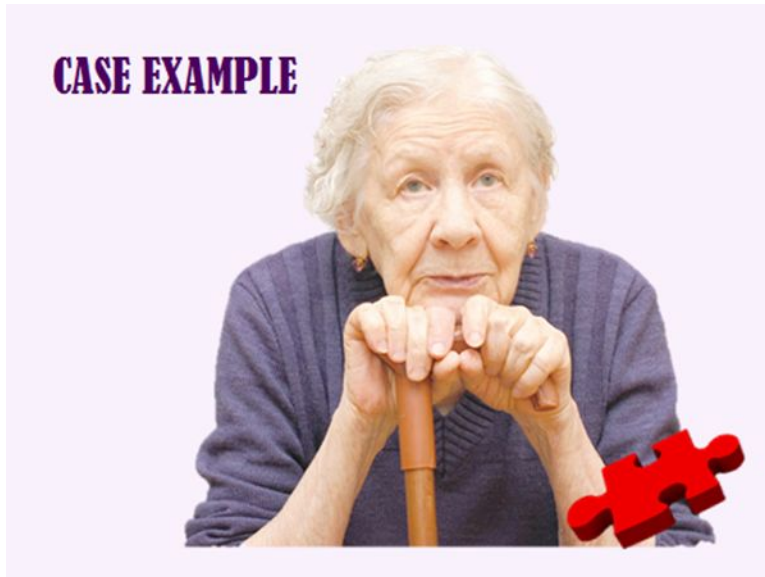


Handout #2 - TOPIC: CASE EXAMPLE



Point out the Case Example in the Participant Manual on page 29 and discuss out loud with large group.

Read (or ask a volunteer to read) aloud the “Case Example”, then summarize the case discussion: Professionals may view goals for their clients differently, depending on their role and primary mission.

A key principle of collaboration is not to ignore conflicts or differences in interpretations among MDT members, but to identify these differences, discuss, and identify points of compromise or agreement. In fact, effective collaboration requires that as much consideration be given to the nature of the collaboration as to the independent tasks MDT members perform.

L is a frail, 83 year old widow whose only son is deceased. L's only living relatives are an adult grandson, granddaughter and ex-daughter-in-law. The grandson moved in with L after L's husband's death, but she later asked him to leave because he contributed nothing to the household, was allegedly abusing drugs, and wrecked a car she bought for him. He had also become verbally and physically abusive. The grandson refused to move out.

The first report of the grandson's abusive behavior came to APS from the ex-daughter-in-law (i.e. the grandson's mother); the second, from the domestic violence specialist referred by APS after the first report. APS confirmed physical and verbal abuse. As a result of the investigation, the APS worker advised L to take out restraining orders on all three of her relatives because of concerns about possible financial abuse. L refused to request a restraining order against the grandson, and a temporary restraining order against the two women (the granddaughter and the ex-daughter-in-law) was withdrawn after L hired an attorney to defend them. L sought support through her church. Her minister did a home visit. Since L had last attended church, the minister noted that she had lost weight, wasn't eating, and was recovering from pneumonia. He also noted that her arthritis was making it more difficult to ambulate and to complete routine household chores such as shopping, cleaning and cooking. He spoke to the grandson. The visit from her minister triggered another argument with her grandson. After the minister left, the grandson slapped L so forcefully that she fell to the ground. L was taken to the hospital and treated for her injuries. L's former daughter-in-law reported the abuse, and all three women cooperated with the law enforcement investigation. The suspect claimed that his grandmother was demented and had attacked him.



Discussion questions:

1. What are L's strengths?
2. What are your hypotheses about what might be happening with L/what she might need?
3. Name some of the stakeholders/MDT partners who might become involved in this case, and benefits of involving those agencies/partners.
4. What might be sources of conflict in the ways that various MDT members might view this case?
5. What might be some areas of assessment/need that MDT members might agree on?
6. What can each agency bring to the table?