DC TROV

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?

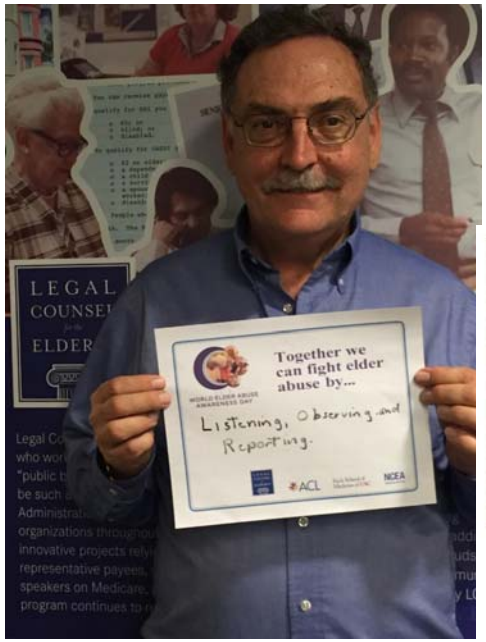
- **Collaboration** – improve referral mechanisms, increase referrals, get to know who you are handing clients off to, and what those agencies do when they receive them
- **Training** – increase ability of agencies, victim advocates, police, prosecutors, & courts to recognize, assist, investigate, & 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

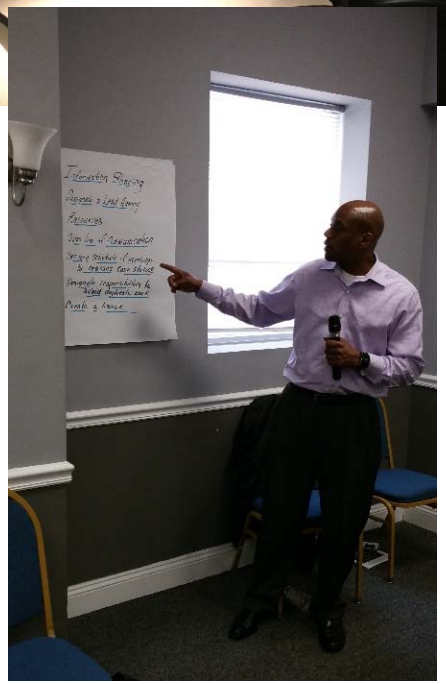
Training

- 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





WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY
Building Strong Support for Elders

Legislative Advocacy

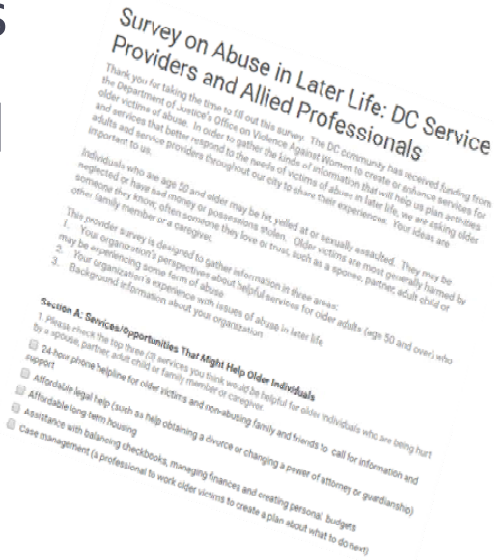
- **Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults & Elderly Act of 2016**
  - Helped to draft legislation
  - Testified as a panel
  - Presented on law to victim services, LE, aging network
- **UPOAA**
- **Elder Abuse Review Team**

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY APPROVES BILL TO PROTECT SENIORS AND VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

(Washington, DC) – Today, the Committee on the Judiciary voted B21-0326, the "Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults and the Elderly Amendment Act of 2016," affectionately known as the "Hilda Mason Act." This bill aims to protect senior citizens in the District from financial exploitation, hold accountable those who take advantage of them, and allow the Attorney General and U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia to take quick, decisive steps to move forward with a civil or criminal action against the perpetrator.

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



Survey on Abuse in Later Life: DC Service Providers and Allied Professionals

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. The DC community has received funding from the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women to create or enhance services for older victims of abuse. In order to gather the kinds of information that will help us plan services and services that better respond to the needs of victims of abuse in later life, we are asking older adults and service providers throughout our city to share their experiences. Your ideas are important to us.

