Assisting Older Survivors in the District

June, 19 2018

OVSJG DC Victim Assistance Academy
Overview

- DC TROV & Collaboration on Elder Cases
- DC's Senior Population
- Prevalence in the District: Self Reports & Service Numbers
- Who's Who in Elder Justice in DC
- Crimes Against Seniors According to DC Law
- Additional Vulnerabilities
- Encountering Elder Abuse - Indicators
- Communicating with Senior Survivors
- Crimes Against Older Adults:
  - Physical Abuse
  - Sexual Abuse
  - Criminal Neglect
  - Financial Exploitation & Undue Influence
Introductions

- **Curtis Prince** – MPD Financial & Cyber Crimes Unit
- **Bridgette Stumpf** – Executive Director, Network for Victim Recovery of DC
- **Sheila Jones** – Chief, DC Adult Protective Services
- **Merry O’Brien** – Elder Justice Coordinator, NVRDC – DC TROV Coordinator
In Your Work…

- Challenging cases you’ve encountered?
- What elements made them most challenging?
- How did you resolve/help the client?
Objectives

- Enhance victim service providers' abilities to respond to survivors of abuse in later life
- Understand the dynamics involved in all types of elder abuse, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, criminal neglect, & financial exploitation
- Understand DC laws that pertain to elder justice
- Identify the key players involved in elder justice in DC & learn how to make effective referrals
- Gain effective communication skills for working with older survivors
Broken Trust:  Dot
What Happens When We Don’t Collaborate on Elder Abuse Cases?

- **Social worker:** Provided support
- **Health care:** Knew of abuse but did not report or help
- **Law Enforcement:**
  - Interviewed Dot in her daughter’s presence
  - Told her how lucky she was to have a daughter who kept her at home rather than in a nursing home
  - No charges, investigation or prosecution
- **APS:** No one contacted APS
- **Bank:** Helped the daughter get her name on Dot’s accounts

**Result:** Dot lost everything including her home.
DC TROV Team

- Adult Protective Services
- DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- DC Department of Insurance, Securities & Banking
- DC Forensic Nurse Examiners
- District’s Alliance for Safe Housing
- DV Unit - Superior Court
- ElderSAFE Shelter
- Legal Counsel for the Elderly
- LCE - Long-Term Care Ombudsmen
- Metropolitan Police Department
- Network for Victim Recovery of DC
- Office of the Attorney General for DC
- Seabury Resources for Aging
- US Attorney’s Office for DC
What Do We Do?

- **Collaboration** – improve referral mechanisms, increase referrals, get to know who you are handing clients off to, and what those agencies do when they receive them
- **Training** – increase ability of agencies, victim advocates, police, prosecutors, & courts to recognize, assist, investigate, & prosecute
- **Outreach** – help each other reach senior victims, co-host WEAAD
- **Grow Services** – research what gaps exist and collaborate to find funding / creative ideas to fill them
- **Policy** – identify problems to solve at legislative or administrative levels & utilize the group
Training

- 8hr Elder Abuse Curriculum to every single MPD detective (300+) on the force
- Cross Training:
  - Aging Services Network
  - Adult Protective Services
  - Victim Services
  - Legal Services
  - Health Care, Homelessness & Poverty
- Prosecutors – National Institute for the Prosecution of EA
- Judges & Court Personnel - DC 2016 Joint Judicial & Senior Managers Conference to 200 attendees including all DC judges & their staff.
Outreach
Legislative Advocacy

- Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults & Elderly Act of 2016
  - Helped to draft legislation
  - Testified as a panel
  - Presented on law to victim services, LE, aging network
- UPOAA
- Elder Abuse Review Team
Needs & Prevalence Assessment

• Conducted in 2015: Surveyed seniors and providers, gathered existing data, engaged partners + community orgs

• Goal: identify gaps in services & set priorities for new or enhanced services for older victims

• Data used to inform services for FY17 → hired Elder Justice Legal Fellow + Elder Abuse Housing Specialist

• Data used for public outreach, media, legislative advocacy, to inform the work of Age Friendly DC
We Still Have a Lot of Work to Do

Survey Says....

- 60% of DC service providers don’t screen for EA
- 52% never received any training on EA.
- 30% not familiar with EA dynamics.
- 47% of senior victims feel the agencies they contacted were helpful in escaping the abuse.
- 76% don’t display EA info, brochures, posters.

Continue to Enhance Collaboration
Somebody Else Is Helping, Right?

Senior Service Providers

Victim Service Providers

Older Victims
Understanding & Working with DC’s Senior Population
70,568 District residents are 65 or greater.