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Ground-breaking Elder Justice Act Introduced into U.S. Senate

The first-ever comprehensive federal legislation to address elder abuse and crimes against elders was introduced into the U.S. Senate on September 13, 2002. S. 2933, the Elder Justice Act of 2002, was introduced by Senator John Breaux (D-LA) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), along with nine co-sponsors: Senators Max Baucus (D-MT), Christopher Bond (R-MO), Jean Carnahan (D-MO), Susan Collins (R-ME), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), Bill Nelson (D-FL), Gordon Smith (R-OR), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and Robert Torricelli (D-NJ). On the 23rd, two more Senators co-sponsored the bill: Pete Domenici (R-NM) and John D. Rockefeller, IV (D-WV).

The 138-page bill “establishes dual Offices of Elder Justice at the US Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services to coordinate disparate federal, state and local elder abuse prevention efforts, while also housing policy experts and coordinating programs to study, detect, treat, prosecute and, most importantly, prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation of seniors living independently and those in residential care facilities,” says a Senate press release on the bill.

The release goes on to say, “[t]he bill also establishes new programs to assist victims and provides grants for education and training for law enforcement and prosecutors, while developing more forensic expertise. It enhances reporting of crimes in long-term settings and requires FBI criminal background checks for those employed by long-term care providers, rather than state checks alone.

“Finally, the Breaux-Hatch bill includes new measures to increase and retain staff in long-term care facilities, including a staff demonstration project, training and degree programs, and incentives to draw more people to health professions serving elders.”

The bill has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee, which

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WELCOME

Welcome to Adult Abuse Review!

Adult Abuse Review is a free, monthly, online newsletter for the wide variety of professionals and community members involved in preventing and intervening in adult abuse. AAR tells you exactly what you need to know about new publications, research, services, policy efforts, websites, and more.

Readers are encouraged to photocopy and distribute copies to those who may be interested.

To be notified when a new edition is available on the Web, please email Loree@WordBridges.net or send a fax to 414-540-6489.

Hard copies of each edition are available by mail for \$10.00 each. Please make your check out to "WordBridges," specify which month and year edition you want, and mail your order to the address below.

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We are very excited to bring you the inaugural issue of *Adult Abuse Review (AAR)*, an innovative, cross-discipline, monthly newsletter for those working with or making policy for abused and at-risk elders and adults with disabilities.

Speaking dryly, *AAR* provides reviews and summaries of relevant publications, research, services, policy efforts, websites, news coverage, and other developments and resources relevant to adult abuse prevention and intervention.

But the concept and mission behind *AAR* is far more juicy than that description suggests. *AAR* expects to be a catalyst, a connector, an inspiration, and a permanent resource for professionals in the full range of systems and entities involved in addressing and preventing elder and vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, exploitation, and self-neglect. We seek to be relevant to and build bridges of understanding and collaboration between adult protective services, law enforcement and criminal justice officials, domestic violence programs, aging services, lawmakers, disability organizations, health and mental health care professionals, lawyers, and many others by:

- Monitoring dozens of publications and websites from a wide variety of disciplines and perspectives to bring you a wide range of news and resources that are directly relevant to your work;
- Searching out and reviewing new training manuals, videos, public awareness pieces, and other materials that can fill your identified training and public awareness needs or jump-start your own projects;
- Connecting readers to new ideas, developments, and people from areas far afield of "the usual suspects," to decrease feelings of working in a vacuum, increase feelings of hope, and inspire new approaches; and
- Keeping up on new research, translating what may seem like impenetrable and irrelevant discourse between academics into

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Domestic Violence in Later Life Research Reviews Published

Most academic and many non-academic papers and articles on elder abuse start with a literature review, a short recap of the major findings of previous studies. These reviews give the context within which the new study or analysis takes place, and provide a basis for readers to understand how the new study differs from or replicates previous studies and findings.

Creating these research reviews may have just gotten easier due to the publication of a set of charts and articles created under the auspices of the National Coalition on Abuse in Later Life/ Wisconsin Coalition on Domestic Violence (WCADV) and the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) and underwritten, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging.

The new charts, developed by Bonnie Brandl of WCADV and Loree Cook-Daniels, then consultant to NCEA, cover more than 50 research studies related to domestic violence in later life. The studies were all conducted in the U.S. or Canada, and were published from 1988 to 2002. The charts show each article's author(s) and year of publication, sample size and demographics, type(s) of abuse covered, and selected findings. Findings are often direct quotes and always include the page number on which they were found. As the bibliography includes the Clearinghouse for Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly (CANE) file number and ordering instructions for each article, the whole package is designed to help researchers and others quickly locate exactly what they need.

The charts should also be useful to policymakers and practitioners who may be called upon to give statistics on various elder abuse topics. Because the charts include sample sizes and demographics

and the type(s) of abuse studied, they should help clarify why some studies' data differ so much from "similar" studies, and allow users to pick the most relevant studies and findings.

To make the charts more user-friendly, the studies were divided into the following topics:

- 1) Prevalence and incidence
- 2) Relationship between abuser/abused
- 3) Cultural issues
- 4) Sexual abuse
- 5) Homicide/suicide
- 6) Victim characteristics
- 7) Abuser characteristics
- 8) Causation theories
- 9) Services and interventions
- 10) Types of abuse

Although each of the 50+ studies is listed under all of the relevant topics, only the findings related to the given topic are highlighted. The whole document runs to more than 70 pages, and is currently available online at <http://www.wordbridges.net/elderabuse/research/2002-09-02R.pdf>.

For those who want a bit more interpretation, Brandl and Cook-Daniels also wrote eight articles on the various topics. These articles reprint the relevant chart, but also include narrative on generalized findings, the limitations of the studies, potential implications, and – in some cases – additional resources. Each article is available in two formats: html (which creates what looks like a web page) and .pdf, which can only be opened

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Do cultural values play a role in defining what is considered abusive behavior? Are members of some cultural groups less willing to report abuse or accept services? Do cultural groups have different perceived roles for elders in their communities? Are family members expected to provide care for their aging parents? Are aging parents expected to provide support (emotional and financial) for their adult children?

Professionals must understand how cultural differences affect community members' definitions of abuse and what services victims may be willing to accept. A new research review on the topic, prepared by Bonnie Brandl of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life/Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Loree Cook-Daniels, then consultant to the National Center on Elder Abuse, examines twelve articles published between 1989 and 2000 that reported on studies of how different cultural groups in the United States are affected by elder abuse.

