



ONE GOAL, DIFFERENT APPROACHES: HOW APS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATES ADVANCE CLIENT SAFETY

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Presenters

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Who Is Here?

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- APS
- DV/SA Community Advocates
- System-Based Advocates
- Attorneys (Civil and Criminal) and Courts
- Aging Services
- Faith Community
- Health Care
- Other

Goals of This Workshop

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- List barriers older victims of abuse in later life experience as they attempt to navigate their complex circumstances.
- Describe how to draw on victim strengths, lived experience and natural allies to build cooperative relationships with clients.
- Identify the similarities and differences in how APS and Domestic Violence advocates approach safety planning.
- Describe how APS and Domestic Violence professionals can work with clients to develop comprehensive safety plans.

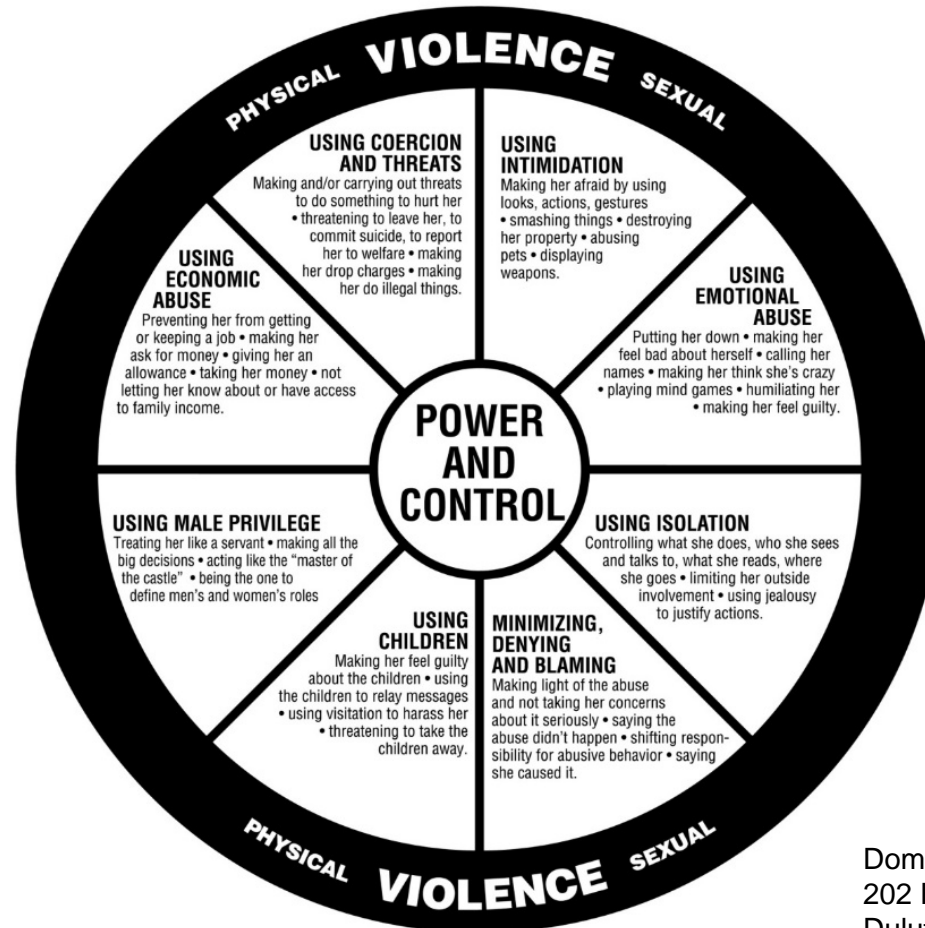
Understanding the Victim's World

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“In Their Own Words” Lois and Sam

Duluth Power and Control Wheel



Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
202 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
218-722-2781 • www.duluth-model.org

NCALL Abuse in Later Life Power and Control Wheel

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Wheel adapted with permission from Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, MN in 2006.

Tactics

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- Not a single incident; attack on person, their safety, control over any aspect of their life, values and beliefs
- Some violent some not.
- Violence is intermittent and in some ways unpredictable.



How Victims Respond to Abuser's Tactics

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- Many victims are not cognitively impaired or vulnerable so these cases may not come to APS.
 - What do you do if a case comes to you and you find that person ineligible to your services?
- Effect of tactics is that abuser defines reality for victim and victim constantly assesses life in terms of anticipating and managing the abuser's demands.

Barriers to Working With Victims

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What Does Victim Want?

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- Stop the abuse and violence
- May not want to end the relationship
- May be unable to end the relationship
- **Goals may not be what systems want**

What Does Victim Want?

