



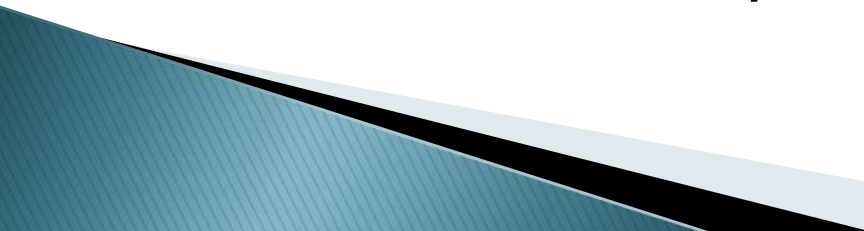
# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

## *Review of Key Activities of the Federal Interagency Elder Justice Working Group*

Presented by the Federal Interagency Elder Justice  
Working Group  
May 13, 2013

# Background

The inaugural meeting of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council took place in October 2012

- ▶ Fall meeting agenda determined with input from subject matter experts within elder justice
  - ▶ Testimony presented by a select group of experts in four topic areas
  - ▶ Experts who testified submitted white papers which included recommendations for improving and advancing the field of elder justice, for consideration by federal leaders
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# Key Activity #1: Analysis of expert recommendations

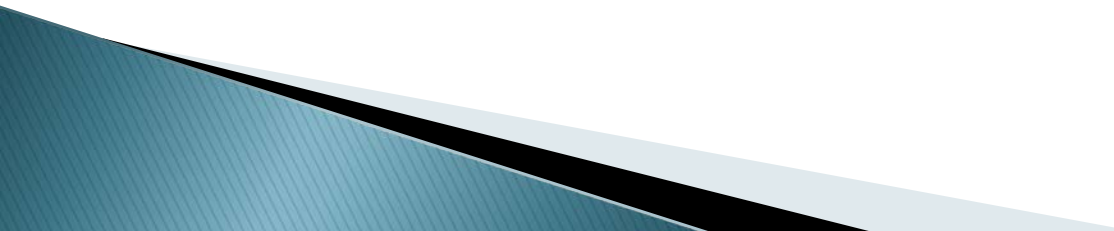
Subcommittee of EJWG members reviewed all white papers to:

- ▶ Determine top recommendations within each of the original 4 topic areas
- ▶ Analyze overlap between various recommendations
- ▶ Distill to current set of 9 recommendations to be presented today, for consideration by members of the EJCC

# Key Activity #2: Preliminary action steps for implementation

- ▶ EJWG members formed subcommittees to begin specifying draft action steps for implementation of each recommendation
- ▶ Considerations included:
  - Assessment of current, relevant activities
  - Review of existing literature
  - Outreach to relevant stakeholders, where applicable

# Next Steps

- ▶ Receive input from Council members regarding the set of 9 recommendations distilled from the expert white papers
  - ▶ Receive public comments on the 9 recommendations
  - ▶ Prepare draft federal agenda for future elder justice activities for EJCC consideration
- 

# Presentation of EJWG Recommendations

Recommendations will be presented in 2 parts:

- ▶ Improving the response to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation – Recommendations 1 through 4
- ▶ Improving awareness of and intervention in elder abuse, neglect and exploitation – Recommendations 5 through 9



# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Improving the Response to Elder  
Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation:

*Recommendation #1: Support the  
Investigation and Prosecution of  
Elder Abuse Cases*

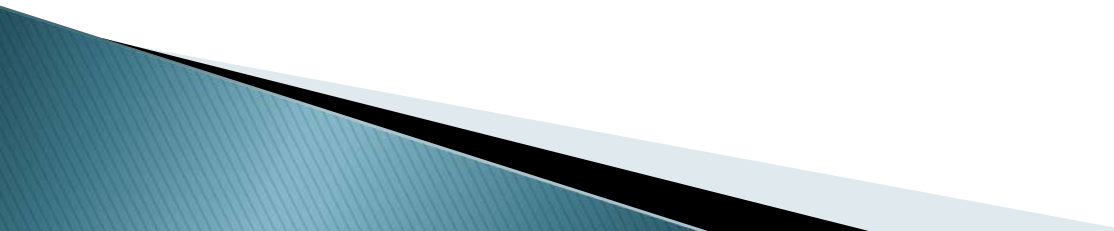
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# Support the investigation and prosecution of elder abuse cases