The twelve studies were:

Anetzberger, G. (1998). Psychological Abuse and Neglect: A Cross-Cultural Concern to Older Americans. *Understanding and Combating Elder Abuse in Minority Communities*, Archstone Foundation, 141-151. [CANE File No. N4692-17]*

Brown, A. (1989). A Survey on Elder Abuse at One Native American Tribe. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 1, No. 2, 17 – 37. [CANE File No. G3232-11]*

Griffin, L. (1994). Elder Maltreatment Among Rural African-Americans. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 6, No. 1, 1 – 27. [CANE File No. I3691-14]*

Hudson, Margaret F. and John R. Carlson. (1999a). Elder Abuse: Its Meaning to Caucasians, African Americans, and Native Americans. Tatara (ed.), *Understanding Elder Abuse in Minority Populations*, 187-204. [CANE File No. N4678-12]*

Hudson, M. et al. (1999b). Elder Abuse: Some African American Views. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 14(9): 915-939. [CANE File No. K4205-13]*

Le, Q. (1997). Mistreatment of Vietnamese Elderly by Their Families in the United States. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 51-62. [CANE File No. J4079-7]*

Moon, A. and Benton, D. (2000). Tolerance of Elder Abuse and Attitudes toward Third-Party Intervention Among African American, Korean American and White Elderly. *Journal of Multicultural Social Work*, 8(3/4), 283-303. [CANE File No. K4162-15]*

Moon, A. and Evans-Campbell, T. (1999). Awareness of Formal and Informal Sources of Help for Victims of Elder Abuse Among Korean American and Caucasian Elders in Los Angeles. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 11(3): 1-23. [CANE File No. H4214-12]*

Moon, A., and O. Williams. (1993). Perceptions of Elder Abuse and Help-Seeking Patterns Among African-American, Caucasian American and Korean-American Elderly Women. *Gerontologist*, 33, 386-395. [CANE File No. H3282-10]*

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Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Services and Interventions

INTERVENTIONS

How can we improve safety and support for older victims of domestic abuse? What services do older victims want? What interventions might they be willing to use?

After completing a local needs assessment, reviewing descriptions of other projects and their results can be a way to create effective programs to meet the needs of victims. A new research review on the topic, prepared by Bonnie Brandl of the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life/ Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Loree Cook-Daniels, then consultant to the National Center on Elder Abuse, examines twenty-five articles published in the U.S. and Canada between 1989 and 2000 that produced findings related to service use by victims.

The twenty-five studies were:

Allen, M. (1995). *Community Response to Problems Faced by Older Battered Women*. (Available from the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, (651) 646-6177.), 1 – 15. [CANE File No. Z4895]*

Brownell, P. et al. (1999). Mental Health and Criminal Justice Issues Among Perpetrators of Elder Abuse. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 11, No. 4, 81-94. [CANE File No. K4212-8]*

Dunlop, et al. (2000). Elder Abuse: Risk Factors and Use of Case Data to Improve Policy and Practice. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 12, No. 3/4, 95 – 122. [CANE File No. L4425-28]*

Harris, S. (1996). For Better or for Worse: Spouse Abuse Grown Old. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. Vol. 8, No. 1, 1-33. [CANE File No. J4081-17]*

Hightower, J. et al. (1999). Meeting the Needs of Abused Older Women? A British Columbia and Yukon Transition House Survey. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. Vol 11, No. 4, 39-57. [CANE File No. K4211-10]*

Korbin J., et al. (1991). Abused Elders Who Seek Legal Recourse Against Their Adult Offspring: Findings from an Exploratory Study. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. Vol. 3, No. 3, 1-18. [CANE File No. F3212-10]*

Lachs, M. et al. (1997b). Risk Factors for Reported Elder Abuse and Neglect: A Nine-Year Observational Cohort Study. *The Gerontologist*, Vol. 37, No. 4, 469 – 474. [CANE File No. J4068-6]*

Le, Q. (1997). Mistreatment of Vietnamese Elderly by Their Families in the United States. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 51-62. [CANE File No. J4079-7]*

Lithwick, M. et al. (1999). The Mistreatment of Older Adults: Perpetrator-Victim Relationships and Interventions. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 11, No. 4, 95 – 112. [CANE File No. K4213-10]*

Moon, A. and Evans-Campbell, T. (1999). Awareness of Formal and Informal Sources of Help for Victims of Elder Abuse Among Korean American and Caucasian Elders in Los Angeles. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 11(3): 1-23. [CANE File No. K4214-12]*

Moon, A., and O. Williams. (1993). Perceptions of Elder Abuse And Help-Seeking Patterns

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New HHS Office on Disability to Be Headed by Former AoA Staffer

Margaret J. Giannini, M.D., F.A.A.P., formerly the principal deputy assistant secretary for aging at the Administration on Aging, has been selected to head a new U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office on Disability.

The office, which is expected to open this fall, is tasked with overseeing the “coordination, development, and implementation of programs and special initiatives within HHS that impact people with disabilities.” HHS characterized the new office as “build[ing] on the work of President Bush’s New Freedom Initiative....” This initiative “promote[s] the full participation of people with disabilities in all areas of society by increasing access to assistive and universally designed technologies, expanding educational and employment opportunities, and promoting full access to community life.”

Parts of the Initiative that overlap with adult abuse concerns include:

- Addressing barriers that prevent people with disabilities from living in the community;
- The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, charged with making recommendations “for improving America’s mental health service delivery system”;
- Grants to states to help people with disabilities purchase assistive technology; and
- A demonstration project to provide respite care services for caregivers of adults with disabilities.

RELATED LINKS:

HHS News Release on Giannini appointment www.hhs.gov/news/press/2002pres/20020731d.html

New Freedom Initiative
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/newfreedom/>

President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/04/20020429-2.html>

News Brief:

A new Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) was appointed in September, Thomas Insel, M.D. Dr. Insel is a professor in Atlanta’s Emory University’s Department of Psychiatry and directs its Center for Behavioral Neuroscience. He is expected to take his office in mid-November. Some of Dr. Insel’s background may prove useful to the adult abuse field as we seek to make better connections with mental health professionals: Dr. Insel has conducted research in obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and its possible treatment with serotonin reuptake inhibitors. (OCD, it has been speculated, may be one of the causes of hoarding.) He has also researched the link between aggression and neuropeptides, oxytocin and vasopressin.

