Elder Abuse Interventions and E-MDT Initiative

Aging Concerns Unite Us

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TODAY’S TOPICS

1. The Power of Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams
2. NYS E-MDT Expansion Initiative
3. The Unique Role and Value of Aging Network
4. How Case Consultation and E-MDTs Work
5. Specialty Services
6. Statewide Resources
7. Q&A and Discussion
There’s gotta be a better way...
MDTs Streamline and Coordinate Responses

- Bring together agencies to provide improved and effective system collaboration
- Bridge system gaps to offer a prompt and holistic response
- Efficiently use scarce resources
- Provide relief to the victim at the earliest possible juncture, stop the abuse, prevent further inappropriate use of funds, restore sense of safety and security

*No single agency can do it alone!*
What Happens at an Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meeting?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLrBqJVqu-A
Key Response Systems Typically Involved with the E-MDT and at the table:

* Specialty Services
- Forensic Accounting;
- Geriatric Psychiatry; and
- Community Legal Services
**Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams (E-MDTs)**

The E-MDTs are composed of professionals from various disciplines whose primary focus is to investigate, intervene, and stop financial exploitation and other forms of elder abuse (physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect by others).

**What makes it “Enhanced”?**

- Access to a forensic accountant
- Access to a geriatric psychiatrist
- Access to community legal services
Elder Abuse Interventions and E-MDT Initiative: Expansion 2017-2020

• NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) and NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS)
• NYSOFA administering the initiative
• Leverage state funds to draw down federal VOCA (Victim of Crime Act) funds annually:
  • $2.0m from OVS with VOCA funds
  • $500,000 state legislature 25% matching funds

AIM: EXPAND E-MDTs to be available in every county of New York State
Agencies Involved:

- NYS Office of Victim Services (OVS)
- NYS Office for the Aging (NYSOFA)
- Lifespan of Greater Rochester
- Weill Cornell Medicine/New York City Elder Abuse Center (NYCEAC)
- E-MDT Host agencies
- Specialty services (Forensic Accounting, Geriatric Psychiatry, Community Legal Services)

2017-2020 Elder Abuse Interventions and Enhanced multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT) Initiative
Goal

• Provide sustainability, expansion, and enhancement of the E-MDT Initiative that addresses all types of elder abuse, bringing together entities with unique resources and skills.

• Coordinated E-MDTs in each county by 2020.
Purpose

To provide improved and effective cross-systems collaboration and specialized responses to complex cases, resulting in restored safety and security to older adults in New York.
New York Partners
Two pilot areas
(2012-2015)
Statewide Expansion (Mid 2019)
Features of Elder Abuse Interventions and E-MDT Expansion

Access to Specialty Services:
- Forensic Accountant services
- Geriatric Psychiatry services
- Community Legal Services

Technical Assistance and Support:
- 1:1 Technical Assistance including case consultations
- MDT-Peer Leadership Group
- Monthly webinars

2019-2020:
- Statewide Elder Justice Center Hub
- Pilot initiatives
- Statewide Database
UNIQUE ROLE AND VALUE OF THE AGING NETWORK

HOW CASE CONSULTATIONS AND E-MDTS WORK

SPECIALTY SERVICES

STATEWIDE RESOURCES
Aging Services Network is Critical

- Unique and detailed knowledge of programs and resources
- Addresses social aspects of abuse
- Remains involved when others close the case (i.e., APS, police)
- Likely knows what aging services victim has accessed – helps other professionals understand the case holistically
Case Flow

Referral from Professional to E-MDT Coordinator

Case Consult
Screening/Triage by E-MDT Coordinator

E-MDT Review

Response without E-MDT Involvement
Benefits of Case Consultation and E-MDT

**The Victim**
- Harm reduction in all types of abuse
- Reduction in risk
- Multidisciplinary & individualized response
- Rapid response relieves distress
- Prevent further maltreatment/exploitation
- If victim is not “ready,” the seeds are planted anyway
- Coordination and access to needed services

**Your Organization**
- A team of professionals that “has your and your staff’s back”
- Streamlined, effective interventions = reduced stress on staff
- Organization builds reputation for innovation, diligence, positive results
- Systems connections and inter-dependence that otherwise may be impossible
The Ask

- Commitment to attend each meeting
- Adhere to confidentiality agreement
- Active participation at each meeting – whether or not connected to the case
- Adhere to policies and ground rules
- Ability to leave the silo – and take it to a team
- Ability to hold oneself and one’s organization accountable, to be generous, to want the best for each professional involved
- Bring cases to the team if applicable
- Take action plan items
### When Professionals Should Request Elder Abuse Case Consultation from E-MDT Staff

- At the earliest suspicion
- Multiple agencies or systems involved
- High level of concern for the victim and their safety
- Need access to an elder abuse specialist
  - Forensic Accounting
  - Geriatric Psychiatrist
  - Community Legal (aka Civil Legal)
- Co-occurring abuse
- Inaccessible system or service
- Abuse suspected, not verified
- Multiple perpetrators
- Difficulty implementing interventions to mitigate abuse/exploitation
- Signs of abuse, but significant gaps in the story
- Multiple referrals
Important Details for Requesting an E-MDT Case Consultation

A referral to the E-MDT coordinator does not replace referrals that are usually appropriate for APS, 911, other victim services.

