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OCAPS welcomes contribu-
tions to our newsletter! If you
are aware of exciting research,
upcoming events, or promis-
ing practices drop us a line
at newsletter@ocapsohio.org
and let us know.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Carol Dayton, OCAPS Chair & Consultant and Educator in the Field of Aging

The OCAPS 25th Anniversary Conference on March 22 was unusual and pleasing. We reluctantly changed the plan from the traditional two days to one, in recognition of the hard economic times and the reduction of training budgets throughout the state. We were unsure how many could come, if our first-time-ever offer of scholarships would help, or how one day at a community college building versus a hotel would feel. Indeed, it all was good! We were very pleased to hit 180 for lunch (20 more than 2009), got many compliments on the comfortable and attractive setting at Columbus State Community College, and were pleased to have five people attend on scholarships. The conference article in this newsletter will give you the details. I want to give you a glimpse of the experience for me. It includes honoring six individuals during lunch for their contributions in the mid-1980's, to the formation of OCAPS and the advocacy work needed to seek funding and a viable system of protection for vulnerable older adults. Gathered together at one table, it was my pleasure to see them catch up, swap stories and re-connect. They each received an engraved glass plaque, honoring that visionary and difficult effort that continues to grow and yield: Georgia Anetzberger, Diana Kubovcik, Marilyn Jacob, Kevin Craine, Antonia Carroll and Erika Taylor. The

awarding of the APS Worker of the Year to Sally Smith of Licking County topped off a memorable lunch, connecting the early efforts to the continuing dedication and striking skill that is the work of APS.

I must also mention the delicious anniversary cake at the afternoon break, shaped in the outline of Ohio and pleasing all who shared in it. The creative good spirit of celebration and the handling of the myriad details of a conference are all evidence of the leadership of Andy Capehart, Education and Resource Committee Chair, and the outstanding work of members of his committee.

We will continue to honor the efforts of those that created this coalition and the daily good work that inspires our efforts. We will also continue to seek outstanding speakers to teach and encourage us to do innovative and skillful work to serve those whose lives are in jeopardy. And, to quote from the early history of OCAPS, we will work to be "a force to be reckoned with."

**Carol Dayton , Chair
OCAPS Steering Committee
chair@ocapsohio.org**

Public Policy Report

Phyllis Carlson-Riehm, ACTION OHIO & OCAPS Public Policy Chair

Elder Abuse Awareness Day Bill

Thanks to everyone who voiced their support for Senate Bill 161 as result of our conference action alert. The bill would create Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th in Ohio. Unfortunately, this bill continues to be stalled in the Ohio Senate Rules Committee.

Please help us get this bill moving again. Call Ohio Senate President Bill Harris (who chairs the Rules Committee) and ask him to schedule the bill for a Senate floor vote. Senator Harris's phone number is 614-466-8086.

Working together and advocating for passage of this bill, we will be able to celebrate and observe Ohio's Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th, 2010, for the first time. Stay tuned – there's more work ahead.

Elder Justice Act Becomes Law

With one stroke of his pen, President Barack Obama signed into law the Elder Justice Act (EJA) and the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act, both part of the Health Care Reform Bill. Bob Blancato, National Coordinator for the Elder Justice Coalition, hailed the bill's enactment, ending over seven years of legislative advocacy "to make elder justice the law of the land."

The Elder Justice Act and the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act have been described as "the most comprehensive federal legislation ever to combat elder abuse, neglect and exploitation." U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch (Republican/Utah) sponsored the EJA and U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl (Democrat/Wisconsin)

sponsored the Patient Safety legislation. The House version of the EJA was sponsored by U.S. Rep. Pete King (Republican/New York).

Main provisions of the EJA include:

- Adult Protective Services funding (\$100 million per yr for 4 yrs) and funding for state demonstration grants (\$25 million per yr) to test a variety of methods to improve APS
- \$32.5 million (over 4 yrs) in grants to support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program and \$40 million (\$10 million per yr) for training programs for national organizations and state long-term care ombudsman programs
- Elder Justice Coordinating Council to make recommenda-

tions to the Secretary of US HHS on coordinating activities of federal, state, local and private agencies relating to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation

The Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act creates a national program of criminal background checks for persons seeking employment in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

Without the commitment of individuals and organizations nationally and at the local level, these landmark acts would never have been enacted. Committed individuals who accept leadership roles and supportive organizations with members who play a part in advocacy equals success.

OCAPS is a statewide coalition that strives to enhance the provision of services to adults at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation through education and advocacy.

2010 Conference Wrap-up

Andrew Capehart, OCAPS Education & Resource Committee Chair and Franklin County Office on Aging APS Supervisor

The twenty-fifth annual OCAPS conference, OCAPS: Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy & Education, was held March 22, 2010 at the Columbus State Conference Center in downtown Columbus, Ohio. This year's conference featured keynote speaker Rev. Robert Denton, PhD, presenting *Darkness Strikes at Sunset: The Role of Understanding and Meaning in Victimization and Trauma*. Dr. Denton also pre-

sented a workshop at the conference titled *Intervening with Elderly Victims: Wedding What We Know to What We Do*. Dr. Denton is Executive Director of the Victim Assistance Program and the Furnace Street Mission in Akron, OH. He was an asset to this year's conference.

Other workshops offered addressed topics such as forensic wound identification, effects of

substance abuse on the elderly, and panel discussions on wellbeing and advocacy. The afternoon plenary session featured Karen Vadino presenting *All Stressed Out and No One to Choke*. Using humor and interesting facts, Vadino engaged the audience in stress relief technique.

The 2010 conference was a great success. We hope to see you at next year's conference!

Save the Date!

Consortium Against Adult Abuse 2010 Annual Conference & Meeting

Friday June 11, 2010

Take a Stand

Corporate College East, Cuyahoga Community College

Registration brochure at:

www.ocapsohio.org/downloads/CAA2010.pdf

OCAPS Membership

Why Join?

As an OCAPS member you are an active participant in the statewide coalition that strives to enhance the provision of services for vulnerable adults over the age of 60 years.

OCAPS...

- Advocates for increased funding and resources to better implement Ohio's elder abuse law.
- Disseminates information about pending legislation (at both the State & Federal levels).
- Sponsors a yearly conference (at reduced rate for members).
- Produces a newsletter with information about promising practices & other useful information.
- Allows members to advertise for job openings in the area of protective services.

And the cost?

- \$30.00 for individuals
- \$100.00 for organizations (up to 3 individuals).

**Visit www.ocapsohio.org
for membership forms!**

The OCAPS Newsletter is published four times a year by the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (with support from the Franklin County Office on Aging and the Fairfield County Department of Job & Family Services). Please send information for publication to: Andrew Capehart, Education & Resource Committee, newsletter@ocapsohio.org.