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- ❑ Not want to see spouse, child or grandchild arrested, charged, or incarcerated
- ❑ Offender may be source of income and/or caregiver for victim
- ❑ Victim may be caregiver for perpetrator
- ❑ Fear loss of connection with grandchildren or community
- ❑ Fear bringing disrespect on greater community
- ❑ Fear of being judged by responders (gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, immigrants, limited English)
- ❑ What other reasons in your community?

Victim Responses

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Some responses may be hard to understand

- Take abuser's side, not report, recant, reject APS offers of service
- Return to the abuser and the relationship
- Not speak with responders
- Minimize what has happened

Institutional Responses to Victims

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- Historical trauma/ cultural & racial issues
- Religious beliefs and teachings
- Criminal Justice and Court Responses
- Resulting in beliefs not be believed or helped or help will be worse than the situation



Institutional Responses: Mandatory Reporting (MR)

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Possible Benefits of MR

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- May increase number of cases identified and reported
- If victim cannot report authorities can be notified
- Takes responsibility off victim to initiate a report
- May be additional services and resources for APS clients
- Other

Possible Problems with MR

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- Not what the victim may want (self-determination and autonomy), especially if victim has decisional capacity
- Victim does not control what happens and who is informed

Possible Problems with MR-2

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- May be a hollow promise and actually increase danger
 - Inadequate services
 - Create expectations that cannot be met
 - APS/LE may not understand ALL/DVLL
 - APS/LE policies may increase danger—mandatory arrest, requirement that worker notify alleged perpetrator of allegation and interview or requirement that APS notify perpetrator of investigative conclusions and findings

DV Programs and MR

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- Are you mandated reporters of EA/VAA?
 - If so, how communicate that information to clients?
 - Ethical communication
 - If everyone a mandated reporter or just some staff (e.g., by licensure)?
 - Policy who does interviews and who reports

APS Concerns with MR

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- Duty to cross report to LE suspected crimes?
 - Not what client wants
 - Safety concerns
 - Barrier to gaining client trust and building an effective relationship with client?

Working with Victims/Clients/Survivors

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- In domestic and sexual violence movements described as “empowerment”
- In APS described as “self-determination”
- Both built on principle of listening to victims and recognizing a victim’s strengths

APS and DV Programs Working Together

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- Are there positive relationships? What do we have in common?
- Are APS and DV Programs referring to each other?
- Are there opportunities for Cross-Training?



Common Ground

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- Focus on victim safety
- Wanting a better life for the victim
- Wanting the abuse to stop
- Wanting to improve current responses

Victim-Centered Approach

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- Respect victim confidentiality and privacy
- Keep focused on victim safety and offender accountability
- Avoid assumptions about what is best for the victim
- Take direction from victim
- Work together to overcome barriers and obstacles

Benefits of Different Approaches

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- More complete picture
- Victim autonomy and safety
- Coordination of services
- Provides more resources and less duplication of services
- More holistic approach
- Overcome agency limitations

Working with Clients to Enhance Safety

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- DV Approach: ***Believe the Client***
 - Empowerment Model
 - Victim/Client-Centered and Directed
 - Do not tell client what to do; non-judgmental; not an investigation
 - Victim knows what is best in situation based on experience, values, beliefs
 - Victim has to live with consequences

DV Approach: Believe the Client-2

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- Strengths-based
 - Problem-solving focus
 - Recognizes that clients are strong and resilient and able to make/accept changes
 - Victims have lived with this for a long time and have developed coping strategies
 - What have you tried? What worked? What has not?
 - Who can you call if you need help?

APS Approach: Investigate Reports of Suspected Abuse

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- Independent investigations
- Confidential privileged relationships, subject to laws imposing limitations
- May not be empowerment model
- Time constraints per code/ policy (Short term) involvement vs open ended
- Knowledge of aging/disability population
- Environmental focus
- Crisis based—can be similar for DV



Safety Planning

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- May have different meanings for APS and DV
 - Safety is served when both working in sync
 - Both approaches are valuable
 - Cross training and MOUs
 - APS does not have same level of confidentiality as DV advocates so it may be preferable to have safety planning done by DV advocates where victim's confidences are more protected from disclosure

Ruth: DV Safety Planning

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Conclusion

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- Collaboration and coordination
 - What has worked for your community?
 - What models are out there?
- Shared goal of enhancing victim safety



OVW Abuse in Later Life Program

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- Approximately 8 – 9 communities a year
- \$400,000 for 3 years
- Address elder abuse by:
 - Providing training and cross training
 - Creating or enhancing a CCR team
 - Developing victim services

