Module 1
WHY ELDER ABUSE IS IMPORTANT FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Participant Manual
Identifying and Responding to Elder Abuse: The Vital Role of Community Corrections Professionals

A Distance Learning Course Developed by

American Probation and Parole Association

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Module 1
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Presenter Biography

Nancy Halverson is a Corrections Unit Supervisor for an adult field service unit of Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She supervises 14 probation officers assigned to caseloads of “person crimes.” Of these officers under her supervision, nine supervise exclusively misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor domestic violence caseloads, one is assigned to the Domestic Abuse Service Center, and two supervise felony caseloads on which approximately half of the offenders are domestic violence perpetrators. She has more than 20 years of experience as both a juvenile corrections officer and an adult probation officer. She has been a member of the Fourth Judicial District Family Violence Coordinating Council and is a current member of the Criminal Subcommittee of that Council. She is also a member of her jurisdiction’s Fatality Review Team for domestic violence homicides. In 2001 she was awarded the Gold WATCH (Women At The Court House – Court Watch) for being “instrumental in improving the services for and supervision of domestic abuse offenders in the Hennepin County Department of Corrections and courts.” She is a trainer at local, state and national events on the assessment and supervision of domestic abuse offenders. Ms. Halverson has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and a Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota.
Polling Questions

1. Which one of these best describes your job?
   - Direct supervision of offenders
   - Supervision of other officers
   - Administration of the agency
   - Work with Victims
   - Something else

2. Which type of community corrections work do you do most of the time?
   - Probation
   - Parole
   - Probation and Parole
   - Community-based programs
   - Something else in community corrections
   - I don’t work in community corrections
Module Goal and Objectives

**Goal**
Gain awareness of elder abuse and understand the importance of taking a proactive approach to identifying and responding to elder abuse.

**Objectives**
1. Describe how elder abuse is relevant to community corrections work.
2. Define key terms.
3. Recognize ways elder abuse may be discovered.
4. Recognize circumstances that can indicate an offender may be abusing an elder.

Personal Experiences with the Elderly

1. Do you live with or provide some kind of assistance to elderly family members?
   - Yes
   - No

2. Do you supervise offenders who are over 60 years old?
   - Yes
   - No

3. Do you supervise offenders who live with an elderly person or work where they’re in contact with the elderly?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Do you supervise any offenders who have specifically committed an elder abuse offense?
   - Yes
   - No

5. Do you think your experiences with older people – either in your family or through your work – influence how you would perceive and respond to elder abuse victims?
   - Yes
   - No

6. Have you thought about the safety of the older people with whom the offenders you supervise have contact?
   - Yes
   - No

7. Have you suspected that some of these elders might be at risk of being abused or neglected by the offenders you supervise?
   - Yes
   - No
Personal Experiences with the Elderly

- You may live with, support, or assist an elderly family member.
- You may supervise offenders:
  - Who are over 60 years old.
  - Who live with older family members or work where they’re in contact with the elderly.
  - Who have committed elder abuse offenses.

Definitions

**Elder Abuse** is criminal and noncriminal abuse, neglect, and exploitation of persons aged 60+.
- Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Exploitation
- Neglect

Involves a trust relationship

**Community Corrections** is the community supervision of defendants/offenders under the jurisdiction of a court or releasing authority (pretrial, probation, parole).
Definitions

**Adult Protective Services** (APS) are provided to older people and people with disabilities who are in danger of being abused, neglected, or exploited and are unable to protect themselves.

Discovering Elder Abuse

- Elder disclosure
- Observation of indicators
- Report from another person

Discovering Elder Abuse

Case Example

- What was the responsibility of the community corrections officer in this case?
- What might have happened if the community corrections officer had not discovered this case of elder abuse?
- What skills did the officer use in this case example?
Discovering Elder Abuse
Case Example

What was the responsibility of the community corrections officer in this case?
Discovering Elder Abuse
Case Example
What might have happened if the community corrections officer had not discovered this case of elder abuse?

Discovering Elder Abuse
Case Example
What skills did the officer use in this case example?

Elder Abuse May be Encountered by Community Corrections because of...
- Charges of elder abuse.
- Other related charges.
- Home contacts.
- Items or funds that cannot be explained adequately.
- Medication abuse.
- Medical neglect.
- Employment in elder care facilities or services.
Discovering Elder Abuse

Place the number corresponding to the scenario you hear in the box that best describes the way the community corrections officer discovers elder abuse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abuse of an elder’s medications</th>
<th>Charges of elder abuse</th>
<th>Disclosure by the older person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discovery during home/community contacts</td>
<td>Employment in an elder care facility</td>
<td>Medical neglect of the older person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offenders have money they can’t account for</td>
<td>Related charges</td>
<td>Someone other than the older person reveals the abuse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions and Answers

Summary
1. Relevance of elder abuse to community corrections work.
2. Definitions.
3. Recognize elder abuse during the supervision of offenders.
4. Identify circumstances in which elders might be abused by offenders.

Program Evaluation

We value your opinion and will appreciate your taking a few minutes to evaluate this program. Please submit your evaluation online, or complete the Program Evaluation form included in your handout materials and mail or fax it to APPA as instructed at the bottom of the form. Thank you for your assistance!