

2026 OCAPS Conference Outline

OHIO COALITION FOR ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
41th Annual OCAPS Conference: Pouring the Foundation for Success: APS and Collaboration
Friday, March 27, 2026
Quest Conference Center
9200 Worthington Road, Westerville Ohio 43082

Conference Schedule at a Glance

6 hours CEU/CLE

Time	Agenda Item	Agenda Information	Workshop Description
8:00am – 9:00am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	Open networking and visit vendor tables	
9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome & Opening Remarks The Judge Thomas Swift Collaboration Award	OCAPS Chairs Presented by OCAPS Chair and the nominator of the award	
9:15am – 10:30am	Morning Plenary Session: Katie Block	The Work Between Us: Collaboration as an Elder Justice Strategy	<p>This plenary examines why collaboration in the elder justice field is both essential and challenging. Participants will reflect on the structural, cultural, and personal barriers that often complicate cross-system work, including differing priorities, power dynamics, confidentiality constraints, and the impact of limited resources. Our call to action is to reframe these challenges as predictable outcomes of systems that were never designed to work together, and build our collective capacity to do better.</p> <p>Participants will explore how collaboration, when done well, benefits not only those served, but also the professionals doing the work—supporting</p>

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			<p>resilience, shared responsibility, and more effective use of limited resources.</p> <p>Highlighting resources and approaches from the <i>Elder Justice Coalitions: Resource Guides for Building and Sustaining Effective State and Tribal Elder Justice Coalitions</i>, we will showcase how collaborative techniques strengthen both people and systems and illustrate how relationship building and shared problem-solving can reduce silos, expand professional capacity, and improve safety and dignity for older adults across Ohio.</p>
10:30am – 10:45am	Morning Break		
10:45am – 12:15pm	Morning Workshops		
	<p>Workshop One:</p>	<p>Sheryl Harris / Cuyahoga County Dept. of Consumer Affairs</p> <p>Sylvia Pla-Raith / Cuyahoga County DSAS</p> <p>Courtney Reynolds / Benjamin Rose</p> <p><i>Scam Squad: A Collaborative Multi-Disciplinary Task Force to Fight Elder Fraud</i></p>	<p>Scam Squad is a financial fraud task force in Cuyahoga County. Led by the county's Department of Consumer Affairs, the task force includes representatives from city, county, state and federal government agencies and community organizations. Scam Squad was formed in 2016 to address the frustrations older residents routinely faced when trying to report phone- and computer-based scams. We'll talk about how information sharing between social service and investigative agencies has benefited our residents, reduced victim-blaming and myths surrounding scams, and led to innovative approaches to scam reporting and prevention. We'll share easily replicable, low-cost tools that any agency could adapt to fight fraud and scams in their own community. Lastly, we'll discuss how you could work with agencies in your community to start a Scam Squad of your own.</p>

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	Workshop Two:	<p>Brianne Perry, ODJFS</p> <p>Lesley Biesk, ODJFS</p> <p><i>What's New in ODAPS: Enhancing Your User Experience</i></p>	<p>Technical course, only general credits</p> <p>This course will provide an update to the Ohio Database for Adult Protective Services (ODAPS) system. The facilitators will review recent enhancements and upcoming enhancements to the ODAPS system. The course is designed for new and experienced ODAPS system users. Participants will gain an understanding of new enhancements to the system.</p>
	Workshop Three:	<p>Tonya Robinson / Legal Aid of Western Ohio</p> <p>Lucinda Weller, Legal and of W.O.</p> <p><i>Protection in Practice: Tailoring Orders to Support Senior Safety</i></p>	<p>This conference will provide participants with knowledge of the types of protection orders available under Ohio law and help them understand which apply to particular situations. Scenarios will be presented, and participants will use their knowledge to develop strategies for each. Information will also be provided about requesting accommodations and crafting orders in unique ways to assist seniors with safety.</p>
12:15pm – 12:45pm	Award Luncheon	Lunch/networking and visit vendor tables	
12:45pm -1:15pm	2026 APS Worker of the Year	Presented by Ohio Department of Job and Family Services representative	
1:15pm- 2:45pm	Afternoon Plenary Session:	<p>Charles Angeschbach / Ohio AG's Office</p> <p>Teri Ruslander, Grove City Police</p> <p><i>Theft / Criminal Offenses in a long-term care facility - Law Enforcement Resources for APS</i></p>	<p>When a resident of a facility is subjected to theft of personal property, money, or misappropriation of assets, this is not simply the care quality issue-it may be a criminal offense, a regulatory violation, and a serious elder abuse scenario.</p>
2:45pm-3:00pm	Afternoon Break		

