

**California Elder Justice Workgroup
Project Goals & Accomplishments
As of September 23, 2010**

Goal 1: Create dynamic partnerships among service providers, researchers, advocacy groups, commissions, educators, responders, and policy makers to improve services to vulnerable and abused elders, share practices, and coordinate response systems.

- Organized committee to improve coordination in abuse report investigations. The group includes Mark Sellers, Chair of the Protective Services Operations Committee of the California County Welfare Directors Association; Long-term Care Ombudsman Joe Rodrigues; Brooke Hollister, University of California, San Francisco; Kris Brown, Area Agency on Aging Napa; and Aileen Wiglesworth, University of California, Irving.
- Conducted statewide survey of Adult Protective Services and Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program staff to gain better understanding of jurisdictional issues encountered across California.
- Assisted Julia Wyson, Coordinator of the coalition of Financial Abuse Specialist Teams (FAST), plan and convene meeting to solicit input on financial abuse and exploitation trends, and identify policy and service needs.
- Make monthly reports on CEJW and solicit input at meetings of the Protective Services Operations Committee (PSOC) of the California County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA).
- Launched group to explore Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), California restitution fund, and other potential sources of assistance and compensation for elderly victims.
- Facilitated participation by legal service professionals on California Medical Association work group revising California's Capacity Declaration form.
- Facilitated collaboration between the Statewide APS Training Project, PSOC, and the California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians, Public Conservators for an advanced training series on client decision-making capacity for APS and PG employees.

Goal 2: Create mechanisms and opportunities for information sharing, discussion, problem solving, consensus building, collaboration, and collective advocacy. Identify unmet needs for services and policy, and recommend promising solutions.

- Planned and organized statewide summit of 92 APS workers, public guardians, judges, attorneys, victim advocates, researchers, educators, legislative staff, trainers, Ombudsmen, and other stakeholders to formulate recommendations for the future direction of services and policy.
- Organized Technical Advisory Group (TAG) with 17 members.
- Collaborated with the Center of Excellence in Elder Abuse and Neglect at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) to explore salient issues identified by projects supported by the Archstone Foundation Elder Abuse and Neglect Initiative.
- Created a database of stakeholders, including policy makers, researchers, media, university faculty, representatives from professional associations, and opinion leaders (currently includes 236 people).

- Created CEJW Wiki site (<http://cejw.pbworks.com/>) to keep stakeholders updated on the Statewide Elder Abuse Summit outcomes and the Blueprint development process, and share articles, reports, and events of interest.
- Launched bi-weekly *CEJW News & Updates* e-newsletter on the work of CEJW staff, Steering Committee members, and stakeholders with links to CEJW wiki page, resources, and event announcements.
- Launched CEJW-Discuss Google Group to facilitate information-sharing among CEJW staff, Steering Committee members and stakeholders, and to exchange feedback on draft Blueprint materials.
- Serve as partner in California Association of Area Agencies on Aging Annual Conference. Organized four workshops and panel with other stakeholder groups.
- Published article on CEJW in the *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*.
- Submitted proposals to present at the American Society on Aging conference in 2011 on statewide summits, coalitions, and policy initiatives; and promising practices in financial abuse prevention.
- Facilitated session at the statewide Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program conference to gain input for the blueprint and disseminate information about Statewide Elder Abuse Summit and CEJW.
- Conducted in-depth interview with:
 - Abby Abinanti, Chief Judge of the Yurok Tribe
 - Georgia Anetzberger, Editor of the *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect* and President-elect of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
 - Bob Blancato, President, Elder Justice Coalition
 - Bonnie Claremont, Program Specialist, Tribal Law and Policy Institute
 - Iris Freeman, Associate Director the Center for Elder Justice & Policy (William Mitchell College of Law) and coordinator of the Vulnerable Adult Justice Project
 - Marc Hankin, private attorney and author of California's Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Civil Protection Code and other elder abuse statutes
 - Kathleen Kelly, Executive Director, Family Caregiver Alliance
 - Dave Knitter. Private attorney
 - Peggy Osborn and Cathy Long, Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Program, Office of the California Attorney General
 - Ed Pecinovsky, Chief, Training Program Services Bureau of the Police Officers Standards and Training (POST)
 - Steve Riess, Private attorney and author of multiple elder abuse statutes
 - Heather Valdez Singleton, Deputy Director of the Tribal Law & Policy Institute

Made presentations and facilitated discussions with the following additional groups.

- California State Association of Public Administrators, Public Guardians, Public Conservators
- Asian/Pacific Islander Task Force on Elder Abuse
- Santa Clara Interfaith initiative
- Elder Court Roundtable sponsored by the Administrative Offices of the Courts
- CA F.A.S.T. Coordinators

Goal 3: Disseminate information and offer recommendations to service providers, policy makers, program developers, academic institutions, advocacy groups, and foundations to ensure that abuse prevention services and policy meet critical needs and are informed by research and practice experience.

- Developed *Mental Health Service Needs of Vulnerable Elders: A Fact Sheet* to help members of the elder abuse prevention network understand the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and advocate on behalf of abused and vulnerable elders. The fact sheet describes specific opportunities provided under the Act as well as unmet mental health service needs including services for elders who have experienced catastrophic losses as a result of financial exploitation.
- Explored discrepancies in how APS units across the state and nationally define eligibility and disseminated findings at state and national conferences to stimulate discussion about the need for greater clarity and uniformity in APS response.
- Conducted environmental scan to identify and review the findings and recommendations of previous statewide initiatives.

Goal 4: Provide leadership and support to program and policy development at the state, national, and international levels by providing testimony, recommendations, informational materials, analysis, and expertise.

- Developing blueprint (in progress) for a sustained, proactive, and coordinated approach to advocating for services and policy.
- Provided testimony to the California Department on Aging (CDA) in the development of its Five Year plan. Recommendations for how CDA can expand its capacity to prevent abuse included encouraging senior centers to develop policies to prevent proprietary or predatory salespersons who pose as objective financial advisors from making presentations, providing training on complex and emergent forms of financial abuse to legal services providers, and encouraging caregiver support programs to screen for high risk situations. The group has offered to provide information and technical assistance to CDA in implementing these measures
- Responded to request for stakeholder feedback on MHSA suicide prevention, and stigma and discrimination reduction priorities.
- Submitted list of legal issues to the Administrative Offices of the Courts.
- Provided testimony to the Administration on Aging on the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.
- Developed criteria for evaluating policy related to the investigation and response to abuse in long term care facilities in California.
- Provided testimony at Oversight Hearing: The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program--Protecting the Protectors of California's Most Vulnerable Adults. The hearing, hosted by Assembly Member Yamada, Chair of the Assembly Aging and Long-Term Care Committee, addressed the impact of budget cuts on the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP), elder and dependant adult abuse reporting responsibilities, and state and federal LTCOP responsibilities.