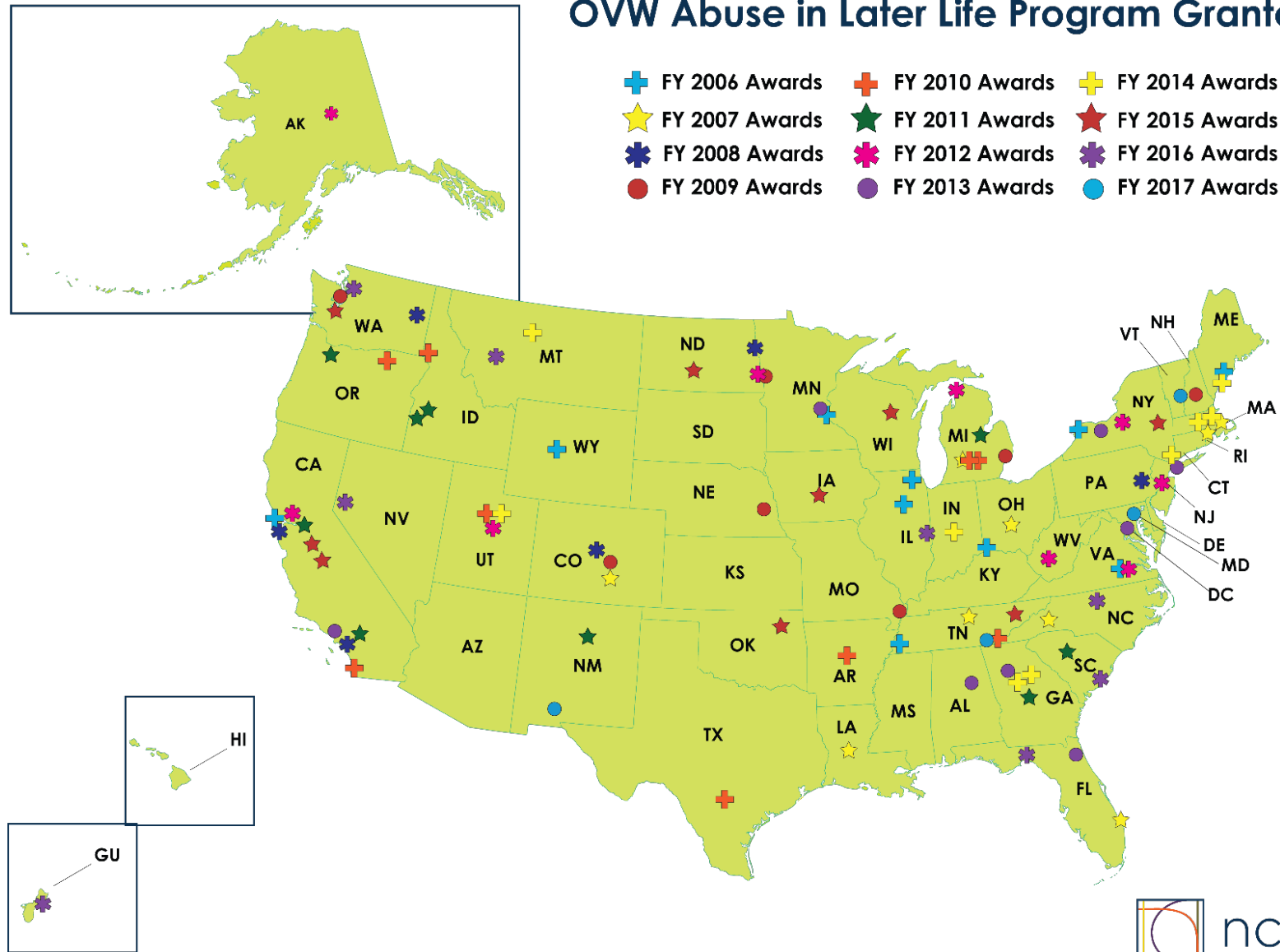
Required MOU Partners

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- Law enforcement
- Prosecutors' office
- Adult protective services/aging network
- Domestic violence/sexual assault victim services

OVW Abuse in Later Life Program Grantees

OVW Abuse in Later Life Program Grantees



OVW Abuse in Later Life Program

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- National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL): www.ncall.us
- Office on Violence Against Women: www.ovw.doj.gov

National Resource Center on Reaching Victims

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- Funded by Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
- Focused on underserved populations of crime victims, including older adults
- Provides technical assistance, training, consultation, mini-grants

Links to Resources on Collaboration

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- National Center on Elder Abuse:
www.ncea.aoa.gov/Stop_Abuse/Teams
- National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL):
<http://www.ncall.us/community/collaboration>
- National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse: www.preventelderabuse.org/coalitions

Thank You!

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