- ▶ **Recommendation:** Support the investigation and prosecution of elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation cases through:
  - Creation of a National Resource Center for the Investigation and Prosecution of Elder Abuse;
  - Launch of the Elder Abuse Prosecution Resource Website; and
  - Development of a “successful practices” guide to implementing additional Elder Abuse Forensic Centers



# Current Status

- ▶ Agencies currently involved: DOJ, HHS
  - ▶ DOJ will launch the Elder Abuse Prosecution Resource website in Fall 2013
  - ▶ Information is being gathered to expand the Prosecution website information to include contacts for law enforcement and victim service providers
- 

# Next Steps

- ▶ National Resource Center for the Investigation and Prosecution of Elder Abuse
  - Determine relevant contacts which can assist prosecutors and victims of abuse
  - Develop training and information on prosecuting EA and working with older victims
  
- ▶ “Successful practices” guide to implementing an Elder Abuse Forensic Center
  - Identify an advisory group to brainstorm successful practices for developing Elder Abuse Forensic Centers
  - Analyze existing Forensic Center models for strengths and weaknesses



# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Improving the Response to Elder  
Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation:

*Recommendation #2: Enhance  
Services to Elder Abuse Victims*

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# Enhance Services to EA Victims

- ▶ **Recommendation:** Support and protect elder victims by improving identification of elder abuse and enhancing response and outreach to victims
- ▶ **Desired outcomes:**
  - Improved detection of EA by service providers
  - Better coordination between victim services and public health and social services
  - Development of new protocols to aid service providers in engaging with and supporting victims

# Current Status

- ▶ Agencies currently involved
  - DOJ: OVC, OVW, ATJ
  - HHS: ACL
- ▶ Several federal projects exist specifically to enhance response to victims
  - Development of coordinated community response to reported elder abuse cases
  - Provision of wrap-around legal services to victims

# Next Steps

- ▶ Agencies to participate:
    - HHS, DOJ, FTC, CFPB, Treasury
  - ▶ Evaluate existing screening tools and develop new tools for use by service providers across multiple sectors
  - ▶ Enhance current response vehicles for service providers
  - ▶ Develop new response and outreach protocols, as applicable
- 



# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Improving the Response to Elder  
Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation:

*Recommendation #3: Develop a  
National Adult Protective Services  
System*

Presented by the Federal Interagency Elder Justice  
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# Develop a National APS System

- ▶ **Recommendation:** Develop a national Adult Protective Services (APS) system based upon standardized data collection and a core set of service provision standards and best practices
- ▶ **Two components:**
  - Data Collection – model after National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
  - Service delivery standards, best practices



# Current Status

## ▶ Data Collection

- DOJ (BJS): Cooperative agreement for needs assessment of current information systems at state level, identify barriers to reporting, develop core set of measures that can be reported
- HHS (ACL, ASPE): Plans underway to create a national APS data collection system

## ▶ Service Provision Standards

- HHS (ACL): Work to identify core system components
- DOJ (OVC): Currently working with NAPSA and other partners on curriculum development for APS staff

# Next Steps

- ▶ Data collection
  - Implement data collection
  - Provide Technical Assistance to State APS
  - Report on findings from data collection
- ▶ Core set of service provision standards and best practices
  - Develop draft standards
  - Engage stakeholders to review and finalize
  - Designate federal oversight of APS service standards



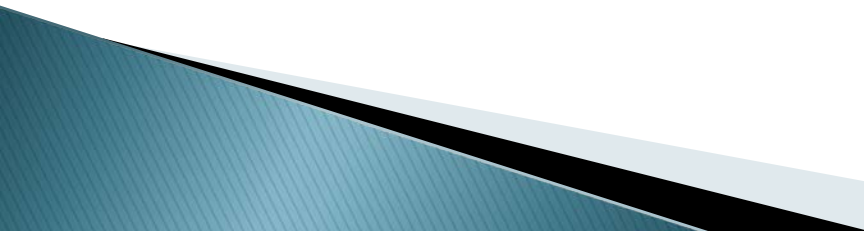
# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Improving the Response to Elder  
Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation:

