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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

I am looking forward to seeing you at the OCAPS Annual Conference on March 22! The day together at Columbus State Community College, in downtown Columbus, will be excellent. This Silver Anniversary Conference will focus on increasing our understanding and skills in responding to the frightened seniors we serve as victims, traumatized and in need of resources and protection. Our keynote speaker is Rev. Bob Denton, Executive Director of the Victim Assistance Program in Akron. His keynote presentation, *Darkness Strikes at Sunset: The Role of Understanding and Meaning in Victimization and Trauma*, will add a new layer of understanding to helping those we serve. Rev. Denton and the other workshop presenters will bring information, motivation and skill-building to your work. The additional workshop topics include forensic wound identification, mental health and substance abuse in the older adult, evidence based practices in wellbeing, and advocacy for APS and the Elder Justice Act. We will close with Karen Vadino addressing stress management, a need we all experience. Our speakers are superb! Look for the registration brochure, in your mail and at our website, www.ocapsohio.org.

It is our intent to offer a limited number of scholarships to the conference. We are very aware of the budget crisis and the restrictions on travel and training dollars. It is this reality that prompted the Steering Committee to make the difficult decision of limiting the conference to one

day. The scholarships will be available only to those new to APS cases in the last twelve months, and working in agencies/ departments unable to support the cost of the conference. More information will be available on the website. The conference keynote focus perfectly expresses the commitment made by OCAPS in applying for and accepting a grant from the Victims of Crime Act, administered by the Ohio Attorney General through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I am very pleased to announce that following a competitive application process, OCAPS contracted with the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA) for the project management and web development described in the grant proposal. The project ends September 30, 2010. Older Ohioans will benefit from this grant through the creation of both web and print information specifically designed for older crime victims, with an emphasis on victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Staff working with older victims will benefit as well, not only by the compilation of crime victim resources, but through the training on victimization which begins with our conference on March 22. As I said at the beginning of this column, I look forward to seeing you there!

Carol Dayton
chair@ocapsohio.org

Advocates Unite to Expand Home Care Options

Larke Recchie, Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Home First is a program that allows people living in nursing facilities immediate access to home and community care without delays imposed by waiting lists for these services. If two bills introduced in the House and Senate pass, the program would be expanded to include older adults in the community.

SB 214, introduced by Senators John Carey (R) and Dale Miller (D), would enhance the current *Home First* provision. HB 398, a companion bill introduced by Deborah Newcomb (D) and Peggy Lehner (R), would expand *Home First* by including older adults who:

- Are leaving hospitals
- Are victims of or are at risk of abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or exploitation as a result of their current situation
- Have depleted their assets in Assisted Living facilities
- Are deemed at risk of nursing home placement within 30 days by their physicians

The legislation would allow Adult Protective Services workers to collaborate with Area Agencies on Aging to designate people at risk of nursing home placement due to abuse, neglect, or exploitation. These consumers would then be eligible

for the expanded *Home First* program.

Due to cuts in state Medicaid funding in July 2009, approximately 2,600 people have been placed on waiting lists before receiving PASSPORT and Assisted Living waivers that pay for such services as personal care and medical equipment and supplies. Making matters worse, the monthly enrollment for in-home and community services was reduced from 680 slots to 500 slots statewide beginning December 1, 2009.

In addition to offering more choices to consumers, *Home First* reduces state spending on health care. The cost of caring for someone at home is about \$20,000 a year; the cost of a nursing facility is about \$60,000 a year.

Studies commissioned by the Scripps Gerontology Center report that, with every month an older adult remains in a nursing facility, the opportunity to return home diminishes. Preventing unnecessary nursing facility placement also eliminates the trauma of transition and decreases depression. The legislation has attracted bipartisan support, unusual for a legislative session dominated

by party-line rifts. In addition to Senators Carey and Miller, Republican Senators Grendell, Schaffer and Seitz, and Democrats Cafaro, Miller, Morano and Strahorn support SB 214. In addition to Representatives Newcomb and Lehner, 35 House members from both political parties co-sponsored HB 398. Hearings are set to begin in January 2010.

Ohio ranks among the 10 worst states in the nation for disproportionate nursing facility spending. *Home First* brings needed and welcome balance into the long-term care system in Ohio. In-home care, combined with community services, makes sense from both an economic and personal preference point of view. When our state faces severe budget deficits and older adults wish to remain in their own homes, providing this option is both timely and critical.

Even more convincing, the proposed expansion of *Home First* will not require an additional appropriation because the existing nursing home stabilization fund would be used to pay for the home and community services. Please join us in endorsing the expansion of *Home First*.

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.

The Public Policy Report

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

A Resident's Right to Know-Enhancing Safety in Long Term Care Facilities

When a couple moved their 18-year-old developmentally disabled daughter into a long-term care facility in Cincinnati, no one told them a sex offender lived in the building. Ohio law says people who live within 1,000 feet of a convicted sex offender must be notified. Likewise, school superintendents, principals and administrators of preschools and day-care centers in the area must be made aware. However,

a loophole in the law leaves out residents of long term care facilities, assisted living centers, and nursing homes.

The couple didn't find out that a sex offender lived in the room next to their daughter's until 12 days after she moved in. It was then that she told them the man had raped her. Her story, and her parents' response to this tragedy, is the reason Ohio Representative Courtney Combs introduced House Bill 98 into the legislature.

