated system
is problematic because…

MDTs

- Part 1. What is an MDT
- Part 2. Training
- Part 3. Case Review
- Part 4. Research & Evaluation

Two Assumptions

- Complex cases require a complex response
- No one system can address all the needs of an older victim

Part 1:
What is an MDT?

Definition

- I.   A group of people

- II.   bound by a common purpose,

- III. typically comprised of five characteristics:
  - Sharing
  - Partnership
  - Interdependency
  - Power
 - Process

I. A Group of People

A Group of People

- Geriatricians
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Law enforcement
- Long-term care ombudsman
  Sexual assault nurse examiners
- Neuropsychologists
- Clinical psychologists
- Mental health practitioners
- Domestic violence advocates
- Sexual assault advocates
- Regulatory agencies

- Civil attorneys
- Guardianship programs
- Aging services organizations
- Faith communities
- Financial institutions
- Meals on Wheels
- Consumer protection agencies
- Hospital discharge planner
- Probation and parole
- Emergency Medical Treatment
- Animal advocates
- Housing authority

Financial Abuse Specialist Teams (FAST)

- Trust accounts
- Real estate (e.g. realtors, public interest lawyers)
- Estate fraud (escrow officers)
- Insurance (e.g. licensed agents or representatives from state departments of insurance)
- Stockbrokers
- Forensic accountants

- Trust attorneys
- Estate planners
- financial planners
- Medicaid fraud investigators
- Regional representatives of the SSA
- Guardians
- Daily money management services

Expertise Diversity

I can offer the team...

The team can offer me...

APS

Law Enforcement

Health Care System

Innovation

Conflict

9
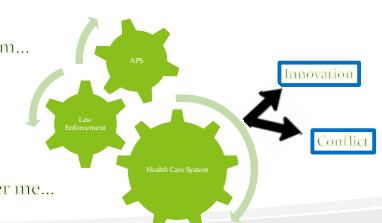
MDT Coordinator

- Transformational Leadership Skills

  - Equalize participation
  - Credible
  - Time
  - Recruitment
  - Facilitation skills
  - Confrontation skills
  - Sense of humor

Unifying Expertise Diversity

- Focus on my contribution
- Focus on team goal(s)

Over Time
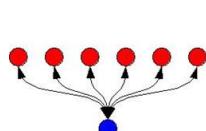
GROUP
people working towards a goal whose work is coordinated by someone else (e.g. a manager) for them
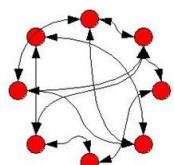
TEAM
people working towards a common goal who coordinate their work amongst themselves

Face-to-Face Interaction

Team Commitment

Team building requires individual commitment.
Jeffrey Benjamin
meetville.com

Building Relationships

TRUST
Takes years to build,
seconds to break and
forever to repair.

■■ Greater than the sum…

■■

Innovation

"Over time, belonging to a group changes
the ways
its members view the world."

(Levi, 2014)

■■■ II. Bound by a Common Purpose

▍■■

Older Adult

■■■ III. Five Characteristics

- Sharing

- Partnership

- Interdependency

- Power

- Process

A. Sharing

Information Sharing
- Statutory Review

- Confidentiality does not preclude information sharing

- Consent to Exchange Information
  http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/dfs/as/aps/intro_page/forms/032-01-0005-00-eng.pdf

- Discoverability

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Group Decision Making

B. Partnership

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or
Interagency Agreement (IAA)

- Models available

C. Interdependence

D. Balanced Power

Leveling Power Differentials

E. Process
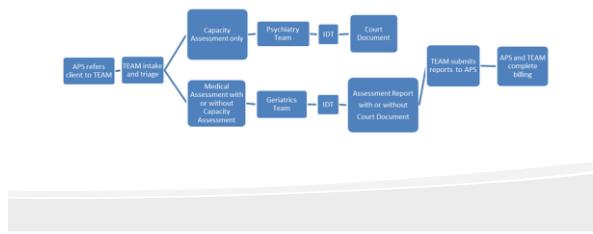
Translating Decisions into Protocols, Linkage Agreements, and Policies

Conflict Resolution

Formalization

Greater than the sum…

Part 2:
Training

Three Types of Training

- Professional Development and Elder Abuse

- MDT Training

- Cross Training

Professional
DEVELOPMENT
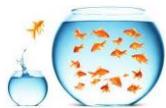
MDT Training

...simply putting people together in groups, representing many disciplines, does not necessarily guarantee the development of a shared understanding.

...The extra ingredient that turns a group of professionals from different disciplines into an effective working team...[is] the creation of a new way of working...[which] can only emerge and develop through **intense interactions**. Ratcheva, 2009

"EVERYONE YOU
WILL EVER MEET
KNOWS SOMETHING
YOU DON'T."