Individuals who are age 50 and older may be hit, yelled at or sexually assaulted. They may be neglected or have had money or possessions stolen. Older victims are most frequently harmed by someone they know, often someone they love or trust, such as a spouse, partner, adult child or other family member or a caregiver.

This provider survey is designed to gather information in three areas:

1. Your organization's perspective about helpful services for older adults (age 50 and over) who may be experiencing some form of abuse
2. Your organization's experience with issues of abuse in later life
3. Background information about your organization

Section A: Services/Opportunities That Might Help Older Individuals

1. Please check the top three (3) services you think would be helpful for older individuals who are being hurt by a spouse, partner, adult child or family member or caregiver.

- 24-hour phone helpline for older victims and non-abusing family and friends to call for information and support
- Affordable legal help (such as help obtaining a divorce or changing a power of attorney or guardianship)
- Affordable long term housing
- Assistance with balancing checkbooks, managing finances and creating personal budgets
- Case management (a professional to work older victims to create a plan about what to do next)

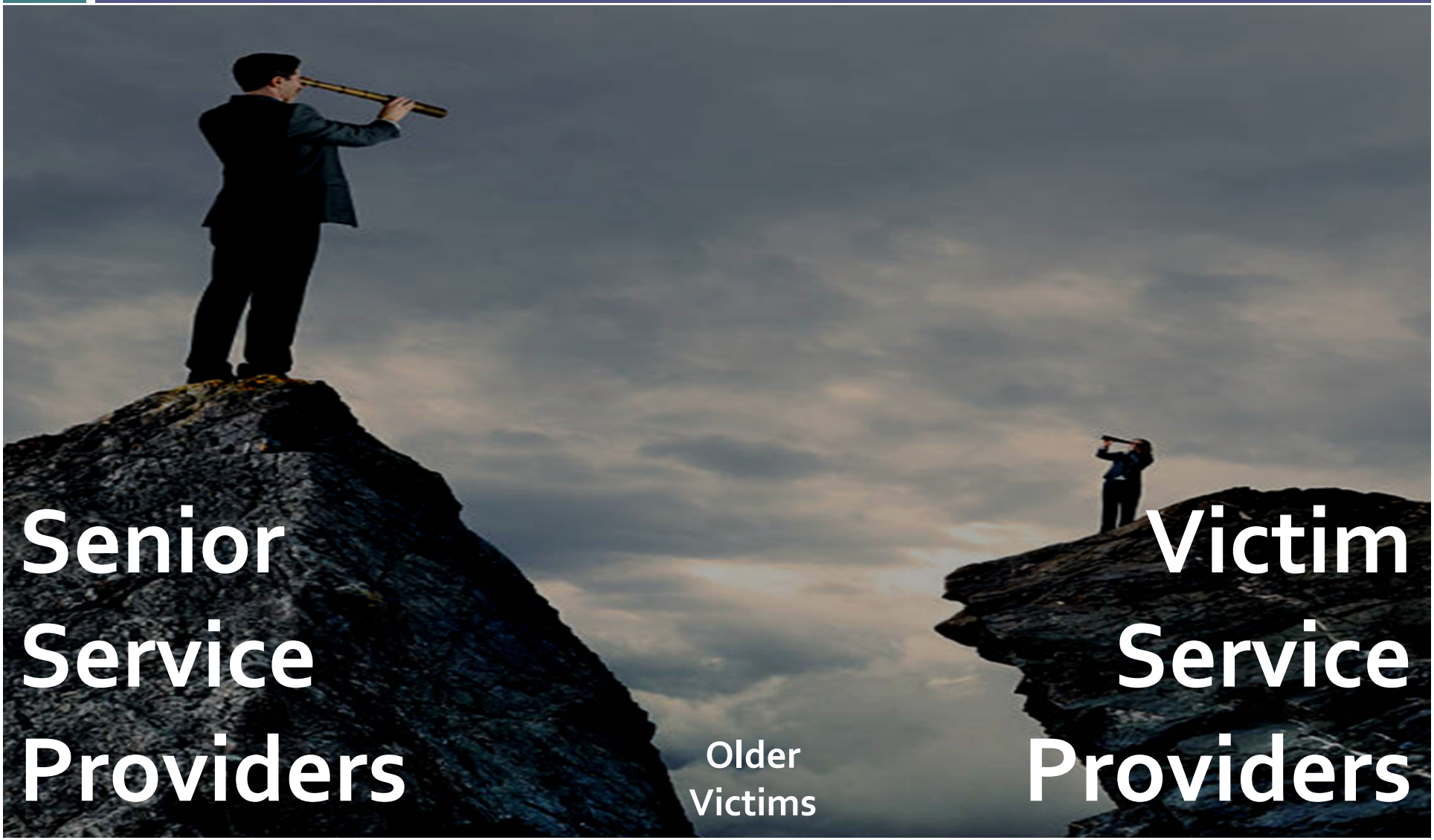
We Still Have a Lot of Work to Do

Survey Says….

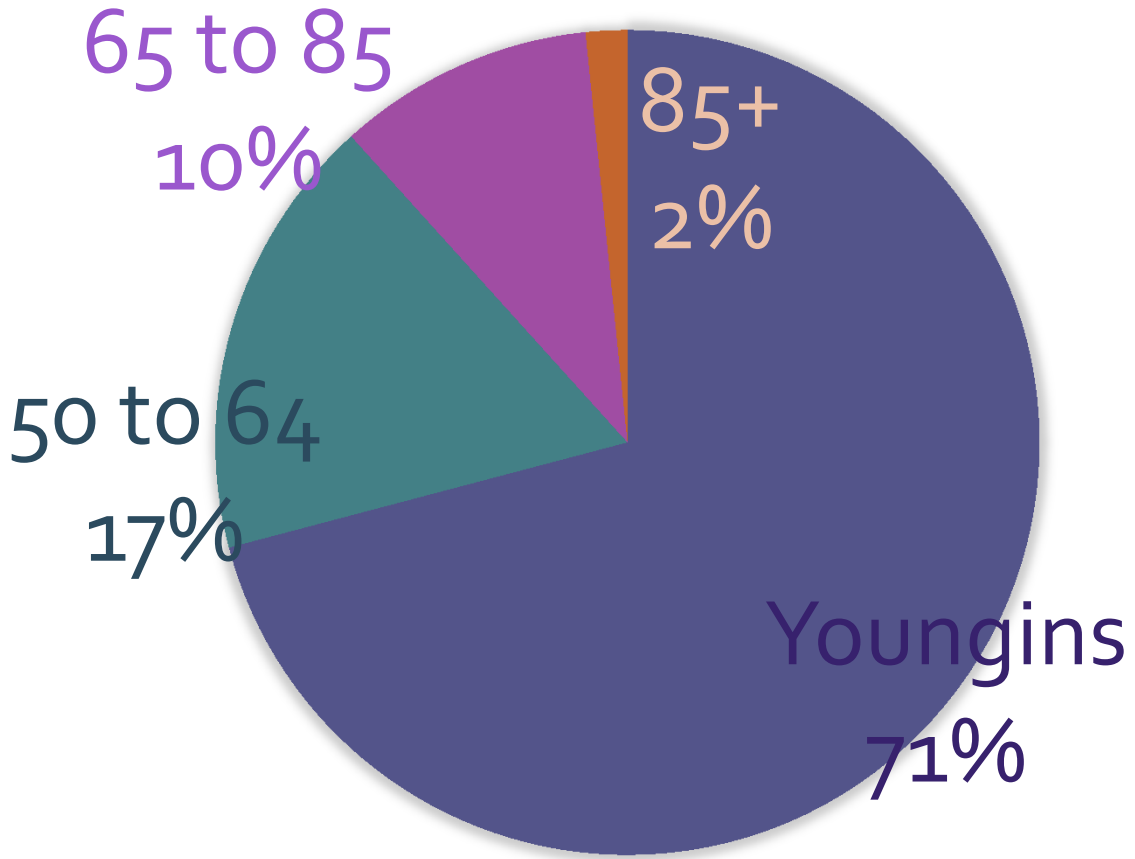
- 60% of DC service providers don't screen for EA
- 52% never received any training on EA.
- 30% not familiar with EA dynamics.
- 47% of senior victims feel the agencies they contacted were helpful in escaping the abuse.
- 76% don't display EA info, brochures, posters.

Continue to Enhance Collaboration

Somebody Else Is Helping, Right?



Understanding & Working with DC's Senior Population



70,568 District residents are 65 or greater