*Recommendation #4: Develop a  
Federal Elder Justice Research  
Agenda*

Presented by the Federal Interagency Elder Justice  
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May 13, 2013

# Develop a Federal Elder Justice Research Agenda

- ▶ **Recommendation:** Establish a coordinated federal research agenda to identify best practices for prevention of and intervention in elder abuse and elder financial exploitation
    - Emphasis on primary and secondary prevention and interventions
    - Include all relevant domains – social services, criminal justice, public health, others
- 

# Current Status

- ▶ Agencies involved
  - DOJ – BJS, NIJ
  - HHS – NIA, ASPE, AoA/ACL
  
- ▶ DOJ will carry out this work by:
  - Reviewing literature on prevention of and intervention in elder maltreatment and financial exploitation
  
  - Reviewing results from Elder Justice Roadmap Project for potential additional areas for research development

# Next Steps

- ▶ DOJ and HHS partner agencies coordinate to:
  - Identify and prioritize gaps in research literature across various domains
  - Use gap analysis to create a federal research agenda
  - Draft federal research agenda



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**EJCC**  
**Discussion of**  
**Recommendations**  
**1-4**



# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

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# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

## *Review of Key Activities of the Federal Interagency Elder Justice Working Group*

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# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Improving Awareness of and  
Intervention in Elder Abuse,  
Neglect and Exploitation:

*Recommendation #5: Develop a  
Public Awareness Campaign*

Presented by the Federal Interagency Elder Justice  
Working Group  
May 13, 2013

# Develop a Public Awareness Campaign

- ▶ **Recommendation:** Develop a strategic, multifaceted public awareness campaign including media relations, public service announcements, and online tools and information with clear and consistent messaging to raise awareness and understanding of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- ▶ **Desired Outcomes:**
  - Reach diverse audience through collaboration across federal agencies and other partners
  - Advance understanding of elder abuse issues across a range of audiences
  - Utilize low cost mechanisms, such as PSAs and pro bono advertising, to reach a broader audience

# Current Status

Federal partner agencies – HHS, DOJ, CFPB, FTC, SSA, USPIS – are currently:

- ▶ Conducting an environmental scan of existing campaigns
- ▶ Consulting with Federal partners that have implemented other successful public awareness campaigns
- ▶ Reviewing the 2010 NCEA Report “Elder Abuse Prevention Campaign: Research Report and Communication Plan”

# Next Steps

- ▶ For EJCC consideration, identify and make determinations about:
  - Goals and purpose of a national campaign
  - Messaging and target audiences
  - The range of implementation strategies



# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Improving Awareness of and  
Intervention in Elder Abuse, Neglect  
and Exploitation:

*Recommendation #6: Multidisciplinary  
Training on Elder Abuse*

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May 13, 2013

# Multidisciplinary training on EA

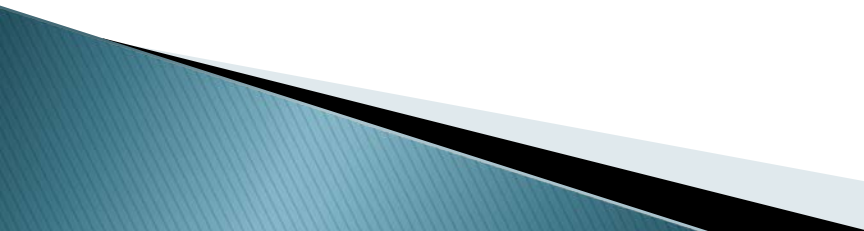
- **Recommendation:** Develop training to educate stakeholders across multiple sectors and disciplines on preventing, detecting, intervening, and responding to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation
- **Desired outcomes:**
  - Increased detection of elder abuse and exploitation
  - Earlier and coordinated intervention strategies to aid and support victims of EA
  - Improved capacity of first responders to address suspected elder abuse and exploitation
  - Cross-pollination of efforts to combat EA across multiple sectors.

