



DARS

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

*Supporting Virginians' efforts
to secure independence and employment*



Strategies to Improve the Safety, Financial Stability, and Well-Being of Adults with Disabilities and Older Adults and

A Report to Health, Welfare, and Institutions

Commission on Youth
May 5, 2015

Commission on Youth

The Virginia Code directs the Commission
“to study and provide recommendations
addressing the needs of and services to
the Commonwealth’s youth and
families.”



Virginia Adult Protective Services (APS)

- Why are we before the Commission to discuss abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults and adults with disabilities?
- Because it is an issue that affects families.



Broadly Speaking

The abuse, neglect, or exploitation of older adults and individuals with disabilities affects the entire Commonwealth.

- Financial systems
- Social Services
- Public Safety
- Health Care
- Mental Health
- Judicial systems



Oklahoma



Karen Richeson

ALTUS, Okla. _Altus police say an elderly woman was bilked out of an estimated \$70,000 by her own daughter and her daughter's boyfriend.

Police say 51-year-old Karen Richeson and 58-year-old Robert Chambers were supposed to be caring for Richeson's 81-year-old mother, but stole and used her money to pay for prescribed drugs for their personal use over the past five years. The couple was arrested and is now facing charges of exploitation of an elderly or disabled adult.



Robert Chambers

The victim told investigators she willingly wrote checks to her daughter and her daughter's boyfriend, but only because she thought the money was being used to pay for her personal bills, like utilities, food and other essentials. She said she had no idea the effect it was having on her personal bank account.

For years, bills the woman thought were being taken care were actually piling up while she was under the care of her daughter and daughter's boyfriend. The victim told detectives she wrote checks to the couple ranging from \$50 to \$100, up to five times a week. She never questioned where the money was actually going.



New Jersey

ELMWOOD PARK, N.J. — Three months ago, Rosalia Juskin dialed 911 from behind a locked basement door. She said her husband, Michael, 100, was ignoring her pleas, so she asked the police for help opening the door. When they arrived, Ms. Juskin, 88, described the episode as an accident.

It was the third time in three years that the police had been called to the couple's home at 58 Spruce Street. Not seeing any obvious threat, they left, and then notified adult protective services. "He's 100 years old, and she chalked it up to that," the Elmwood Park police chief, Michael Foligno, said. "She didn't feel it was purposeful."

On Sunday, Mr. Juskin killed his wife with



The family connection

- Family members are frequently the reporters as well as the perpetrators of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Almost 2,700 reports made by relatives in SFY 2014.
- Almost 1,800 incidents of abuse, neglect and exploitation perpetrated by family in CY 2011



Impact on Families

- What happens to the family structure when a parent is abused, neglected, or exploited by an adult child? How does it affect the other family members?
- What happens when the parent's financial resources are depleted?
- What happens when the family member refuses help?
- What happens when the parent dies because of the abuse?
- What is the impact of domestic violence that lasts into later life?



SFY 2014 Stats

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES (APS)²

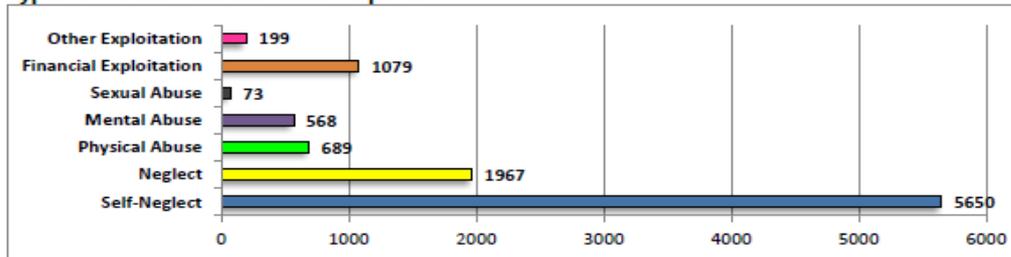
APS REPORTS RECEIVED 21,650
 APS REPORTS INVESTIGATED 17,319
 REPORTS SUBSTANTIATED (53%) 9,140

Reports received by APS Hotline staff 3,039

Who Made the Report?

