Edmonton’s Collaborative Community Response to Elder Abuse

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Overview

- Edmonton’s Collaborative Model for Dealing with Elder Abuse (Development, The Model, Key Players)
- Case Example
- Benefits of Collaboration
- How to Establish a Collaboration
Developing Edmonton’s Model

- Need identified
- Knowledge gathering
- Elder Abuse Intervention Team
- Community Response
The Elder Abuse Intervention Team--EAIT

- Collaboration between the Edmonton Police Services, Catholic Social Services, Edmonton Community Services and Victorian Order of Nurses
- Mission: To prevent and respond to elder abuse by working in partnership with the community to enhance the safety and well being of older adults
- Will get involved when the abuser is a family member or unrelated caregiver i.e. NOT a stranger/acquaintance
- An allegation of abuse must be identified
- Team can do home visits to investigate a situation
- Team has unique variety of skills to respond to situations of elder abuse
The Elder Abuse Consultation Team--EACT

- Police/security enforcement
- Legal
- Government
- Health: physical, mental
- Business
- Spiritual
- Education
- Community Service Organizations
- Media
Our Community Response to Elder Abuse
The Safe House Program

- Developed out of a need recognized by the EAIT
- Input from the Elder Abuse Community Action Committee
- Started in the year 2000 as a pilot project funding through Edmonton Community Foundation
- Taken over by SAGE (Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton)
- Building collaborations with key stakeholders to provide these services
The Safe House

- For men and women over 60
- Individuals needing safety from abuse and/or neglect
- Stay for up to 60 days
- Free (including meals, personal items, light house keeping, other essentials)
- 7 individual fully furnished, secure suites located in a seniors apartment building
- 2 staff provide holistic case management
- Required resources brought to them
- Follow-up support
- Funding provided by Alberta Senior’s Ministry
Safe House Resources

- Health
- Security
- Finances
- Legal
- Housing
- Supports for independence
- Recreation
Case Example: Shauna’s Story

- Shauna, a 68 year old Croatian woman, experiencing physical, emotional and financial abuse by her spouse.
- Sought help after strangulation.
- Constable referred her to EAIT.
- Came to the Safe House.
Shauna’s Story

- Member of the EACT John Howard Society spoke Croatian translator/court support/safety plan
- The VON nurse followed strangulation protocol
- Mental Health worker dealt with depression/follow up
- Home care and mobility equipment
- Pharmacist

- Housing
- Pensions own bank/increased
- Leaving family violence benefit
- Meals on wheels
- Home Services
- EAIT escort
- ESL classes
- SOAR group
- Community involvement
Benefits of Collaboration

- Expertise of the whole community
- Takes into consideration the individuals whole experience
- Client experiences less frustration with system navigation
- Builds on existing services
- Clients receive services in a timely fashion
- Assists in identifying gaps in services
Establishing a Collaboration

- Identify who needs to be part of the collaboration
- Be up front with why you need them
- Develop relationships
- Value each others work
- Understand the interdependence between roles
- Develop a common philosophy/framework
- Have a written service agreement
- Discuss differences, barriers and plan solutions
- Together learn from difficult cases

**Recognize that collaborations are hard work!**
Questions?
Elder Abuse Resource list

- Seniors Abuse Help Line: 780-454-8888
- EAIT: 780-477-2929
- Alberta Family Violence Information Line: 310-1818
- EARS Elderly Adult Resource Service: 780-477-2929
- Family Violence Prevention Center: 780-423-1635
- Protection for Persons in Care: 1-888-357-9339
- Safe House: 780-702-1520

- Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network (AEAAN)
  www.albertaelderabuse.ca

- Abuse of Older Adults: Guidelines for Developing Coordinated Community Response Model
  Available at acws.ca