

## STATEWIDE ELDER RIGHTS COALITION

The Statewide Elder Rights Coalition was formed in 1997 to promote elder rights advocacy, coordinate the Older Americans Act programs under Title IIIB Legal Services; and Title VII Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect and Financial Exploitation. The coalition meets on the second Wednesday of the month following the end of the quarter in January, April, July and October.

### Focus of the Coalition

Catalyst for change

Raise awareness of elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation

Provide a forum to offer solutions

### Coalition Activities

Facilitate state projects and initiatives

Information and resources sharing

Networking

### Accomplishments

1. Developed the annual **Elder Justice Training** agenda. The annual training features topics such as consumer protection from fraud and scams, guardianship issues, advance directives, etc. The statewide training is free and is held in Lincoln and streamed live from the Nebraska education television, NET, with over 300 participants nationwide attending the training. Continuing Education Units and Continuing Legal Education credits are available at no cost to the attendees. The training website is [www.dhhs.ne.gov/agingtraining](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/agingtraining).
2. Served as the **Advisory group** on the Model Approaches to Statewide Legal Assistance System Grants resulting in projects such as the development of Statewide Legal Standards and the Statewide Reporting System on Legal Services.
3. **Facilitated the development of documents** such as:
  - a. The Nebraska-specific, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Managing Someone Else's Money Guide on Help for Agents under a Power of Attorney.
  - b. Advance Directives - the Why, When and How of Financial and Health Decisions.
  - c. Updates to the Surrogate Decision Making in Nebraska booklet.
  - d. Two 30-minute Television programs.
  - e. Television Public Service Announcements.All resources are posted here <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Aging-Legal-Services.aspx>.
4. Developed a **panel presentation** on Financial Exploitation of the Elderly. The panel presented at law colleges and local community events.
5. Engaged annually in statewide promotion of **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** [www.dhhs.ne.gov/weaad](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/weaad).

### **Member Organizations**

Elder Law Attorneys/Legal Services Providers	Legal Aid of Nebraska
Adult Protective Services	Area Agencies on Aging
State Unit on Aging	Office of Public Guardian
Lincoln Police Department, Investigations of Financial Exploitation Cases	State and local Long-Term Care Ombudsmen
AARP Nebraska	University of Nebraska at Omaha, Department of Gerontology
Sarpy County Attorney's Office	Nebraska Department of Banking
Alzheimer's Association	Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection
Better Business Bureau	

### **Member Affiliations**

**Supreme Court Commission on Public Guardianship** (WINGS – Working Disciplinary Networks of Guardianship Stakeholders): Several members of the Elder Rights Coalition serve on the commission representing their respective organizations, including the Coalition Chair/State Unit on Aging, APS, Office of Public Guardian, Lincoln Police Department Investigator, State Long Term Care Ombudsman and AARP Nebraska.

**Better Business Bureau Advisory Board:** The Coalition chair is a member of the BBB advisory board. The BBB serving Nebraska is part of the four BBBs group to commission scam studies on International Investigative Initiatives spearheaded by C. Steven Baker, Investigations Specialist.

### **Coalition Contact**

Antonio Carranza, JD, Chair  
Program Coordinator, Legal Assistance Developer, DHHS, State Unit on Aging  
[Antonio.Carranza@nebraska.gov](mailto:Antonio.Carranza@nebraska.gov) or [Dhhs.Aging@nebraska.gov](mailto:Dhhs.Aging@nebraska.gov)  
Phone: 402-314-7339 or 402-471-2307  
Fax: 402-742-8388  
[www.dhhs.ne.gov/aging](http://www.dhhs.ne.gov/aging)