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3:00pm-4:30pm	Afternoon Workshops		
	Workshop Four:	<p>Cheryl Lampkowski-Sowie / Otterbein Senior Life</p> <p><i>Collaborating to Protect Hospice Patients at Home: Understanding Vulnerability, Risks, and the Role of APS</i></p>	<p>Hospice care at home allows patients to spend their final days surrounded by comfort, dignity, and loved ones. Yet, this deeply compassionate setting can also create hidden risks. Without the structure and oversight of institutional care, home hospice patients-often elderly, frail, or cognitively impaired-may face greater vulnerability to neglect, abuse, or financial exploitation. This workshop will bring together caring professionals to explore how effective collaboration between community caregivers, families, and APS can safeguard some of the most vulnerable individuals in our communities. As the population ages and more people choose to die at home, professionals are increasingly called to balance respect for autonomy with the duty to protect. Hospice philosophy centers on comfort, not cure-yet within that framework, caregivers and service providers must also recognize when something isn't right. Identifying mistreatment in a hospice context can be challenging, as the signs of decline or distress may easily be attributed to illness or end-of-life progression. This workshop bridges that gap by helping participants distinguish between natural decline and possible abuse, and by showing how coordinated intervention can make a critical difference.</p>

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	Workshop Five:	<p>Elyssa Wanosik / Fairfield County JFS</p> <p>Sarah Fortner / Fairfield County JFS</p> <p><i>Stopping Scams in Their Tracks: Building a Community Resource to Protect the Elderly</i></p>	<p>Elderly financial fraud and scams are increasing in all our communities, requiring collaborative approaches to fight this issue. This workshop highlights how Adult Protective Services and financial institutions in Fairfield County partnered to create the Scam Response Program, an innovative rapid-response model designed to stop scams in progress and put in safeguards for the elderly. Participants will leave this workshop with practical tools, partnership strategies, and a roadmap for launching a scam response initiative in their community.</p>
	Workshop Six:	<p>April Wehrle / Ohio AG's Office</p> <p><i>The "Miss Mary" case study on elder sexual/domestic violence</i></p>	<p>Sexual abuse in later life is a topic that is rarely spoken about, or researched and there is an extremely low number of these cases reported to authorities. In this workshop we will complete the case study, "Miss Mary" a sexual and domestic violence case study from the Federal Department of Justice. Completing the case study will include; video and case study questions through audience participation. Audience participants will also be encouraged to examine their own agency's responses to these sexual/domestic violence elder abuse cases, the types of assistance other agencies in their community can provide, and the value of an interdisciplinary</p>

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	Workshop Seven:	<p>Courtney Reynolds / Benjamin Rose</p> <p>Samantha Tuft / Benjamin Rose</p> <p>Traci Lee/ Salt Lake City APS</p> <p><i>Care Coordination at APS Case Closure: Supporting Clients and Caregivers in Caretaker Neglect Cases</i></p>	<p>Caretaker neglect is the second most common type of abuse in the United States, and in Utah, a largely rural state, where 74% of cases are closed as 'inconclusive.' This session describes an innovative collaboration between Utah Adult Protective Services (APS) and researchers from Benjamin Rose to prevent caretaker neglect. We designed and tested a telephone-based, case management intervention for APS clients with an inconclusive case of caretaker neglect and their caretakers (alleged perpetrators). Participants received case management and completed interviews over a four month period. Using a pre-post study design, we recruited 187 participants; in total, 54 APS clients and 34 caretakers completed the study. Clients experienced significant reductions in depressive symptoms ($p = .007$) and anxiety symptoms ($p = .049$) over time, but caretakers did not. We will explore the impact of the program on individuals through a case study as well as the impact on APS, who has sustained the program. Our discussion will focus on implications for those serving adults in Ohio who may be neglected or neglecting.</p>
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