Adult Abuse Website Launched

To provide the many professionals working with abused and at-risk elders and adults with disabilities with the information they need to be as effective as possible, the consulting firm WordBridges is developing a comprehensive, web-based resource at www.WordBridges.net/elderabuse/.

The site is divided into five main categories: training, research, policy, interventions, and culture. Within each category is the full text of new and previously-published articles. In most cases, these articles are augmented by links that will take you directly to the publication being reviewed or to other sites closely related to the topic.

Currently, the site has only a small cache of articles from 2001 and 2002: twelve under training, fourteen in research, eleven in policy, seventeen in intervention, and three in culture. However, these numbers will grow rapidly as new articles are written and as we dig deeper to find and upload previously-published articles that are still relevant.

A highlight of the site is its homepage – www.WordBridges.net/elderabuse/ -- which is updated at least twice a week with news articles, upcoming conferences, featured links, and other time-sensitive news. Other sections of the website include:

- An archive of *Adult Abuse Review*;
- An "In Progress" section highlighting in-progress demonstration projects and research; funding opportunities; and "in our dreams" – news from the future;
- "Events," listing key upcoming conferences;

- Links; and
- Links to lists of domestic and institutional abuse reporting numbers for both the U.S. and Canada (although the site is designed for professionals, because of the nature of the web we wanted to be sure those with cases to report who found our website could find out where to turn).

We hope to make this website a sort of on-your-desk filing cabinet to help you locate the documents and information you need when you need them. We also expect to make this the site to go to when you want to know what's happening about adult abuse *today*. We welcome your feedback and leads; send them to Loree@WordBridges.net, or fax to 414-540-6489 (no cover sheet necessary).

INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE

The Indiana Department of Health charged Fort Wayne State Developmental Center with condoning abuse and neglect of its 300 residents with mental retardation in a 106-page survey report issued in August. One 38-year-old resident, John P. Reed, died in June after a beating at the hospital, the last of at least 26 incidents in which Reed was hurt by other residents or himself in the months before his death. Another resident was found to have a broken leg after a physical therapist was seen kicking the resident, who had had previous injuries of "unknown origin." A third resident was severely scalded in a shower when the resident was left unattended.

Kentucky Scandal Raises Questions About Integrity Of Nursing Home Inspection Process

Did Kentucky Governor Paul Patton direct nursing home regulators to take it easy on a nursing home while he had an affair with its owner, then sic them on the home when the affair ended? That's one of the key issues being raised in a rapidly-evolving scandal that began breaking on September 18th, 2002, when Clinton, Kentucky Birchtree Healthcare nursing home owner Tina Conner alleged that her former lover was at the root of her facility's imminent closure.

In the initial television interview that broke the story, Conner said she responded to the Governor's sexual invitation in part because she believed he could help her home: "Obviously he controls the Medicaid program, licensure and regulation – obviously he's a powerful man and a person would honestly assume they would gather some of the power." She went on to explain that she would call the Governor if her nursing home was having problems with state regulators, but that when she made clear to the Governor that she had ended the affair, "the harassment by the state began." In a December 2001 survey, 163 pages of deficiencies were found, including six deficiencies classified as "immediate jeopardy."

Interestingly, in the initial television interview Conner suggested that although she broke off contact with the Governor in October of 2001, she spoke to him after the inspection. "I called him at a certain point and said what's going on? And he said we've done all we can. I've intercepted for you many times. And these are his words: I believe the bureaucrats are upset because I've gone over their heads so many times. So they've said, can I swear? F### you Paul Patton, we'll show you. So I've done all I can."

Patton initially denied the affair for several days, then admitted it. He has continually maintained that he did not influence nursing home regulators about Conner's facility. However, many investigations have been launched. Conner told the Today show that she was expecting to meet with FBI agents on September 30th.

State Attorney General Ben Chandler – who expects to run for governor himself next year – has announced

that his office is investigating whether any laws were broken.

The state's Executive Branch Ethics Commission will also be conducting an investigation of the allegations, which have also been leveled in a lawsuit Conner filed against Patton and the state of Kentucky alleging sexual harassment, retaliation and intentional infliction of emotional distress. The Commission is expected to also look into a second allegation, that Patton also intervened to get a construction business owned by Conner designated as a disadvantaged business enterprise. That allegation was made by two former workers of the Office of Minority Affairs. Although the Governor had appointed Conner to the state's Institute on Aging and to the board of the Kentucky Lottery Corporation, it has not been reported whether these appointments are under scrutiny, as well. The ethics commission is empowered only to level a \$5,000 fine and issue a public reprimand.

At the Governor's request, Cabinet for Health Services Secretary Marcia Morgan conducted an internal review of that office's actions with regard to Conner's nursing home, "and our records show that the Cabinet acted responsibly and fairly toward Birchtree Healthcare. At no time was any improper influence brought to bear on the Cabinet's actions either positively or negatively." Morgan reportedly is welcoming all of the investigations into her agency.

A lengthy "Birchtree Litigation Chronology" issued by the Cabinet shows that the state conducted a "standard Medicaid/Medicare survey and state health facility licensure survey on December 26 through December 28, 2001," at which time the 163 pages of deficiencies were found. Subsequent re-inspections were held on January 22, April 9-11, and June 27-28. Each re-inspection found that Birchtree had "not regained substantial compliance." Since "mandatory termination [from the Medicare and Medicaid programs] occurs if the facility has not regained substantial compliance within six months of the visit that first identified non-compliance," the provider

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Georgian Elder Abuse Activist Wins National Award

Ms. Charlee Lambert, a long-time elder abuse activist from Georgia, has won the first annual Rosalie Wolf Memorial Elder Abuse Prevention Award and was honored at the Seventh International Conference on Family Violence, held September 24-28, 2002, in San Diego, California.

The award was established jointly by the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA), the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), and the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Institute (FVSAI) to honor the memory of the late Rosalie Wolf, Ph.D., founder of NCPEA and the founding chairperson of INPEA.

The award may go to either an individual or an organization that has "demonstrated dedication

and commitment to the ideals of Rosalie Wolf to prevent and reduce the incidence of elder abuse through research, education, policy or practice." Ms.

Lambert was the selection committee's unanimous choice. Ms. Lambert was the founding Director of Georgia's Council on Elder Abuse and Neglect and managed its victim assistance line. She served on the Lieutenant Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force

and on a joint House-Senate committee on guardianship reform. Currently an elder abuse consultant and AARP volunteer, Ms. Lambert also produces plays on elder abuse topics to educate professionals and non-professionals alike about elder abuse prevention.

