Data—why we do what we do

- One in 10 Americans age 60+ is a victim of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation (National Council on Aging, 2017).

- Elder abuse remains one of the least investigated types of violence. As few as 1 in 14 cases of elder abuse come to the attention of authorities.

- Our older population continues to grow. By 2030, almost 20% of our population—approximately 71 million people—will be 65 or older, nearly twice as many as in 2007. (U.S. Census Bureau). With an increasing older population, there is also a suspected increase for the risk of being abused.

- It is estimated that 5 million elders are abused every year (NCOA, 2016). This increase is due to the longevity of older adults, more living with a chronic illness, patterns changing within families and caregiving happening at a distance (Teaster, P. B., Wangmo, T., & Anetzberger, G. J. (2010). A Glass Half Full: The Dubious History of Elder Abuse Policy).

- Seniors are living longer, but not necessarily better. Alzheimer’s disease, dementia and declining cognitive and physical functioning make elders more vulnerable to victimization.

- From 2010 to 2020, our 85+ population is expected to rise 13% to 6.6 (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008).

- Virtually all countries are expected to see substantial growth in the number of older persons between 2015 and 2030 (United Nations Division for Social Policy and Development Ageing, 2017).

- Elders will lose a minimum of $2.9 billion annually due to financial abuse and exploitation (The MetLife Study of Elder Financial Abuse, 2011). Elder financial abuse and fraud costs older Americans $36.5 billion per year (NCOA, 2017).

- 60% of perpetrators are family members; 2/3 are adult children or spouses (NCOA, 2017)

- Elders who have been abused have a 300% higher risk of death when compared to those who have not been mistreated.
Adult Protective Services shall mean those services provided by the department for the prevention, correction, or discontinuance of abuse. Such services shall be those necessary and appropriate under the circumstances to protect an abused vulnerable adult, ensure that the least restrictive alternative is provided, prevent further abuse, and promote self-care and independent living.
WHO DOES APS SERVE?
PEOPLE SERVED BY APS

PERSONS 18 YEARS OLD OR OLDER WHO ARE VICTIMS OF ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION AND HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL MENTAL IMPAIRMENT, HAVE SUBSTANTIAL FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT, OR HAVE A GUARDIAN APPOINTED.

Vulnerable Adult
REPORTS OF ABUSE
STATE STATUTE - §28-373

Department’s Duties:
- Investigate each case of abuse
- Provide Adult Protective Services as necessary
- Request Law Enforcement assistance as needed
- Report all cases to Law Enforcement
- Report to County Attorney if abuse occurred
REPORTS OF ABUSE
STATE STATUTE - §28-373

LAW ENFORCEMENT DUTIES

• Investigation
• Protect the vulnerable adult
• Institute legal proceedings
• Notify the Department of an investigation by the next working day
RECORDS OF ABUSE/APS POLICY REGARDING LE COORDINATION

- The CFS Specialist will contact the appropriate law enforcement agency prior to initiating an investigation to request a joint investigation. It is necessary to establish which agency will take the primary responsibility for a given case and which types of cases will initially be a joint effort.

- The CFS Specialist will defer to law enforcement to schedule interviews if law enforcement plans to investigate the allegations.
REPORTS OF ABUSE/APS POLICY REGARDING LE COORDINATION

- Law enforcement involvement is typically requested in the following situations:
  - Report indicates alleged sexual abuse
  - Report indicates physical assault or domestic violence issues
  - Threatening, assaultive, or otherwise high-risk individuals need to be contacted
  - Emergency intervention procedures are necessary
  - Forensic photography or other evidence is needed
  - CFS Specialist safety is of concern
APS WORKER INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

Gather information to:

- Determine vulnerability
- Validate abuse/neglect
- Identify services
  - Interview the victim; complete ongoing needs assessment; interview others; develop and implement safety plan; provide and coordinate services; make referrals; document all contacts
APS Worker Investigation Activities

APS Can:

• Investigate reports of abuse/neglect/exploitation, including self-neglect
• Provide information to the County Attorney
• Assist Law Enforcement in investigations
• Request court orders for involuntary services
APS WORKER INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

APS Can:

- Make service referrals to the community
- Assist with arranging for needed items like food, clothing, utilities, shelter, medications
- Assist with arranging services for caregivers and family members such as respite, Developmental Disability services, Aging services
WHAT CAN’T APS DO?

- Become guardian of a person or conservator of an estate
- Remove someone from their home without a court order
- Force someone with capacity to accept services
- Be a guardianship program for communities
- Place an individual in an alternate living arrangement without their agreement or a legal representative’s agreement
- Become involved if there is no abuse/neglect/exploitation, including self-neglect, or if the person is not vulnerable
Disclosure of Information

All case files are presumed confidential and must not be revealed to other parties without a signed release from the vulnerable adult or his or her legal representative naming who can receive information and what may be revealed in a specific time frame.