The E-MDT coordinator does not “take over the case” but is an added support to help address cases of financial exploitation and other forms of elder abuse.
Specialty Services

FORENSIC ACCOUNTING

GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY

COMMUNITY LEGAL (CIVIL LEGAL)
Role of Forensic Accountant

Examples:

- Guardianship proceedings
- Criminal or Civil Court proceedings
- Provide information to victim regarding exploitation

- In-depth review of bank, credit card, investment statements
- Analysis of transactions - what belongs to victim and what belongs to the alleged abuser
- Prepare report of findings
- Provide recommendations
- Testify in court, if needed
# Account Attributable to Client Attributable to Suspect Unaccounted For

## Background
Case No. XXX was referred to the County/Borough E-MDT on [Date]. The Client, [Name/Initial], is ..., details such as age, gender, residence, and other details given in Intake Form; give timeline of events as communicated by caseworker or E-MDT Coordinator; include referral source and reason for request for forensic accounting.

## Documents Used
The following documents were provided by [the E-MDT Coordinator or referring party] for use in my review:

- [Insert list of documents requested and reviewed which formed basis of report]
  Intake form completed by E-MDT Coordinator

## Limitations
The following documents were requested but not provided, which limited the scope of our review.

- [List each document requested, who requested it and from where, and the reason given that it was not provided.]

## Procedures
Banking transactions from the Client’s accounts were scheduled in Microsoft Excel® with the following details included: account name and number, statement date, transaction post date, transaction type, check number (if applicable), payee, amount, and memo (if applicable). The data was analyzed to reveal patterns, trends, anomalies, and other activity incongruent with the Client’s lifestyle as described by the [E-MDT Coordinator or referring party].

## Findings
Please refer to the attached Appendix for details on the activity in each account listed below.

### By Account
[Describe findings in each account reviewed, referencing appropriate Appendix, if provided]

### Other Findings
[Other general information noted during the course of the review which may not relate to specific accounts, but may be of interest to the E-MDT]

### Recommendations
- [Insert case-specific recommendations to E-MDT based on Findings]

- Review the payees listed on Appendix [2] to determine which expenses may have been paid for the benefit of the Client, and which may be attributed to the Suspect.

- Review beneficiary information for all the insurance policies on which the Client is paying premiums in order to determine whether beneficiaries are appropriately designated.

- Run a credit report on the Client to determine the current balance of [credit card noted], and whether other credit cards or loans were taken out in the Client’s name during the period.

- Requesting copies of [missing account information] to further determine source of funds.

## Conclusion
The following funds were determined to be used for the benefit of the Victim, attributable to the Suspect, or remain unaccounted for, based on my analysis of each account:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Attributable to Client</th>
<th>Attributable to Suspect</th>
<th>Unaccounted For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[insert row for each account]</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These totals would include any outstanding debt that [relate/are related] to the Victim's name as of the date of the review.

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Note: The table above is a placeholder for the actual account details. You should replace the text with the specific account information and findings discussed in the document.
Role of Geriatric Psychiatrist

- Explain psych eval for the team at the meeting
- Explain psych meds and impact
- Explain psych diagnosis and impact
- Explain differential diagnosis
- Outreach to victim’s psychiatrist when appropriate
- Conduct capacity evaluations when appropriate
- Provide spontaneous and formal trainings on mental illness, cognitive deficits and capacity
Role of Community Legal (Civil Legal)

- Provides expert opinion and recommendations
- Supports prosecutor’s and/or LE investigation
- Liaison between the E-MDT and the civil legal system
- Provides legal history related to cases reviewed, as needed
- Explains laws related to financial exploitation and/or elder abuse
- Provides legal services to the older adult victim, as appropriate
- Reviews legal documents - deeds/leases, POAs, guardianship
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Who Do I Call?</th>
<th>Services Offered</th>
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| I have an E-MDT in my county                | E-MDT Coordinator       | • 1:1 case consultation with coordinator  
• E-MDT meetings  
• Access to specialty services (as available)  
• Financial exploitation webinar series |
| I don’t have an E-MDT in my county          | Lifespan                | • 1:1 case consultation with Lifespan  
• Access to forensic accounting services  
• Financial exploitation webinar series |
| I am an E-MDT Coordinator                   | Lifespan                | • Guidance on any issue related to developing and sustaining E-MDTs  
• 1:1 elder abuse case consults with technical assistance provider  
• Monthly MDT-Peer Leadership Group calls  
• Financial exploitation webinar series |
| I am unsure if I have an E-MDT in my county  | Lifespan                | • We will help!                                                                   |
Resources Available Statewide

Statewide Case consultations & Forensic accounting

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Lifespan of Greater Rochester

(585) 244-8400 x 140
agranata@lifespan-roch.org

Financial Exploitation Webinars

• 1st Wednesday of every month from 10:00-11:00 covering a variety of topics related to financial exploitation of older adults
• Hosted by Upstate Elder Abuse Center at Lifespan
• Join the mailing list by e-mailing Fewebinars@lifespan-roch.org and include your name, agency, and county served
Questions, Answers and Discussion
THANK YOU
Presenter Contact Information

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