Related Links:

- National Committee on the Prevention of Elder Abuse article on the award
- www.preventelderabuse.org/new/award.html
- Article by Charlee Lambert and Don Brower entitled, "Teaching to the Heart and the Mind: Using Live Theatre in Family Development Education"
- www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/fcs/pub/1998/theater.html
- "In Memoriam: Rosalie S. Wolf, Ph.D."
- www.elderabusecenter.org/ncea/wolf.pdf

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The highly-rated Today show introduced elder abuse and neglect to a national audience on September 19, 2002. The segment featured definitions of physical, emotional and sexual abuse, financial exploitation, and even self-neglect. Warning signs were addressed and tips for avoiding abuse given. Cases of abuse, the report said, should be directed to adult protective services, law enforcement, and licensing/certification agencies. The lack of federal funding for APS was also addressed. For additional information, viewers (and readers, since the show posted an article on its website at <http://www.msnbc.com/news/809531.asp>) were directed to the National Center for Elder Abuse, AARP, the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, the American Bar Association, and the American Psychological Association.

“Relational Disorders” Considered as New Category of Mental Illness

Those who work with situations of elder and vulnerable adult abuse know that mental illness is frequently present, as well. But if some leading psychiatrists get their way, there will be a whole new category of mental illness within which vulnerable adult abuse itself may well fit: “Relational Disorders.”

Dr. Michael First, editor of the existing Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSM-IV) of the American Psychiatric Association (APA), and colleague David Reiss are among those who are circulating a monograph calling on the APA to include the new category of illnesses within the DSM-V, due out in 2010. *Time* magazine quoted Dr. First as saying, “There is evidence that relationships and how people interact in particular relationships can be disordered in a way that’s very similar to mental disorders.”

Part of the proposed definition of this illness is “persistent and painful feelings, behavior and perception involving two or more partners in an important personal relationship.” Currently, the diagnosis would only pertain to people in family relationships.

The new category of disorders would represent

the first time illnesses would be diagnosed not in individuals, but within groups of individuals and in the relationships between them. The *Washington Post* suggests this would be a “profound conceptual shift” that could lead to labeling “relationships, themselves, as pathological.”

Not surprisingly, the proposal is extremely controversial. The September 16, 2002 *Time* essay on the idea says “it could be applied to every living American” and that we should “ponder the wisdom of formally recognizing a new disease that people can prevent only by living alone in locked rooms that don’t have telephones.” Psychiatrists who were presented with the idea at a recent APA meeting in Philadelphia were also critical. Some pointed out that the category could quickly be expanded to include manager/worker problems and road rage. Others feared that the Church of Scientology would be among those using the new diagnosis as fresh ammunition against the whole idea of psychiatry. Some were concerned that the diagnosis would blur the line between social problems and medical ailments.

It should be an interesting debate to watch.

Relevant links:

“I’m OK, You’re OK, We’re Not OK” (essay in *Time* magazine) (NOTE: access to the Time archive is on a paid subscription basis) <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101020916-349086,00.html>

“Doctors Consider Diagnosis for ‘Ill’ Relationships” (*Washington Post* article) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A21469-2002Aug31.html>

Small Grants Available through American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging

The fifth annual Partnerships in Law and Aging Program, with funding from the Borchard Foundation Center on Law and Aging and the Marie Walsh Sharpe Endowment of the American Bar Association Fund for Justice and Education, has announced it will accept proposals through December 2, 2002.

Up to ten grants of up to \$7,500 each will be awarded to bar associations, legal services providers, elder rights advocates, and other local non-profit organizations to "encourage development of new and collaborative community-based projects to enhance the legal awareness of older persons and to improve their access to the legal system."

The Request for Proposals says the following about who is eligible to apply or be a partner:

"This Request for Proposals is open to not-for-profit, law-related groups and organizations, including state or local bar association sections and committees (e.g., elder law, legal services, senior lawyers, young lawyers, disability rights, health law, trusts and estates), Older Americans Act and other publicly funded legal services programs, elder rights advocacy groups, law schools and law-related education groups, dispute resolution programs, aging services providers, and others seeking to develop or strengthen the legal awareness and rights of older Americans.

Current and former grantees are eligible to apply for another grant, but they must demonstrate clearly how their proposal differs from the previously funded project. Note, however, that reviewers aim for

overall geographic, organizational, and programmatic diversity in making funding decisions.

State and county funded agencies and other government agencies, including attorney general offices and agencies on aging, are not eligible to apply as primary grantees, but may participate as collaborating partners.

Non-profit organizations that serve older people but are not specifically law-related (e.g., health centers, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, nutrition programs, libraries) are eligible as partners.

National organizations are not eligible, but local affiliates of national organizations may apply."

Potential applicants are directed to the full Request for Proposals and Application at www.abanet.org/aging/rfp2003.html and are urged to use the "printer friendly" version to avoid missing necessary data.

Related links:

Request for Proposals and Application
www.abanet.org/aging/rfp2003.html

2001-2002 Grantees <http://www.abanet.org/aging/2002grantees.html>

Events and Conferences

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A packet of materials to help you utilize this public awareness opportunity is available at <http://dvam.vawnet.org>

October 2-3, 2002
Beyond Abuse and Neglect: Improving Quality of Life for Vulnerable Adults
Albany, New York
Brookdale Center on Aging
646-366-1000
www.brookdale.org

October 2-4, 2002
13th Annual National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators (NAAPSA) Conference
Scottsdale, Arizona
Joanne Marlatt Otto
NAAPSA
720-565-0906

October 4, 2002
Ending Domestic Violence Across the Life Span: Finding Resiliencies in Self and Community (Workshops include Effectiveness of Interventions for Batterers and Couples, Race and Domestic Violence, Violence Against Older Women, and Building Successful Relationships: University and Community Collaborations)
Blacksburg, Virginia
Jane Todd
Division of Continuing Education at Virginia Tech
540-231-2014
janetodd@vt.edu
www.conted.vt.edu/edv/

October 23, 2002
Protecting the Elderly: How to Detect and Prevent Elder Abuse (Town Hall Meeting)
Baltimore, Maryland
RSVP required 866-298-8245

October 23-26, 2002
National Aging and the Law Conference
Arlington, Virginia
Donna L. Barker, AARP
202-434-2117 or
Ada B. Albright, AARP
202-434-2197
nalc@aarp.org

October 25-28, 2002
Consumer Rights Litigation Conference (includes a workshop on "consumer law answers for domestic violence survivors" and one on predatory lending legislation)
Atlanta, Georgia
Debbie Parziale
National Consumer Law Center, Inc..
617-542-8010
www.nclc.org

October 26-29, 2002
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform Conference: No More Excuses: We Demand Quality Care!
Arlington, Virginia
National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform
Deanna Okrent
202-332-2275
www.ltcombudsman.org

November 4-8, 2002
19th Annual Adult Protective Services Conference
San Antonio, Texas
Meisha Spencer
Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services
512-438-3206
jameisha.spencer@tdprs.state.tx.us

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agreement was terminated on June 28, 2002. The chronology does not include the results of any inspections conducted before December 2001, although it does review how and when reimbursement rates for the facility have been adjusted over the past eight years.