Relatives	2684	Friend/Neighbor	912
Social Worker	2107	Nursing Home Admin or Staff	1071
Nurse	1472	Home Health Provider	739
Law Enforcement Officer	1241	Financial Institution	736

Types of Abuse: Substantiated Reports³



Dispositions of Substantiated Reports

Needs and Accepts Services (44%) 4,066
 Need No Longer Exists (38%) 3,430
 Needs Services, but Refuses (18%) 1,644

DEMOGRAPHICS OF APS REPORT SUBJECTS

Age		Sex		Race	
60 years and older	72%	Female	61%	White	68%
Age 18-59	28%	Male	39%	African American	24%
				Asian	1%
				Unknown	7%



APS

- Usually the first responders to allegations of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Role is to determine if an adult is in need of protective services
- It is a “state-by-state” system
- No federal oversight or direct federal funding



Background for Report

- 2014 legislation (HJ 39)—Delegate Webert
- Letter to Commissioner Rothrock from Delegate Robert Orrock
- 2 listening sessions attended by multiple stakeholders
- Survey of Virginia APS workers
- Review of Virginia APS stats
- Review of research on adult abuse



Report Recommendations

- 15 Recommendations
- 5 are being highlighted today



Recommendation #1

Increase APS funding to provide services to victims of adult abuse, neglect, or exploitation

- Funding is used to provide services, including but not limited to, home repairs/remediation, emergency housing, food and costs related to guardianship.



Funding for APS services

- Level funding allocations (\$1,000,000 approx.) to LDSS, despite more expensive needs and complexity of the cases.
- Some LDSS receive less than \$1,000 as their APS allocation.



Funding Limitations

Using basic math:

- SFY 2013 APS expenditures = \$913,291
- 4,048 victims who accepted protective services
- \$226 spent on each victim



Recommendation #4

Increase funding for more Public Guardianship slots

- The Public Guardianship Program serves just over 600 adults and has a waitlist of close to 1,000 individuals.
- LDSS staff are being appointed guardians for their clients. Is it appropriate for an APS worker to be a guardian for a client for the rest of the client's life?
- LDSS use APS /local only funding to pay for private guardians. Limits ability to fund services needed by other clients.



Why the need for guardianship?

- Some family members are not suitable-they were the perpetrators.
- Some family members do not want to be involved.
- Children aging out of the foster care system in need of guardians.
- By the time APS is involved, the adult is in a crisis. Few other options to address urgent needs.



Recommendation #6

Convene a workgroup to recommend improvements in mandated reporter training on adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation

- Mandated reporters serve a key role!
- Last education campaign was after legislative changes in 2004.



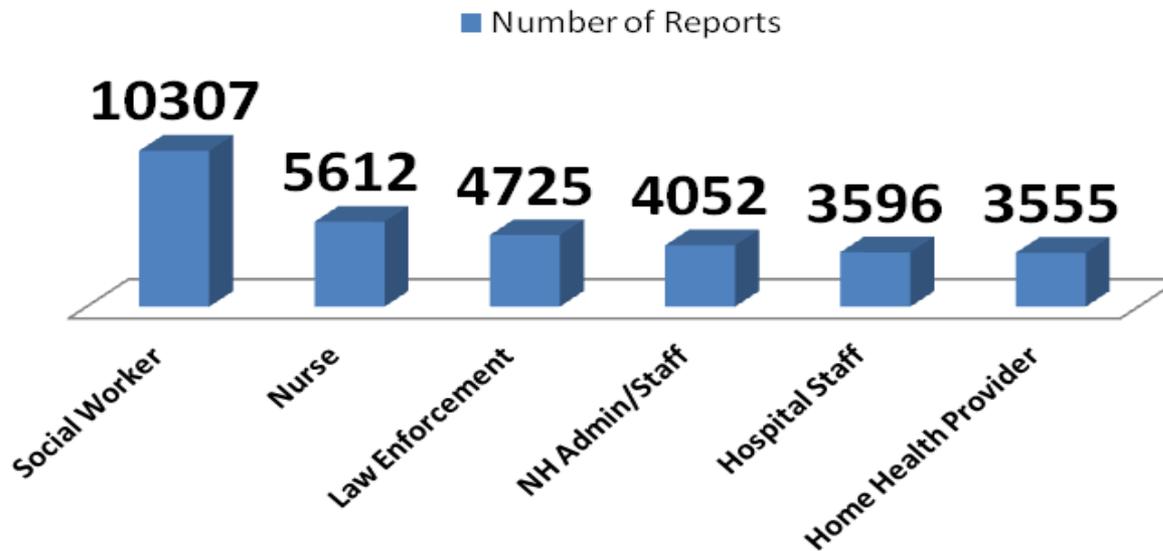
Mandated Reporter Education

- Some professionals report less frequently.
- Do we need a targeted approach?