# Current Status

- ▶ Several federal agencies have developed training across a number of sectors and disciplines
- ▶ Target audiences for training on elder abuse include:
  - Health Care Professionals/Providers
  - Aging and Disability Network
  - Financial Services Industry
  - APS Professionals
  - Law enforcement, judiciary, and legal services



# Next Steps

- ▶ Identify collaborating partners
    - Federal partner agencies
    - National non-profit organizations
    - Professional associations
    - Law enforcement stakeholders
  
  - ▶ Make determinations about:
    - How to tailor training modules to multiple audiences
    - Appropriate delivery platforms (internet, print, etc.)
    - Strategic collaboration for distribution
- 



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Improving Awareness of and  
Intervention in Elder Abuse,  
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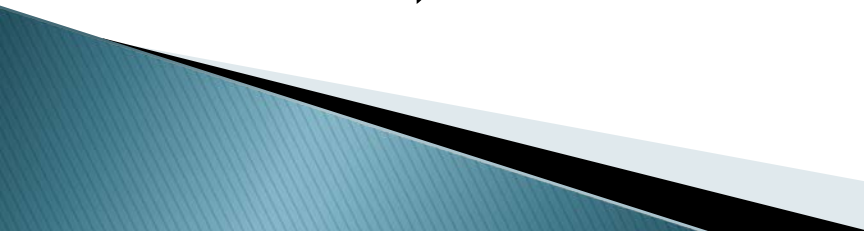
*Recommendation #7: Combat  
Financial Exploitation*

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May 13, 2013

# Combat Financial Exploitation

- ▶ **Recommendation:** Bolster ability of financial services providers to address financial exploitation
- ▶ **Desired Outcome:**
  - Reduction or removal of perceived barriers to preventing, identifying, and reporting financial exploitation by the financial services industry

# Current Status

- ▶ Guidance for financial services providers on actions permitted under GLB privacy rules (CFPB, FTC, SEC)
  - ▶ Use of Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) to report suspected financial exploitation (Treasury)
  - ▶ Development of research agenda (CFPB, DOJ, others)
- 

# Next Steps

- ▶ Potential initiatives of CFPB, FTC, SEC, Treasury, USPS:
  - Increase use of fraud detection tools
  - Enhance use of SARs
  - Increase training among providers
  - Address fraud **perpetrated** via EFT devices
- ▶ Considerations:
  - potential for low-cost initiatives
  - opportunity for public-private collaboration



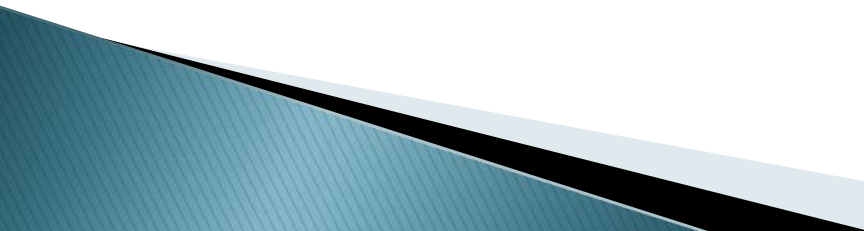
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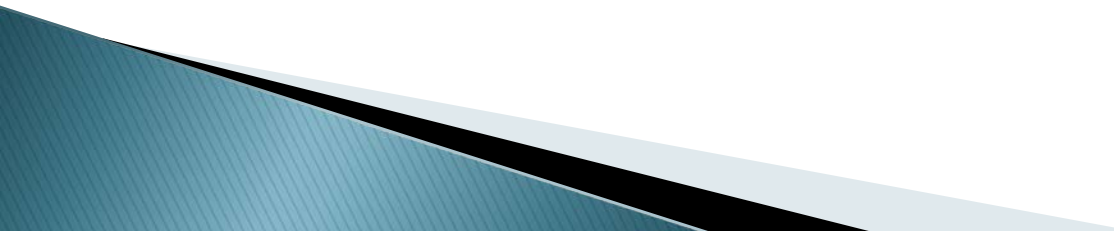
*Recommendation #8: Reduce  
Exploitation by Fiduciaries*