Birchtree did not appeal any of the findings or sanctions until after the third and final survey in June, although it did file a civil complaint against the Cabinet for Health Services and several others, which reportedly did not address "the merits of the underlying non-compliance." At no point has Birchtree submitted a reasonable assurance plan laying out how the facility planned to achieve and maintain compliance with federal certification laws, a necessary step to becoming recertified. However, Conner appealed to other politicians, including State Representative Charles Geveden and Marshall County Judge-Executive Mike Miller, to intervene with regulators. Miller, a close friend of Patton, told an Associated Press reporter, "I made a call to the governor's office

but was told that the violations were major, and that the problems could be resolved if she would just cooperate with the regulators."

Birchtree filed for bankruptcy the same week the allegations against the Governor were

made, and is now facing foreclosure by the bank. On September 19th, nursing home inspectors reported that Conner's attorney had told cabinet attorneys that Birchtree had only enough cash to operate for eight days. On the 27th it was reported that only

Coming in November's Issue

- Animal hoarding: Interview with an expert
- National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators (NAAPSA) 2002 conference report
- What heat-related deaths have to do with elder abuse and neglect: a review of the new study *Heat Wave*

twelve residents remained in the home.

The scandal has already affected Governor Patton's future. Although he has said he will not resign, he is facing a term limit. He renounced his expected run for the Senate in 2004 a few days after the scandal broke, in order to concentrate on his marriage. He continues in his position as chairman of the National Governors Association.

RELATED LINKS:

News channel 36 interview breaking the story
www.wtvq.com/MGB5HDID96D.html

Latest article from the Louisville, Kentucky *Courier-Journal*, including links to previous stories
www.courier-journal.com/localnews/2002/09/24/ke092402s282034.htm

Cabinet for Health Services press release on Birchtree regulatory actions
<http://chs.state.ky.us/chs/news/newsreleases/2002/nr0918b.doc>

Conner, who recently divorced, has reached out in other directions. She told the Today show that she has consulted with an aide to Gennifer Flowers "to find out where she had received her legal advice, what this process was like for her, what she felt like now, how her life was now at this time."

Because this scandal has the potential to affect the public's perception of the fairness and accuracy of the nursing home regulatory system, AAR will continue to report on developments as they occur.

Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Cultural Considerations

(Continued from page 4)

Otiniano, M. et al. (1998). Hispanic Elder Abuse. Archstone Foundation *Understanding and Combating Elder Abuse in Minority Communities*, 194. [CANE File No. N4696-7]*

Sanchez, Y. (1999). Elder Mistreatment in Mexican American Communities: The Nevada and Michigan Experiences. Tatara (ed.), *Understanding Elder Abuse in Minority Populations*, 67-77. [CANE File No. N4669-8]*

Tomita, S. (1999). Exploration of Elder Mistreatment Among the Japanese. Tatara (ed.), *Understanding Elder Abuse in Minority Populations*, 119-139. [CANE File No. N4672-13]*

Brandl and Cook-Daniels prepared *very* brief analysis of the findings, and articulated just a few of the possible implications. These sections of their article are reprinted below.

GENERALIZED FINDINGS

Four studies compared perceptions by members of different racial and ethnic groups about behavior that constituted elder abuse and found significant differences in the definitions (Moon, 2000; Hudson, 1999a; Anetzberger, 1998; Moon, 1993). Moon found Caucasian elders were more likely to tolerate verbal abuse and Korean Americans more likely to tolerate financial exploitation than her other studied populations (Moon, 2000). Hudson found that Native Americans rated behaviors as more abusive than African Americans, who rated items more severe than did Caucasians (Hudson, 1999). Anetzberger found that European Americans and Puerto Ricans differed from Japanese Americans and

African Americans on whether psychological neglect was worse than psychological abuse. This study also found differences between older and younger members of the same ethnic groups (Anetzberger, 1998). Moon found that Korean Americans were more tolerant of abuse than African Americans or Caucasian Americans (Moon, 1993). Hudson (1999b) found that while minority elders agreed with elder abuse professionals' definitions most of the time, there were some discrepancies between what the elders defined as abuse versus what the professionals said.

One potential reason for the different definitions of abusive behavior is that cultures have a range of expectations about the responsibility of grown children and elders to provide care, financial assistance, and emotional support to one another (Sanchez, 1999; Tomita, 1999; Anetzberger, 1998; Griffin, 1994; Moon, 1993; Brown, 1989).

In general, most of the participants in these studies were reluctant to report abuse (Moon, 2000; Sanchez, 1999; Tomita, 1999; Otiniano, 1998; Le, 1997; Moon, 1993). Moon (2000 and 1999) found that Korean American elders were also more likely to blame the victim for elder abuse, which could affect willingness to report, and were less likely to know of an agency to which they could report. Some study participants were more likely to report abuse if they defined the behavior as abusive, but still often would not report (Moon, 1993). The research indicates that some reasons for non-reporting include shame, embarrassment, not wanting to create conflict in the family, and protecting the community. Some participants expressed willingness to talk to family members rather than professionals (Sanchez, 1999; Moon,

(Continued on page 15)

Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Cultural Considerations

(Continued from page 14)

1993).

Moon (2000) suggested that because of ethnic differences around abuse definitions, ethnic-specific approaches to public outreach and educational efforts may be more effective than a general approach.

POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Existing research indicates that background and cultural values impact how an older person will define abuse. Professionals need to recognize these differences when doing public awareness to discuss prevention, reporting and services. Victims may see some behaviors as normal within their culture and not consider asking for help.

Given the percentages of older persons who say they will not report abuse to authorities but who may talk with family members, training on domestic abuse in later life is needed for the general public. Heightened awareness will give more lay people the tools needed to talk with older people about abuse, available services and safety planning.

