



OCAPS Officers

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

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Frank Fleischer, OCAPS Chair

This is my first chance to introduce myself as the new Chair of the OCAPS Steering Committee. A member of the OCAPS steering committee for just over a year, I also served on the OCAPS Education and Resource Committee for the past three years. As the Administrator of the Older Ohioans Behavioral Health Network, I administered a transformation grant for the Ohio Association of Behavioral Health Authorities for two years.

I bring this experience in developing networks for older Ohioans to help educate and advocate for excellence in

adult protective services. I will continue to champion the implementation of the Elder Justice Act and work with the Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray's Elder Abuse Commission, as well as the Unified Long Term Care Services Workgroup to represent the needs of vulnerable older Ohioans.

I look forward to working with all of you during the next two years!

Frank Fleischer, Chair
OCAPS Steering Committee
chair@ocapsohio.org

MESSAGE FROM THE FORMER CHAIR

Carol Dayton, Consultant & Educator in the Field of Aging

In my two years as Chair, I have been privileged to represent you in settings where there had been a very limited understanding of the complexity of APS and the critical need for expert knowledge to protect elders from maltreatment and violence. OCAPS contributes a unique focus on the older adult at risk of harm, and the need to educate and advocate for excellence in adult protective services.

We have much more to do to gain the fiscal and administrative support needed to achieve the excellent work that we value. But we continue to be a force to be reckoned with, as our founders hoped. It is very gratifying to realize that the focus on elder abuse is increasing across the country and in Ohio, seen most clearly in

the federal Elder Justice Act now signed into law and the continuing good work of the Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray's Elder Abuse Commission. OCAPS will continue to be in the midst of these efforts.

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant that we are completing will bring to older Ohioans a new resource to identify needs and connect them to services. We are seeking another VOCA grant to expand that work. Your membership support, energy and ideas make it possible. The new officers and the leadership of the OCAPS Steering Committee will make it happen. I am grateful to be a part of it.

Carol Dayton, Former Chair

Not Yet a Reality – Ohio’s Elder Abuse Awareness Day

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

What did you do on June 15th – World Elder Abuse Awareness Day?

Many organizations and groups around Ohio observed the special day with public events and various activities in local communities. The day provides a rallying point to increase public awareness about elder abuse and forge stronger alliances among professionals and volunteer advocates to promote and enhance services for victims.

On August 18, 2009 State Senators Dale Miller of Cleveland and Tom

Patton of Strongsville introduced Senate Bill 161, which would create Ohio’s own Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It was assigned to the Senate Health, Human Services & Aging Committee, where it was discussed and debated, and voted favorably out of committee on September 29, 2009. But then it came to a standstill in the Senate Rules Committee, waiting to be scheduled for a Senate floor vote.

After elder abuse advocates, including OCAPS members, lobbied the Senate Rules Committee, the bill

was finally scheduled for a Senate vote on May 12, 2010 and received unanimous support (32-0). Next it was sent to the Ohio House where it was assigned to the State Government Committee, chaired by Representative Ron Gerberry of Austintown.

The General Assembly completed what was considered its most pressing business on June 3, 2010 and left Columbus for summer recess. Unfortunately Ohio’s Elder Abuse Awareness Day did not become reality before they departed.

Two Action Steps

1. Support passage of Senate Bill 161 this summer

If we don’t find the time and make the effort, who will? Legislators are back home in their districts meeting and greeting voters at holiday parades, county fairs and other public gatherings. If you know your State Representative, give him or her a call. Or say something about the bill when you see him or her in church or at the grocery. Your personal advocacy is powerful.

2. Contact Committee Chair Gerberry

Make the effort to communicate with Committee Chair Gerberry or his Legislative Aide Pam Wilson. Listed below is their contact information.

If Senate Bill 161 is not passed before the end of December 2010, this bill will die and the process to designate June 15th as Ohio’s Elder Abuse Awareness Day must start all over again. By making the effort now to support the bill, Ohio will have its very own designated Elder Abuse Awareness Day in 2011.

Ohio House State Government Committee Chairman Ron Gerberry
Legislative Aide Pam Wilson
Telephone - 614 466-6107
E-mail Address : district59@ohr.state.oh.us
Mailing Address - 77 South High St., 12th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215

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.

Summit County Elder Abuse Coalition Annual Conference

Lorrie Warren, Summit County Probate Court

The Summit County Elder Abuse Prevention Coalition is a collaboration of over 25 agencies committed to providing community education for elder abuse prevention. Our goal is to create awareness of the identifying signs and symptoms of physical and emotional abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as well as services available to reduce the risk of elder abuse. The Coalition has developed a countywide campaign to educate the public on the prevalence of elder abuse, identification of those at risk, and resources available in the community that help to reduce the chances of abuse and to provide assistance after it occurs. Our mission is to build a community approach for the identification, intervention and prevention of elder abuse and mistreatment through education and advocacy.

The Coalition has developed a resource panel which is available to provide information and speak on elder abuse topics throughout the

year. Informational brochures, posters, and multi-media outreach have been provided by the Coalition throughout the year.

The Area Agency on Aging 10B, Inc. (AAoA) has coordinated the collaboration of agencies in Summit County for the purpose of educating the community concerning elder abuse prevention and availability of resources. The AAoA is responsible for the vital support of the Coalition's efforts in developing and conducting a comprehensive, county-wide public educational campaign on the prevalence and indicators of elder abuse, and community resources which help reduce elder abuse.

The Coalition sponsors an annual conference on prevention of elder abuse, held in Summit County at the Raymond Firestone Auditorium on the SUMMA, Akron City Hospital Campus. The Annual Conference

for 2010 is: "The Challenges of Mental Illness: Learning the How To's". The conference will be held Thursday September 23, 2010. Featured presenter is Dr. Eileen Schwartz of Community Support Services. Her presentation will focus on the challenges of working with individuals who are chronically mentally ill, diagnosis & misdiagnosis, and how symptoms change with age and medications. A panel will discuss strategies for working in the mental health system. Workshop topics will include loss and mental illness, hoarding, depression, and suicide. The day will close with discussion about what we, as professionals, can do for ourselves in dealing with work related stress and loss.

For a brochure and more information about the conference please contact:
Lorrie Warren
(330) 643-8359
lwarren@summitohioprobate.com

National Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Announced

The Department of Health and Human Services has announced the establishment of the Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation. The creation of this Board was part of the Elder Justice Act which was passed earlier this year. The Advisory Board will be creating both short and long-term multidisciplinary strategic plans for the development of the field of elder justice in the U.S. The Advisory Board will examine relevant research and identify best practices and make recommendations to the Elder Justice Coordinating Council and Congress regarding improving and enhancing Federal, State, and local elder justice programs, research, training, and coordination. Nominations are due on August 15, 2010. If you would like to be recommended for this Board by the EJC, please send us a brief bio.

For more information on the Advisory Board, please [CLICK HERE](#).

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