

VCPEA Conference Agenda

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

12:00 - 3:00 PM Registration & Check Out Exhibits!

1:15 - 1:45 PM Orientation for Scholarship Recipients

2:00 - 3:15 PM Breakout Sessions (Choose One)

Workshop A **Cultivating Compassion Resilience: Surviving Protective Services (Donna Creager, Temple University, Harrisburg campus)**

Protective services caseworkers face many challenges each day. The risk factors for burnout and vicarious trauma seem unavoidable. Work demands can be overwhelming and difficult to manage. Our capacity to mitigate risk factors of compassion fatigue, promote protective factors, and build resilience is critical in protective services. This training will provide an overview of the stress cycle and assist learners in developing a personal plan to manage stressors and build resilience.

Workshop B **Person Centered Care - The Importance of Advance Planning (Morgan Whittaker, Department of Veteran's Affairs, Hunter Holmes McGuire Medical Center)**

I will describe how Advance Directive and Advance planning at the Dept of Veteran's Affairs results in far less numbers of clients requiring guardianship. I would describe the ramifications of having to pursue guardianship. Neglect by guardians is shockingly common. Guardians also have been known to cause physical and psychological abuse through patient isolation when guardians limit social interaction, which causes a rapid decline in elder health.

Workshop C **APS and Long-Term Care Ombudsmen Working Together (Carol Driskill, Advocate, disAbility Law Center of Virginia; Linda J. Hamrick, Medicaid Managed Care Advocate Manager, Department for the Aging and Rehabilitative Services; Laurie Hunter, Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Senior Connections, the Capital Area Agency on Aging; and Cindy Smith, Family Services Specialist, Adult Protective Services, Wise County Department of Social Services)**

A panel including a disAbility Advocate with disAbility Law Center of Virginia, Medicaid Managed Care Advocate with Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Long Term Care Ombudsman at Senior Connections, The Capital Area Agency on Aging, and Family Services Specialist at Wise County Department of Social Services will share what they do and how they collaborate to educate, advocate, and protect the rights of older Virginians and adults with disabilities living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and the community.

3:30 - 4:45 PM Breakout Sessions (Choose One)

Workshop D **Introducing Virginia's Safety Connector! An Online Tool for Linking Systems of Care (Sarah Marrs, Ph.D., Virginia Center on Aging)**

To date, much of the research on elder mistreatment has focused on adequate skills for recognizing, screening for, and reporting abuse after it has occurred. Leaning into the space of preventing abuse from occurring, our team has developed an online tool to add to Virginia's existing Easy Access suite. This tool, the Safety Connector, will better connect older adults and caregivers to local resources and systems of care that meet their specific needs. In this session, we will introduce the Safety Connector and demonstrate how it is used. We will also introduce the various other resources available on the Safety Connector's website.

Workshop E **Walking Through the Door of Self: Creating an Anti-Ageist World Starting with Ourselves (Jenny Inker, Virginia Commonwealth University)**

In this interactive, safe, and supportive workshop, participants will have opportunities to explore personal views about their own aging and to learn about how these can contribute to ageism and ableism. Together we will brainstorm about how we can change these to create an anti-ageist world for ourselves and others. During the workshop, participants will be asked to reflect on and share (to the extent they are comfortable) their attitudes to themselves as a person who is aging. We will then discuss how the socio-cultural environment sets many people up for failure through unrealistic expectations for "successful" aging. By exploring a bio-psycho-social-spiritual approach to growing older, participants

will have the opportunity to develop a richer, more nuanced view of growing and being older that can contribute to shifting mindsets (our own and others') about what it means to grow older. The workshop will include short didactic segments to share knowledge, interactive opportunities in pairs and small groups, and a short (12 minute) documentary on one woman's experience of growing older, called Death Metal Grandma. It will end with a call to action for participants to identify at least one thing they can start doing, stop doing, or continue doing in order to contribute to the creation of an anti-ageist world.