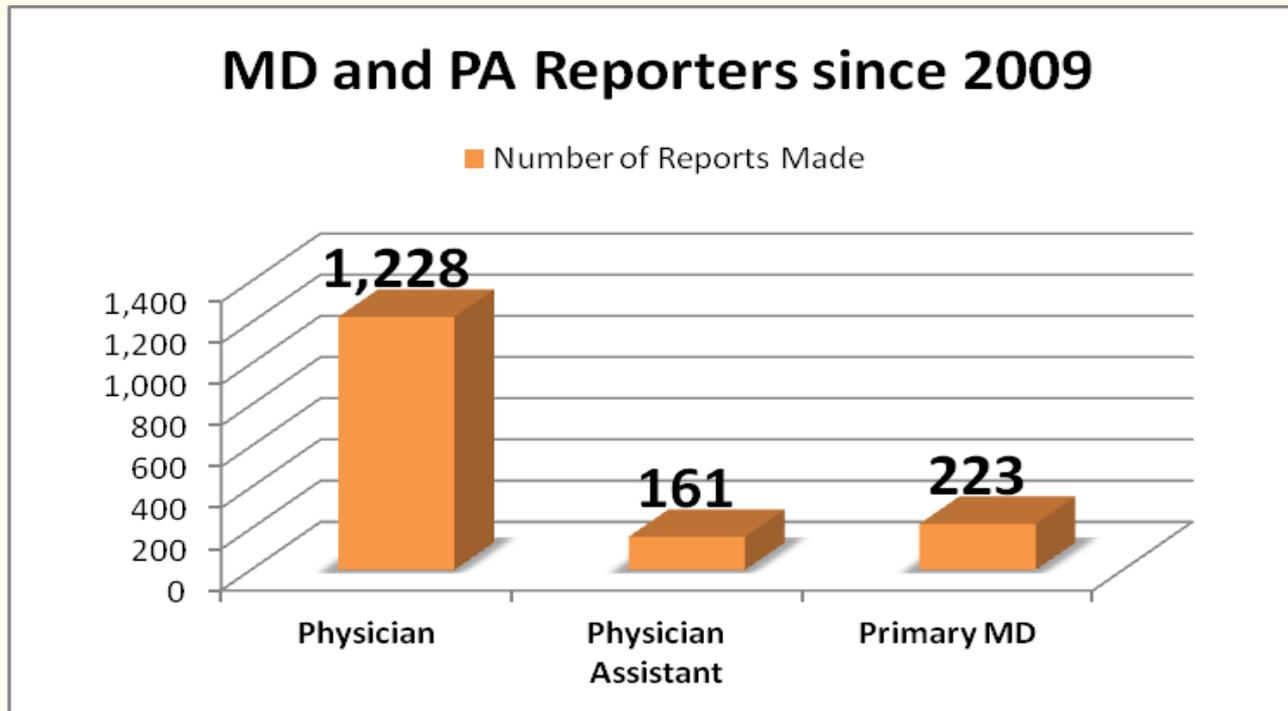


Comparing Reporters

Top Five Mandated Reporters since 2009



Comparing Reporters



Recommendation #7

Improve training for APS workers

- Workers need training to improve investigation skills.
- Only 4 mandated classes for APS are available.
- Financial exploitation, sexual abuse, and surrogate decision making courses not taught since 2011.



Training Concerns

- APS workers are taking DSS child welfare courses.
- LDSS have limited (or no) funding to send workers to conferences or outside training.



Recommendation #12

Look at strategies to improve information sharing between financial institutions and APS

- Since SFY 2009, 580% increase in financial institution reporting.
- But institutions' willingness to share documents with APS workers is another matter.



Sharing of financial records

- Larger financial institutions have centralized the response to APS—sometimes in one state.
- What are other APS programs throughout the country doing to address the issue?



The report is just the starting point. . .
We have lots of ground to cover



Collaboration is critical

We all have the responsibility to ensure that older adults and individuals with disabilities have the highest quality of life and are free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



Thank You!

- For questions:

Please contact paige.mccleary@dars.virginia.gov