More research is needed to examine cultural differences and how to build on the strengths of communities. Future studies should include examining differences and similarities among racial/ethnic groups as well as focusing on populations such as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons and religious communities. Research is also needed on the effectiveness of culturally specific services.

MORE DETAILS

The research review itself also contains a

discussion of the limitations of studies on domestic violence in later life and a chart that briefly summarizes each article's author(s) and year of publication, sample size and demographics, type(s) of abuse covered, and selected findings, often in quotes and always with an associated page number.

The article is currently published on the Web in two formats: html (which creates what looks like a web page) and .pdf, which can only be opened and read with an Adobe Acrobat reader (available free from the website). The National Center on Elder Abuse is also developing a printed version of this and several other research reviews; AAR will let its readers know how to obtain a copy when it's available. For now, the articles are available on the WordBridges website:

Culture

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-05R.html (html) or www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-05R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

*NOTE:

CANE – The Clearinghouse on Abuse and Neglect of the Elderly – is the nation's largest computerized collection of elder abuse resources and materials. Single copies of articles in its holdings can be ordered from CANE for \$.20 per page. The digits following the hyphen in the file number indicate how many pages the article has.

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SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION!

A man was convicted by a Cook County Criminal Court judge in August for the starvation and beating death of his 22-year-old disabled stepdaughter. John Hester, 49, was sentenced to death despite his attorneys' argument that he was "borderline mentally retarded and did not know his actions would lead to [Orachanee] Anderson's death." A medical examiner testified that Anderson suffered more than 177 injuries, had more than two dozen scars on her chest alone, and died of a combination of malnutrition and blunt force trauma. Hester allegedly beat Anderson, who had psycho-social dwarfism and was blind and unable to speak, daily for more than five years. He also hogtied her, locked her in a utility closet, and duct-taped her to a toilet. The judge found that Hester understood enough to hide the abuse and involve Anderson's mother in a cover-up, and ruled his IQ was not low enough to be considered to have mental retardation. Peggy Anderson is awaiting trial for her part in her daughter's abuse and murder.

...Domestic Violence in Later Life Research Reviews Published

(Continued from page 3)

and read with an Adobe Acrobat reader (available free from the website). The National Center on Elder Abuse is also developing a printed version of the research reviews; AAR will let its readers know how to obtain a copy when it's available. For now, the articles are available on the WordBridges website:

Abusers

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-03R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-03R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Causation theories

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-04R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-04R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Culture

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-05R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-05R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Prevalence and incidence

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-06R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-06R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Relationships

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-07R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-07R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Services and interventions

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-08R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-08R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Types of abuse (includes sexual assault and homicide/suicide)

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-09R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-09R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

Victims

www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-10R.html (html) or
www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-10R.pdf (Adobe Acrobat format)

...Ground-breaking Elder Justice Act Introduced into U.S. Senate

(Continued from page 1)

bill co-sponsor Max Baucus chairs.

The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse has asked those interested in elder abuse to send letters of support to the bill's sponsors and co-sponsors, particularly if they represent your state.

Commentary: This bill is not perfect. Most obviously, it perpetuates a troubling division between those who are above an arbitrary age (and hence "elder") and those who are below that age but vulnerable because of disabilities. Given its size, it probably contains

many more things an advocate could take a disliking to! But it is a marvelous opportunity to raise public awareness of elder abuse, takes a multidisciplinary approach, and covers both institutional and domestic elder abuse. It's a good vehicle to get behind even while, possibly, working to see that it eventually passes with some changes. WordBridges therefore recommends that if your Senator is *not* a co-sponsor, you

contact her or him to ask them to co-sponsor the bill. They can get more of the information they need about it from Lauren Fuller of Senator Breaux's office at 202-224-5364, Wan Kim of Senator Hatch's office at 202-224-5225, or from the Elder Justice website at <http://aging.senate.gov/elderjustice/>.

Related links:

- Text of the Elder Justice Act, its current status and current list of co-sponsors <http://thomas.loc.gov/> (put S. 2933 in the bill number search box)
- Summary of the Act <http://aging.senate.gov/elderjustice/billsummary.html>.
- Senate Select Committee on Aging Press Release on the Elder Justice Act <http://aging.senate.gov/whatsnew/107th/091302.html>
- "Ambitious Federal Elder Justice Proposal Developed by Sen. Breaux" www.wordbridges.net/elderabuse/policy/2002-06-01.html

MURDER OR MERCY?

In a case that has divided the disability community, Carol Carr, 63, is being held without bail awaiting trial on two charges of malice murder and two counts of felony murder for the shooting deaths of her sons, Randy Scott, 42, and Andy Scott, 41. The two men suffered from the same Huntington's disease that had killed their father in 1995. Their only other sibling, James, 38, also has the disease. Carol Carr allegedly shot the men in their beds at the SunBridge Care and Rehabilitation Center in Griffin, Georgia, on June 8, 2002. Although some disability advocates protested at Carr's bail hearing to ensure her actions were viewed as murder rather than a mercy killing, at least one advocate – Jerry Lampson, whose wife died of Huntington's disease and who runs a HD resource center at www.hdlighthouse.org -- said, "those that know the terrible ravages of HD will rally to support Carol Carr."

...Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Services and Interventions

(Continued from page 5)

Among African-American, Caucasian American and Korean-American Elderly Women. *Gerontologist*, 33, 386-395. [CANE File No. H3282-10]*

Older Women's Network. (1998). *Study of Shelter Needs of Abused Older Women*. (Available from the Older Women's Network at (416) 214-1518 or info@olderwomensnetwork.org.) [CANE File No. Z4896]*

Phillips, L. et al. (2000). Abuse of Female Caregivers by Care Recipients: Another Form of Elder Abuse. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 12, No. 3/4, 123 - 144. [CANE File No. L4431-21]*

Pillemer, K., and D. Finkelhor. (1989). Causes of Elder Abuse: Caregiver Stress Versus Problem Relatives. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, Vol. 59, No. 2, 179-187. [CANE File No. E2641-9]*

Pillemer, K., and D. Finkelhor. (1988). The Prevalence of Elder Abuse: A Random Sample Survey. *Gerontologist*, Vol. 28, No. 1, 51-57. [CANE File No. C2155-7]*

Podnieks, E. (1992a). National Survey on Abuse of the Elderly in Canada. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 4, No. 1/2, 5 - 58. [CANE File No. A13-28]*

