

Vulnerable Adult Justice Project – Large Group Meeting
Friday, February 27, 2009 from 1:30-3pm
William Mitchell College of Law, Room 125

Present: Iris Freeman (Wm. Mitchell College of Law), Ashley Helgason (Wm. Mitchell College of Law), Mark Wandersee (ElderCare Rights Alliance), Janice Allen (Anoka County Attorney's Office), Greg Marita (Legal Aid Society of Mpls), Carmen Castaneda (Hennepin County APS), Jennifer Kirchen (DHS – AAPS), Barb Doherty (MNALL), Darrell Shreve (Aging Services), Lucas Cragg (Kozieradski Smith Law Firm), Commander Ken Reed (St. Paul PD), Lynda Olson (Ramsey County APS), Sgt. Ann Bebeau (St. Paul PD), Cindy Carlson (Hennepin County APS), Suzy Scheller (Pearson Randall Schumacher and LaBore Law Firm), Ken Labore (Pearson Randall Schumacher and LaBore Law Firm), (Keith Weigel (AARP), Thomas Skarohlid (DHS – DSD), Mary Youle (Aging Services), Toby Pearson (Care Providers), Deb Siebenaler (DHS – AAPS), Deb Tulloch (Washington County APS), Kevin Hansen (ElderCare Rights Alliance)

Welcome and Introductions

Update on the Public Awareness Leaders' Work

- Press Briefing: Kickoff for the campaign on Friday, January 16th
- Distribution of Materials: Ombudsman, Aging Services, Care Providers, Alz. Assoc
- Working to expand this group's focus to more long-term planning
 - Letting people know this isn't all-inclusive, things will still need to be worked on
 - Re-assessment as the Large Group to determine next priorities/next steps
- Drafting Letters of Support ASAP, please
 - Copies to Hon. Debra Hilstrom and Hon. Mee Moua
 - please also provide copies to Iris and Kevin for other legislative visits
- Monitoring reports being issued from Media, correcting facts/stories as necessary
- Distinction of what the VAJP Group is doing as compared to the work of the particular counties charging out any of these flagrant offenses
- Article from Kathleen Quinn, regarding the work of APS
 - Carmen said it's in a printed form excerpt from the Star Tribune (February 21st Edition)
 - Recommending passage of the Federal Elder Justice Act
 - Posted on the Wiki at some point soon
- Family members wanting to get involved with our work
 - working also on the Federal level with Minnesota's representatives/senators to sign onto the Elder Justice Act (monies to the states, additional laws and protections, etc.)
- MinnPost.com article that featured the PALs' Op-Ed piece (online communication)

- Sideline from Sgt. Bebeau (Mayor's Advisory Committee)
 - spoke with a representative from the Social Security Administration
 - trying to get the word out about doing a lot of Social Security items online now
 - estimate benefits, get a Medicare card, sign-up/change direct deposit, change phone number
 - potentials for abuse/exploitation with community members with this new "service"

- Update on Press Conference
 - Sen. Moua (Chief Author), Rep. Hilstrom (Chief Author), Sen. Limmer (Republican Lead)
 - VAJP Speakers: Iris Freeman, Deb Holtz, Deb Siebenaler
 - everyone did an AWESOME job ... kudos and thanks to all who helped ☺
 - several news sources there, media types
 - VAJP Delegation: Larry Johnson, Darrell Shreve, Carmen Castaneda, Jane Ochrymowycz, Cmdr. Ken Reed, Keith Weigel, Roberta Opheim, Mark Wandersee

- Data on how many cases have been prosecuted VS. how many have been reported to APS
 - data collection for referrals to law enforcement from County APS
 - any potential data collection from the court system
 - potentially getting data or information from MDH (speaker for these issues)
 - Sue Jackson, Kris Lohrke, Darcy Miner as potential persons to help out with this

- Update on the Legislative Track Team's Work
 - Detailed summaries to assist in Letters of Support...distributed today
 - Topical Summary
 - Section Summary
 - House Research Staff Summary
 - H.F. 818 (Hilstrom) and S.F. 758 (Moua) to track the VAJP Bill through both houses
 - House encourages 35 Co-authors: Reps. Anderson Kelliher, Kohls, Lesch, Mullery, Thissen, Simon, Nelson, Bigham
 - Senate Co-authors: Sens. Limmer, Mary Olson, Scheid, Berglin
 - Crime Victims Subcommittee (Rep. Lesch) Hearing: Friday, February 27th from 8:30-10am
 - Last bill on the docket for the committee
 - Ideal first step in our progress
 - Spoke as to a brief overview of the bill, and spoke to criminal victims issues
 - Kevin Hansen and Phil Carruthers spoke with Rep. Hilstrom to the committee
 - questions about Centralized Common Entry Point and family rights to have remedies for a loved one's exploitation (similar to our Private Right of Action)
 - There are still a lot of moving parts to take note of before the Party and Signing Ceremony
 - lots of Committee Hearings to take the Bill through
 - Bill has been referred to the Public Safety Committee (Rep. Hilstrom)
 - Civil Justice (Rep. Mullery), Public Safety Policy and Oversight (Rep. Hilstrom), Public Safety Finance (Rep. Paymar), Labor and Consumer Protection of Commerce Committee (Rep. Davnie), Commerce Committee (Rep. Atkins), Health and Human Services Policy and Oversight (Rep. Thissen), Health and Human Services Finance (Rep. Huntley)
 - In the Senate, much fewer committees to go through
 - Legislative Visits
 - Track Team has a commitment to visit with every Representative and Senator who sits on a committee that will hear our Bill (201 total to choose from)

- About 106 of these people we will need to visit
- We've met with 35 of those individuals already
- Set the next round of visits, parse it out each week to determine how we schedule
 - Jane Ochrymowycz has attended a TON of meetings for us
 - Deb Holtz and Roberta Opheim have made several visits, which is appreciated
 - Kathy Lamp, Darrell Shreve, Larry Johnson, Carmen Castaneda, and Suzy Scheller have been rockstars as well for this
- Judiciary Committee
 - Mary Olson (Keith Weigel)
 - Linda Scheid (Suzy Scheller)
 - Pat Pariseau (Roberta Opheim)
 - Linda Berglin (Kari Thurlow)
- Letters of Support (Organizational)
 - Hennepin County Attorney's Office
 - Disability Law Center
 - Alzheimer's Association
 - Aging Services of Minnesota
 - Pearson, Randall, Schumacher, and LaBore Law Firm
 - Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA)
 - ElderCare Rights Alliance
 - Care Providers
 - AARP of Minnesota
 - Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC)
 - Director, Division of Human Services and Public Health, Hennepin County
 - Governor's Council on Disabilities
 - Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care
 - Senior Workers of Minneapolis and Senior Workers of St. Paul
 - Seniors and Workers for Quality
 - National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA)
 - National Consumer Voice for Long-Term Care (NCCNHR)
- Other Bills with Relevance to Ours

Adjourn