

Vulnerable Adjust Justice Project

March 11, 2011 – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

William Mitchell College of Law – Room **125**

875 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

If you park in the adjacent lot or across Victoria in the church lot, please sign in at the WMCL Reception Desk and obtain a visitor card for your car.

Present: Iris Freeman (CEJP), Stella French (MDH – OHFC), Barb Doherty (Aging Consultant), Mike Wortman (St. Paul Police Department), Carmen Castaneda and Cindy Carlson (Hennepin County Adult Protection), Caileen Kromhout (Augsburg College), Kevin Hansen (Ombudsman Office for MH/DD), Jennifer Kirchen and Deb Siebenaler (DHS – Adult Protection), Janet Reigstad (Stearns County Adult Protection), Jan Golden and Ellen Longfellow (ElderCare Rights Alliance), John McCullough (CPPCFE), Andrea Domaskin (WMCL/OMHDD), Candace Ballstadt (Faith in Action-Goodhue County) Ken LaBore(Pearson, Randall, Schumacher and LaBore), Laura Orr (University of St. Thomas School of Law), Nate Swanson (WMCL), Amy Sweasy (Hennepin Co. Atty's Office), Doug Beardsley (Care Providers of Minnesota) William Brown (WL Brown Law Office), Deb Holtz (Ombudsman for LTC), Sean Burke (Legal Aid of Minneapolis), Deb Siebenaler, (DHS-APS), Shurree (St. Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project), Mary Prudhomme (St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services), Jonathan Canady (ECRA)

AGENDA

2:00 Welcome, Introductions & General Updates

2:10 Vulnerable Adult Justice Project Legislative Initiative for 2011

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day all day, June 15, William Mitchell College of Law
- A link to the recent U.S. Senate hearing, GAO report and AARP public policy institute fact sheet regarding increased demand for adult protective services will be available on the VAJP website.
- Ramsey county adult services will be presenting to the county board on isolated adults this year.
- Status report and discussion - SF195 (Limmer) and HF447 (Kelly)

SF195 was passed by the Judiciary and re-referred to HHS committee. The HHS committee will not hear policy bills until they finish their budget bill. Sen. Limmer's office expects the bill to pass as a free-standing bill rather than being rolled into an omnibus bill.

HF447 (Kelly) was heard in HHS Reform Committee. Candace Ballstadt provided testimony on behalf of Elder Justice Network and Faith in Action. Carmen Castaneda testified about the bill's value to Adult Protective Services agencies. Next stop for the House File: Committee on Public Safety.

2:30 Related Legislation

- State Budget – CCSA for Vulnerable Children and Adults – Report from Deb Siebenaler(DHS) : Governor initially proposed \$22 million over two years in cuts to CCSA , which are block grants

for county social services services. His revised budget has \$5 million in cuts. DHS is committed to prioritizing these funds for vulnerable children and adults. Still, there is recognition that if preventive services are eliminated, additional people may be at risk of vulnerable situations.

- Licensing Fees for Background Studies: hold for next month's agenda.
- HF424 (Scott) – civil remedies in vulnerable adult cases. Iris Freeman, Kevin Hansen, Greg Marita and Deb Siebenaler met with Rep. Scott regarding the bill which stems from a constituent's family experience. The group explained potential issues with bill, including the problem of changing definitions. There is no Senate companion bill. Bill has not been heard or scheduled to be heard. The bill may provide incentive to discuss additional civil remedies for vulnerable adult cases.
- HF827 (Hamilton), a bill concerning nursing home rate equalization, was amended yesterday to limit the reporting requirements for nursing home and boarding care home staff to Federal Law. The bill was held over for inclusion on Health and Human Services Finance package. Beardsley explained that this was brought up a couple years ago and there did not appear to be support from the VAJP. Had no intention to bring the concept forward this year, but there has been a change in power at the Legislature and a week and a half ago Rep. Abeler came to providers and asked for ways to streamline regulations. Providers gave a list, including eliminating reporting suspected maltreatment to the Common Entry Point, per state law.

2:50 Sexual Abuse in Later Life: Policies for Prevention – Deb Holtz, Ombudsman for Long-Term Care

- Minnesota Department of Health Website has information from Feb. 25 presentation. One panelist was Christine Davidson who focused on the community. Deb Holtz presented on policies regarding sexual abuse in later life. Promising practices and policies for prevention are few. What's needed: data collection, review mandated training, examine physical spaces, privacy issues, how to interview people. Holtz used Albert Lea cases as examples. As people age, may have been a victim of sexual abuse at younger age and then something triggers it. Discussed need for better safe places. Issues raised: how to balance rights of nursing home residents to safety and self-expression, and bringing people back to the community.

3:00 Report of the Public Awareness Working Group

- Janet Golden: group has created preliminary posters/art, that can be posted in clinics, etc., brochures. Suggested Web site for VAJP to reach more of public than the wiki page aimed at legislative information.

[Committee Meetings and Networking]

4:00 End of meeting

VAJP Meeting Dates for the "Spring" 2011 Semester – Room 125 WMCL from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

April 8

May 13