Podnieks, E. (1992b). Emerging Themes from a Follow-up Study of Canadian Victims of Elder Abuse. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. Vol. 4, No. 1/2, 59 - 111. [CANE File No. H3384-27]*

Seaver, C. (1996). Muted Lives: Older Battered Women. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*. Vol. 8, No. 2, 3-21. [CANE File No. N4761-10]*

Tomita, S. (1999). Exploration of Elder Maltreatment Among the Japanese. Tataru (ed.), *Understanding Elder Abuse in Minority Populations*, 119-139. [CANE File No. N4672-13]*

Vinton, L. et al. (1998). A Nationwide Survey of Domestic Violence Shelters' Programming for Older Women. *Violence Against Women*, Vol. 4, No. 5, 559-571. [CANE File No. N4892-7]*

Vinton, L. (1992). Battered Women's Shelters and Older Women: The Florida Experience. *Journal of Family Violence*. Vol. 7, No. 1, 63 - 72. [CANE File No. H3431-10]*

Vladescu, Dana, et al. (1999). An Evaluation of a Client-Centered Case Management Program for Elder Abuse. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, Vol. 11, No. 4, 5-22. [CANE File No. K4209-10]*

Wolf, R. (1999). *Elder Shelters: U.S., Canada, and Japan*. (Available from the National Center on Elder Abuse, (202) 898-2586.) [CANE File No. J4893-13]*

Wolf, R. (1998). *Support Groups for Older Victims of Domestic Violence: Sponsors and Programs*. (Available from the National Center on Elder Abuse, (202) 898-2586.) [CANE File No. J4123-37]*

Wolf, R. and K. Pillemer. (1997). The Older Battered Woman: Wives and Mothers Compared. *Journal of Mental Health and Aging*. Vol. 3, No. 3, 325-336. [CANE File No. J4067-12]*

(Continued on page 19)

*...Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Services and Interventions**(Continued from page 18)*

Brandl and Cook-Daniels prepared a *very* brief analysis of the findings, and articulated just a few of the possible implications. These sections of their article are reprinted below.

GENERALIZED FINDINGS

Many older domestic violence victims do not seek services from agencies such as the police and health care professionals (Phillips, 2000; Brownell, 1999; OWN, 1998), and may not tell anyone at all about the abuse (Podnieks, 1992(b)). If they seek services from professionals like emergency department staff, they stand a very good chance of not getting a referral to APS or other DV services (Lachs, 1997(b)). When victims are identified, they frequently refuse offered services (Brownell, 1999; Lithwick, 1999).

Reasons victims may not seek help or refuse offered services include: not seeing themselves as abused (Phillips, 2000); not knowing where to report abuse (Moon, 1999); a desire to obtain services for their abusers rather than themselves (Brownell, 1999; Korbin, 1991); a lack of services or an inability to qualify or a long wait list for services (Hightower, 1999; Allen, 1995); embarrassment or fear (OWN, 1998); and community attitudes (Allen, 1995). Le (1997) suggested increasing public awareness, addressing isolation, and hiring bilingual/bicultural staff as methods to alleviate some fears of reporting. Similarly, Moon (2002) suggests using an ethnic-specific approach to public outreach. Tomita (1999) recommends considering interventions focusing on respite, safety, and group harmony.

Services that were often accepted by victims or

that potential victims said they would use were: police intervention; case management; orders of protection; health care; homemaker services; individual counseling; peer support groups; and a 24-hour help line (Brownell, 1999; Lithwick, 1999; OWN, 1998; Podnieks, 1992a and 1992b).

Several researchers recommended using strategies (such as an empowerment model) and interventions (such as peer counseling, help lines and support groups) used for younger battered women (Dunlop, 2000; Wolf, 1997; Harris, 1996; Pillemer, 1989 and 1988). Several studies suggest collaboration with domestic violence advocates (Dunlop, 2000; Wolf, 1998; Harris, 1996).

Yet, domestic violence programs serve very few older women (Hightower, 1999; Vinton 1998 and 1992). Those that offer special programming aimed at older women tend to serve more (Vinton, 1998; Seaver, 1996). Shelters specifically for abused elders are rare, and two-thirds of them will not serve an elder who needs more than minimal assistance (Wolf, 1999). Two researchers were not sure elder-specific shelters were a good idea (Wolf, 1999; OWN, 1998).

Two studies found that APS-type services are effective in reducing or eliminating abuse in the majority of cases studied (Lithwick, 1999; Vladescu, 1999). Several studies recommended support groups (Dunlop, 2000; Podnieks, 1992b). Peer support groups were found to be somewhat to very successful in helping victims gain skills to cope with their situations (Wolf, 1998; Seaver, 1996).

(Continued on page 20)

Safe Place

National and Texas Projects on Violence Against Persons with Disabilities. SafePlace, in Austin, Texas, has been awarded two October 2002 - September 2004 grants from the U.S. Office of Justice Programs. At least six full-time staff will:

- Develop an accessibility evaluation tool for domestic violence and sexual assault agencies;
- Conduct a nationwide training project on developing accessible abuse prevention and intervention programs for persons with disabilities;
- Provide train-the-trainer workshops for affiliates of the American Council of the Blind, the Arc of the US, and United Cerebral Palsy Association;
- Provide trainings in Texas for law enforcement, prosecutors, and other criminal justice personnel to enhance their ability to recognize, address, investigate, and prosecute domestic/sexual crimes against persons with disabilities; and
- Conduct a Texas accessibility survey, and provide expert consultation on accessibility issues.

For more information, contact:
Wendie H. Abramson, LMSW
Director of Disability Services ASAP
(A Safety Awareness Program)
SafePlace
P.O. Box 19454
Austin, Texas 78760
512-356-1599 voice
512-482-0691 TTY
512-385-0662 fax
www.austin-safeplace.org

...Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Services and Interventions

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POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS

Both the domestic violence and adult protective services systems offer approaches, services, and referral networks that are useful to elders who are victims of domestic violence. Each system brings strengths: the domestic violence field knows better how to run emergency shelters and peer support groups, while the adult protective services system is better equipped to help impaired elders and link elders with services designed for their age group (to name but four areas). More cross-training and collaborative efforts should take place between the two systems to ensure that both do a better job of providing services to older victims of domestic violence.