If passed, House Bill 98 would

require the county sheriff to inform managers of long term care facilities when sex offenders are moving into their buildings. In addition, it would also require those managers to notify residents and their guardians. Currently, House Bill 98 is pending in the House Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee. OCAPS Steering Committee voted to support the legislation. Please voice your support to your State Representative, especially if your elected official is a member of the committee hearing the bill.

Public Safety & Homeland Security Committee

Rep. Linda Bolon, Chair 614-466-8022

Rep. Robin Belcher, Vice Chair 614-466-7954

Rep. Clyde Evans, Ranking Minority 614-466-1366

Rep. Todd Book 614-466-2124

Rep. John Domenick 614-466-3735

Rep. Tom Leston 614-466-5358

Rep. Dale Mallory 614-466-1645

Rep. Troy Balderson 614-644-6014

Rep. Danny Bulp 614-644-6034

Rep. Timothy Derickson 614-644-5094

Rep. Jeffery McClain 614-644-6265

Coming Soon: Elder Abuse Awareness Day

In an effort to increase public awareness of elder abuse in Ohio, Senator Dale Miller (D) of Cleveland and Senator Tom Patton (R) of Strongsville have introduced legislation that would establish June 15 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day. OCAPS Steering Committee is supporting the legislation and we urge you to help us make it happen.

Senate Bill 161 passed favorably out of the Senate Health, Human Services & Aging Committee on 9/29/09 and has been awaiting a floor vote in the Senate ever since. The focus on state fiscal issues has served to delay the bill's moving ahead, but there is no need for further delays. This bill is not controversial, nor complicated, and it has bipartisan support.

Please call or write to Senate President Bill Harris and urge

him to schedule a vote on Senate Bill 161 now. Then call or write to your own State Senator and ask him or her to support the legislation.

The Honorable Bill Harris,
President
Ohio Senate
The Statehouse, 2nd Floor,
Room 201
Columbus, OH 43266-0604

Vanessa McMahan, Legislative
Aide 614 466-8086

OHSTS: Your One Stop Resource for APS Training

Robin Rankin, OHSTS, Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services

The Ohio Human Services Training System (OHSTS) is a one stop training resource for Ohio County Department of Job & Family Services Staff. A major component of the program focuses specifically on enhancing the knowledge and skill level of Adult Protective Services Professionals.

Established in 1989 and formerly known as the Ohio Adult Services Training Program, one of our primary goals has been to assist Adult Protective Services Staff and their local Community Partner Agencies in developing the expertise to effectively assess and provide a continuum of support services to their vulnerable elderly clients.

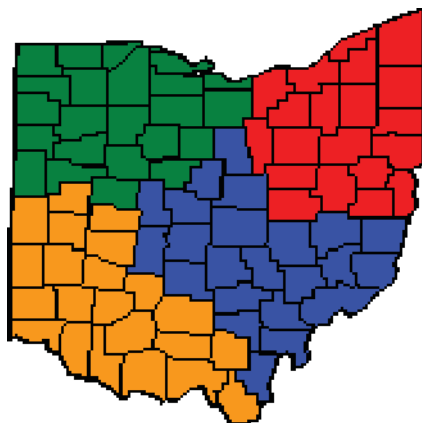
OHSTS workshops include Adult Protective Services Core courses that are recommended for all new staff and a vast array of Specialized and Related Skills courses that provide opportunities for experienced staff to advance their APS knowledge and skills. Training is also provided on other topics such as Mental Health, Stress Management, Personal Safety, Supervisory Skills and Leadership Development.

All of the workshops are instructed by a pool of certified professional trainers who are not only experts in their respective fields but also understand the types of services, policies and practices that are a unique part of the programs provided by County

Departments of Job and Family Services agencies and their designees.

OHSTS issues Continuing Social Work Education Credit for all of its workshops which can be used by Licensed Social Workers toward their licensure renewal with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, Marital and Family Therapist Board. There is no cost for this credential or to attend the training.

OHSTS has 4 Regional Training Centers located throughout the state. For more information or to request training for your APS Staff please contact the Coordinator for your area.



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Good News for Montgomery County APS

Patrick Bailey, Montgomery County Job & Family Services

Montgomery County's Adult Protective Services (APS) was recently awarded a grant from the National Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. APS, which is under the auspices of the Montgomery County Department of Job and Family Services, was one of 12 recipients nationally to be selected. The grant will help create a multi-disciplinary team to improve communication and coordination of elder abuse issues in the community.

In addition, the group will work on strategies to address prevention, detection and intervention of elder abuse. But that's not all; Montgomery County is using part of this grant money to put together an elder abuse symposium on January 28, 2010 to educate providers in the community on abuse, neglect and exploitation. This is a fantastic opportunity to train the community on the core aspects of elder abuse as well as educate

them about Adult Protective Services. Lastly, a group of community volunteers, along with Montgomery County APS, have been working for over a year to put together an Adult Protective Services Protocol. This protocol provides direction for law enforcement and social service agencies across the community when they suspect and need to report elder abuse.

2010 Annual Conference

OCAPS: Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy & Education

March 22, 2010

Columbus State Community College
Conference Center

Visit www.ocapsohio.org and click on the Conference page for a registration brochure

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.



NAPSA

National Adult Protective Services Association

Celebrating 20 years as

The National Voice of APS

Adult Protective Services (APS) Workers: YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

NAPSA is the ONLY national organization for APS workers and offers an opportunity to network with APS workers in your state and around the country.

NAPSA also offers:

Work-related web seminars

Training and networking opportunities

National advocacy for APS programs & clients

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