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# Reduce Exploitation by Fiduciaries

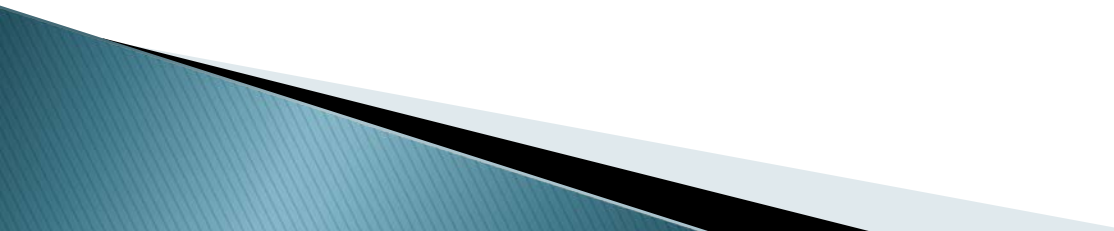
- ▶ **Recommendation:** Reduce financial exploitation by fiduciaries through enhanced oversight and collaboration among federal and state entities
  
  - ▶ **Desired outcomes:**
    - Improved capacity among fiduciaries responsible for oversight of a designated elder's federal benefits
    - Increased information sharing between benefit-paying agencies and the courts
    - New or enhanced models for oversight of federal fiduciaries.
- 

# Current Status

- ▶ CFPB Lay Fiduciary Guides (produced in collaboration with SSA and VA)
  - ▶ HHS and SSA in discussions on ways to remove barriers to information-sharing among federal benefit-paying agencies and courts
- 



# Next Steps

- ▶ Explore options for collaboration between federal agencies and state guardianship stakeholders – CFPB, SSA, VA, others
  - ▶ Consider evaluation of existing oversight mechanisms and pilot testing of new models for oversight – SSA, VA, others
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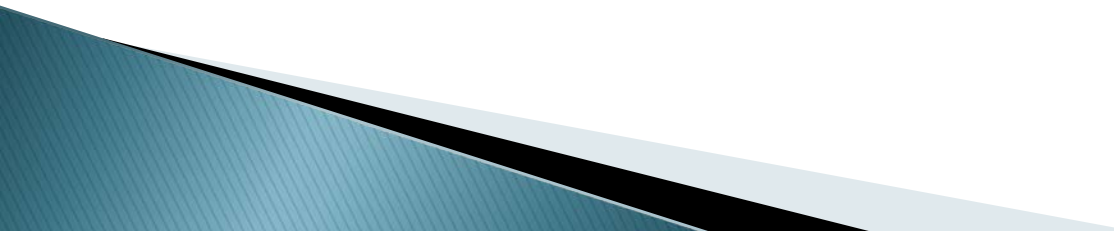
# ELDER JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Improving Awareness of and  
Intervention in Elder Abuse, Neglect  
and Exploitation:

*Recommendation #9: Improve Tools  
for Assessing Financial Capacity*

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# Improve Tools for Assessing Financial Capacity


- ▶ **Recommendation:** improve ability of APS and first responders to screen for diminished capacity, vulnerability to financial abuse, and whether individuals have been victimized
  - ▶ **Rationale:** Better assessment tools will enhance prevention, detection, and redress by APS and multiple frontline professionals
- 

# Current Status

- ▶ HHS, DOJ, and CMS have identified some key screening tools currently in use
- ▶ Agencies see gaps in standards for screening, development, and use of validated tools

# Next Steps

HHS, DOJ, CFPB, others could:

- Catalog existing validated capacity assessment tools, measures for assessing vulnerability, screens for abuse
  - Determine who uses which tools
  - Evaluate tools
  - Make recommendations and develop implementation strategies for encouraging research to develop and pilot new tools for multiple users (e.g. financial capacity screening)
- 



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**EJCC**  
**Discussion of**  
**Recommendations**  
**5-9**