Far more attention needs to be paid to developing and providing services to abusers. Because of how longstanding relationships between elders and their abusers are likely to be and because of ties of love and feelings of responsibility, many abused elders appear to be less concerned about helping themselves than helping their abusers. Therefore, assisting victims to find help for their abusers may well be key to providing services to the victims.

Because many victims do not seek help and because those that do are sometimes not identified as victims of domestic violence, public and professional education efforts should be stepped up to ensure that more abuse victims are identified and assisted in ending the abuse and/or gaining additional coping skills.

(Continued on page 21)

American Sign Language Computer Translation Program Under Development

American Sign Language Computer Translation Program Under Development. Researchers at DePaul University in Chicago have developed Paula, a computer program that uses speech recognition and sophisticated animation to translate spoken English into American Sign Language (ASL). A hearing person speaks into a headset connected to the computer. An animated figure of Paula then translates the message into ASL through hand gestures and facial expressions on the computer screen. Paula is expected to be field-tested in airports initially. For more information, see http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2002/08/0812_020812_wiresignlanguage.html

...Domestic Abuse in Later Life: Services and Interventions

(Continued from page 20)

Finally, more funding needs to be made available to ensure existing services are available and accessible to those who need them (many shelters, for instance, are not accessible to older women who use assistive devices such as wheelchairs or walkers) and to create more services such as peer support groups and individual counseling for both victims and abusers.

MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE

The research review itself also contains a discussion of the limitations of studies on domestic violence in later life and a chart that briefly summarizes each article's author(s) and year of publication, sample size and demographics, type(s) of abuse covered, and selected findings, often in quotes and always with an associated page number.

The article is currently published on the Web in two formats: html (which creates what looks like a web page) and .pdf, which can only be opened and read with an Adobe Acrobat reader (available free from the website). The National Center on Elder Abuse is also developing a printed version of this and several other research reviews; AAR will let its readers know how to obtain a copy when it's available. For now, the articles are available on the WordBridges

website:

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www.WordBridges.net/ElderAbuse/Research/2002-09-08R.html (html) or
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*NOTE:

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WELCOME

...Welcome to Adult Abuse Review!

(Continued from page 2)

the ideas and findings you can actually apply to your work.

AAR's mission includes covering *all* topics related to elder and vulnerable adult abuse and neglect. Our scope includes domestic and institutional abuse, self-neglect and abuse by others, domestic violence and paid caregiver exploitation, perpetrator and victim issues, prevention and intervention, services and prosecution, etc. Although there are advantages to narrowly focusing on topics such as domestic violence or elder abuse or issues from a health care providers' perspective, AAR is designed to create the cross-fertilization and connection building that happen when varied ideas and perspectives come together in one place.

Speaking of connection building, AAR also wants to establish a dynamic, ongoing conversation with its readers. Every month we will ask for information on a specific topic, the results of which will be published in the next issue. This will provide a mechanism for building the resource databases we so badly need. We also ask you to send us letters to the editor; leads to news, reports, videos, and programs; questions; ideas; tips on what publications AAR should be regularly reviewing for our readers; and whatever else you'd like to share. We are especially interested in hearing from people who are involved in a successful program or service or who have figured out a useful strategy for solving a perennial problem. If you'd far prefer to keep working than struggle to write up what you've learned, let us help. We'll interview you, peers, clients, or anyone

else who can shed light on what you're doing, read any documents you care to share with us, and then pull the pieces into a coherent whole that will allow others to learn from your hard work.

Creating an Online Resource Library

A very important part of AAR is our website at www.wordbridges.net/elderabuse/. Most newsletters are designed, at best, to be read once and trashed. Those that are archived are so dauntingly hard to search that few people attempt to use them to find the information they currently need. AAR's evolving website is designed to archive individual articles in ways that make it possible for people to easily find what they need exactly when they need it. Thus, AAR will be an integral part of a growing, always-available collection of resources, to help ensure that those who work with abused and at-risk elders and vulnerable adults spend their valuable time becoming more effective, instead of wasting it trying to locate the wheels they know someone else has already invented.

So what is this wonderful resource going to cost you? Nothing. Anyone who can access the Web can read or download it, and anyone with an email address can get notices of when each new edition is available. That, too, is part of AAR's mission: to help abused and at-risk elders and vulnerable adults by disseminating information to and building skills among as many professionals as possible, to increase their chances of meeting someone who will recognize what's going on and help them solve it. It is a labor of love and public service by the staff of WordBridges, a small consulting company that specializes in connecting people through communication. Our staff currently consists of

(Continued on page 23)

...Welcome to Adult Abuse Review!

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Loree Cook-Daniels, a researcher, writer, and facilitator with more than three decades' experience in public policy, aging issues, and elder abuse; and Michael Munson, a webmaster, educator, advocate, and community organizer who specializes in disability and sexual and gender minority issues.

You can support us in several ways. First, tell your colleagues, peers, and contacts how to tap into this resource; the more AAR is disseminated, the more effective we will be in raising awareness, interest, and expertise in elder and vulnerable adult abuse. Second, send us your publications, reports, leads, and ideas, so that we can disseminate what you've created or found. Third, donate mailing lists and other financial* and in-kind resources so that we can aggressively "market" AAR to those who might benefit from reading it. And, finally, consider hiring WordBridges when you have a project for which you need help. You can find out more about us by going to www.WordBridges.net.

We believe AAR is quickly going to become a positive force in advancing the elder and adult abuse fields. We hope you will join us.

** At present, neither AAR nor WordBridges is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Therefore, donations are NOT tax deductible.*

October Survey Questions

Each month *Adult Abuse Review* invites its readers to submit ideas, documents, or data on a selected topic. The responses will then form the basis for one or more articles in the next edition. This month's topic is: **Animal Hoarding**.

Possible topics you could address in your correspondence:

- How common are animal hoarding cases in your area?
- What successes have you had resolving these cases? To what do you attribute these successes? What *hasn't* worked?
- What lessons have you learned about animal hoarders? What questions remain unanswered for you?
- Is there anyone in your area who has a particular expertise in animal hoarders? If so, who and what are they doing?
- Does your jurisdiction prosecute animal hoarders? If so, what have been typical case outcomes? If not, what other strategies are used to address the problem?
- In a "typical" animal hoarder case in your area, what types of agencies/personnel are involved?

Please email responses to Loree@WordBridges.net or fax to 414-540-6489 (no cover sheet necessary) by **October 20, 2002**. (Please note that while we must set a deadline so that we know when to write the article, your comments and thoughts are welcome *any time, on any subject.*)

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We look forward to keeping you informed!