Workshop F **Elder Abuse and Financial Fraud, (Emily Fertita and Shanon Newcomb, Special Agents, Federal Bureau of Investigation)**

Two FBI Special Agents who investigate complex financial crimes will provide an Elder Fraud awareness briefing. The presentation discusses "who" perpetrates financial crimes against Seniors, "what" frauds and schemes are conducted, "how" perpetrators conduct their schemes, "where" Seniors may come across fraud perpetrators, "when" Seniors are most vulnerable and "why" Seniors are targeted. Internet Crime Complaint Center statistics are explored with a focus on crimes most reported by Seniors including tech support scams, lottery/sweepstake/inheritance scams, government impersonation scams, romance/confidence scams, and investment schemes. The presentation also explains methods favored by fraudsters including money mules and cryptocurrency. Warning signs of financial abuse, how to assist victims as well as complications with financial fraud victims are discussed. Fraud reporting methods and resources for continued learning are provided.

5:15 PM **Hospitality Suite**

Thursday, May 16, 2024

7:30 - 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast

8:00 - 10:30 AM Registration

9:00 - 11:30 AM Welcome & Opening Session

9:00 - 9:30 AM Welcome Address

9:30 - 11:15 AM **Opening Session: 'Heroes of Adult Protection' Premiere Film Clip Presentation with Filmmaker Discussion presented by The Clowder Group**

Heroes of Adult Protection is a docuseries and feature length film documenting how our community can work together to help victims of adult abuse become thriving survivors. This project shines a light on the real-life experiences of Adult Protection Services professionals.

11:45 - 1:15 PM Luncheon followed by Special Presentations, Business Meeting, & Prize Drawings

1:30 - 3:00 PM Breakout Sessions (Choose One)

Workshop G **Caregiving for Someone Living with Dementia: Challenges, Solutions, and Opportunities (Sydney Palinkas, RAFT Dementia Support Program)**

1 in 10 older adults are living with dementia, leading to high rates of stress for caregivers as well as risks of abuse and neglect. Caregivers often do not have the tools or resources to appropriately care for their loved one. This interactive presentation will provide attendees with an understanding of the different types of dementia, common challenges faced by caregivers, and considerations when supporting someone living with dementia as well as their care partners. Using real case examples, this presentation will highlight the work of the RAFT Dementia Support Program as a resource to support individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

Workshop H **Implicit Bias and Older Adults (Chante Brooks, Adult Protective Services Training Consultants)**

In this workshop, participants will gain understanding of Implicit Bias, the impact of Implicit Bias on older adults, and strategies on how to minimize the effect of Implicit Bias.

Workshop I **Elder Abuse MDT's: Teamwork Makes the Dream Work (Stephanie Edwards, Peninsula Elder Abuse Forensic Center & Alison Martin, Henrico County Commonwealth Attorney's Office)**

This presentation will demonstrate how collaboration, communication and cooperation among APS and other disciplines as well as utilizing specialists such as forensic accountants, psychologists and civil attorneys assist in the investigation and finding solutions for complex cases of elder abuse. Attendees will learn the benefits of participating in an MDT and how to start an elder abuse MDT in their locality.

3:15 - 4:45 PM Breakout Sessions (Choose One)

Workshop J **Crossroads: At the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Financial Abuse A Tale of Two Fraudsters (Alison Martin, Henrico County Commonwealth Attorney's Office)**
This high-energy, interesting PowerPoint presentation will walk participants through the connections between financial abuse and domestic violence. The framework is two recently resolved Henrico County Circuit Court matters.

Workshop K **Hoarding, a Quiet Epidemic (Emmanuelle Bunn and Cathy Dickey, Family Services Specialists, and Sarah Delgado, APS Supervisor, Norfolk Department of Human Services)**
This presentation will provide definitions, statistics, and real-life examples of cluttering and hoarding case-management from Norfolk Department of Human Services' Adult Services and Adult Protective Services. Participants will hear diagnostic criteria for Hoarding Disorder and learn an approach to case-management for persons who are suspected of meeting those diagnostic criteria. Participants will be able to differentiate between collecting, cluttering, and hoarding. This presentation hopes to aid in closing the revolving door nature of hoarding cases, which AS/APS workers are experiencing increasingly in communities across the country. Based on the innovative webinar by Marnie Matthews, LCSW, of the Center for Hoarding and Cluttering entitled "Hoarding: Identifying, Assessing, and Addressing... The Collaborative Approach to Hoarding."