-BILL NYE-

VIA 9GAG.COM

Cross Training

"A multidisciplinary team approach to working with this population rests on the capacity to arrive at a common understanding [of the problem]..." Koenig, Leiste, & Spano, 2013

Topics

- Confidentiality
- Governing state statute
- Language/terms/jargon
- Agency constraints
- Conceptualizing, defining, identifying elder abuse
- Philosophy and ethics
- Acceptable outcomes

Part 3:
Case Review

Purpose

- Case Review

- System Review

- Case Consultation

- Community/Professional Education/Training

Case Review Logistics

- Where

- How frequently

- How long

- Which cases will be reviewed

| Meeting Launch |
| Case Presentation |
| Discussion of the Case |
| Potential Recommendations Identified |
| Consensus Decision(s) |
| Follow-up |
| Report Back to MDT |

New York City Elder Abuse Center

http://nyceac.com/quick-clips/
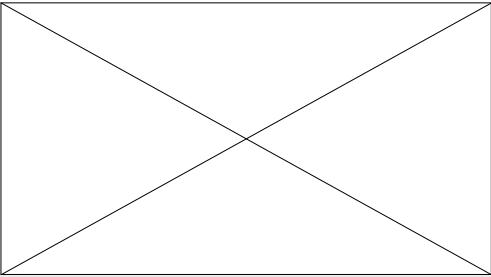
Case Presentation

- Date of first referral
- Why the client was referred (to APS or some other agency)
- Who referred the client
- Why was the case referred to the MDT
- Any cultural issues (country of origin, language spoken, religion)
- A description of the victim and perpetrator's living arrangement
- Is this a first time referral or have there been multiple referrals
- Any additional problems identified during the assessment
- What interventions were done or attempted
- Any known obstacles to intervention
- Describe any significant changes in the environment
- Any changes in subsequent visits
- Explicitly ask the MDT "What are the goals for this case?"

What We Need

- More information from a neighbor

- Interview perpetrator

- A capacity assessment

- Bank statements

- Services

Report Back to MDT

Bound by a Common Purpose:
What does the older adult want?

Part 4:
Research & Evaluation

Evaluations of MDTs

- Prosecution (Navarro, Gassoumis, & Wilber, 2013)

- Guardianship (Gassoumis, Navarro, & Wilber, 2014)

- More intervention for offenders (Alon & Warman, 2013)

- Greater APS morale and confidence (Alon & Warman, 2013)

Elder Justice Forensic Center (Navarro et al. 2013)

- Increased the odds of submission to the DA by 2x

- Increased the odds of charges being filed by 2x

- Increased the odds of a plea or conviction by 3x

The Philadelphia APS Bank Reporting and Loss Prevention Program (Snyder, 2013)

- Report suspicion to Loss Prevention Department
  - Reports to APS
    - Maintain relationship throughout investigation

- $2.2m loss prevention
  - $62.5m in assets protected

- Employees are relieved

Protocols

- The Philadelphia APS Bank Reporting and Loss Prevention Program http://www.napsa-now.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Phila-Project-Report-FINAL.pdf

- Maine's Senior Safe http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oads/aging/aps/bank_training.htm (not grant funded)

- Oregon https://www.oregonbankers.com/community/elder-exploitation-prevention/
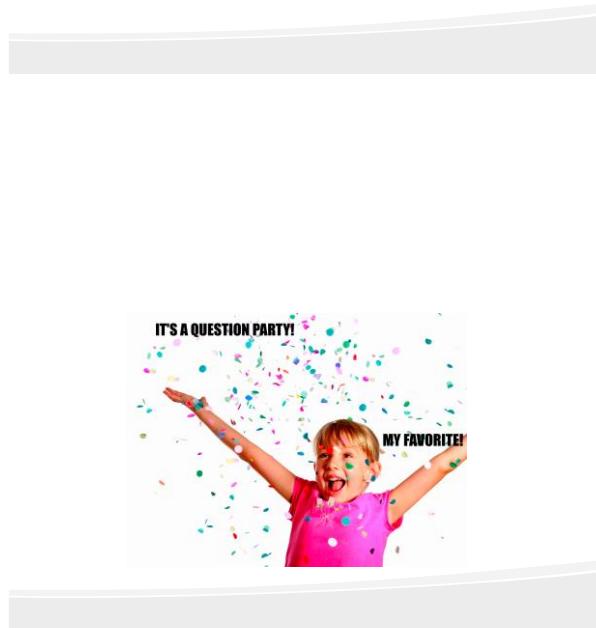
Benefits

ASK ME ANYTHING

Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams:
PLANNING
FOR THE **FUTURE**

NYC EAC
MDT Symposium
September 2014

RISA BRECKMAN, LCSW   Director - NYC Elder Abuse Center
JEAN CALLAHAN, ESQ, MSW   Director - The Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging
JOY SOLOMON, ESQ   Director and Managing Attorney - The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale

There's got to be a Better Way!

Developing a n Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team in Your Community

STONE SOUP
by Marcia Brown
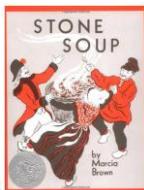
THANK YOU

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