Workshop L **Your Identity-Stay Connected (AARP)**
Fraud Watch Network workshops focus on building understanding of the types of scams and fraud that are prevalent and how to spot and avoid them. FWN presentations help people: Learn how to spot fraudulent activity or attempts to steal money or personal financial information and how to avoid becoming a victim; increase awareness of the different tactics scammers use to target individuals and what types of information shouldn't be given out over the phone or internet; and identify AARP as a wise friend in staying safe from scams and fraud.

5:15 PM Hospitality Suite

TBA

Friday, May 17, 2024

7:00-7:30 AM Yoga by the Fountain with Sydney Palinkas

7:30 – 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast

9:00-10:30 AM Breakout Sessions (Choose One)

Workshop M **Protecting SNAP and EBT Cards from Skims and Scams (Bonnie Lansing, Suffolk Dept of Human Services and Wanda Redd, Danville Dept. of Social Services)**
An increase in public assistance program scams and fraud targeting our most vulnerable populations, have placed the elderly and disabled populations at a higher risk for the loss of SNAP benefits and compromised case information. Awareness of ways to protect individual information and keep benefits safe on the EBT card will be discussed. As with other scams that have become more widespread, SNAP and EBT card losses have also been affected. Not only in Virginia, but across the country, reports of EBT card losses have increased. Education of consumers is important in helping to make SNAP recipients more aware of safeguarding their information. It is also important, especially with the elderly and vulnerable, that any authorized representatives listed on the case be aware of protecting benefits and case information. The selection of an authorized representative will be discussed. This session will aim to being awareness of protecting SNAP and EBT card information, to help lessen the likelihood of fraudulent misuse of the EBT card and wisely choosing an authorized representative.

Workshop N **The Effects of Social Isolation and Effective Interventions for Older Adults (Morgan Maler, Social Connection)**

Social isolation and loneliness pose serious threats to health and well-being, increasing the risk of cognitive decline, heart disease, depression, anxiety, dementia, premature mortality, neglect, abuse, and more. These experiences transcend age, affecting people across the lifespan. This session addresses the urgent need to counter these issues by building intergenerational and community connections, which can help ensure the well-being of every individual.

This session will delve into the root causes and far-reaching effects of social isolation and loneliness, especially for older adults. Our discussion will extend beyond awareness, exploring practical ways to foster intergenerational connections that create safer, healthier, and more resilient communities for everyone. By showcasing promising strategies and initiatives identified through our research and innovation work, the presentation aims to inspire action and empower stakeholders to effectively bridge generational gaps in their communities.

Join us for an enlightening session that goes beyond acknowledging the problem—providing actionable insights to strengthen social bonds and ultimately build communities where every individual, particularly older adults, can thrive and remain protected from the detrimental consequences of social isolation and loneliness.

Workshop O **Human Rights of Elder Migrants. Challenges and Responses for Service Providers (Juan Carlos Mejia, Center for Demography and Human Rights, LLC)**

Challenges and Responses for Service Providers" refers to an exploration of the rights and issues faced by older individuals who have migrated from one place to another. This could involve moving between countries or regions, either voluntarily or involuntarily, due to various reasons such as seeking better economic opportunities, joining family members, or escaping conflict or persecution.

11:00 – 1:00 PM Closing Session and Final Thoughts

11:00 – 12:30 PM Closing Session: **Building Caregiver Resilience: A Framework for Care (Aaron Blight, Ed.D.)**
Caregivers are usually so busy with the tasks of caregiving that they rarely reflect upon the significance of their activities, including how caregiving changes their identity, their view of self, their relationship with others, and their place in society. This thoughtful and inspiring presentation draws upon research to explain caregiving as a phenomenon of social science, with an eye toward the development of caregiver resilience.

12:30 – 1:00 Final Thoughts and Prize Drawings

4/10/24