

## Center Partners Minutes

January 9, 2014 – 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

William Mitchell College of Law – Room 231- 875 Summit Avenue, St. Paul

**Participants:** Brad Hansen (ARC Greater Twin Cities), Stella French (MDH), Peter Ivy (Carver County Attorney's Office), Amber Webb (Hennepin County APS), Anita Raymond (VOAMN), Mary McGurran & Jennifer Kirchen (DHS-APS), Emily Strand (MAAA), Darrell Shreve (LeadingAgeMinnesota), Brent Scheetz (Wells Fargo Life Management Services), Sandi Lubrant (Center Board-WEAAD Committee Co-Chair), Suzy Scheller (Scheller Legal Solutions, Center Board), Cate Boyko (State Courts – CAAP), Connie Moore (Alexandra House, Center Board), Mike Hannay (St. Louis County APS), Barb Doherty (WEAAD Committee Co-Chair), Beth Zavalney and Amy Gottschalk (Dakota County APS), Arden Gerber (Ramsey County APS), Kristen Rice (Attorney at Law), Suzanne Elwell (DPS-OJP), Ann Kahn (Ramsey County Attorney's Office), Shireen Gandhi (JurisHealth ), Jenae Harris (SMRLS), Deb Tulloch (Washington County Adult Services), Amy Sweasy (Hennepin County Attorney's Office), Bridgid Dowdal & James Ortmann (DHS-OIG), Roxanne Jenkins (LSSMN), Jay Haapala (AARP), John Willems (AARP Volunteer), Amanda Vickstrom & Marit Peterson (Minnesota Elder Justice Center Staff), Iris Freeman (Adjunct Faculty, WMCL, Center Board)

### Introductions

**General Announcements:** State Conferences

#### **MGS 39th Annual Conference – Friday, April 24, 2015**

Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, MN

7 AM Registration; 8 AM – 4 PM Program

Designing Our Destiny: Aging Ain't for Sissies

Challenges, Opportunities, and Affordability

Former US Senator Dave Durenberger will be talk about the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

#### **2015 Age and Disabilities Odyssey Conference**

“The Odyssey Continues... Person-Centered Perspectives”

Monday, June 15 through Tuesday, June 16, 2015

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center in Duluth, Minnesota.

Sponsored by the Department of Human Services, Aging and Adult Services and Disability Services,

and the Minnesota Board on Aging

January 5, 2015 - Call for Sessions opens

February 9, 2015 - all for Sessions closes at 8 a.m.

Check website in early 2015 for updates

<http://mn.gov/mnodyssey> There will be an Elder Justice track at the Conference, which falls exactly on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (June 15). See below for information on the June 12 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Conference at Mitchell.

**General Announcements:** Federal Update, National Resources

**Federal Budget bill** (“Cromnibus”) passed at the end of 2014 included \$4 million new appropriations for Elder Justice. The dollars will most likely be used to support the development of a national APS data system and for model programs. Its significance as the first dollars appropriated under the Elder Justice Act authorizations is in maintaining a degree of momentum toward the reauthorization of the Act in 2015.

The Alzheimer’s Accountability Act was included in the budget bill to keep Congress aware of specific dollar targets to the research goals of the National Alzheimer’s Plan.

The ABA Commission on Law and Aging has posted its **2014 State Adult Guardianship Legislative Update** at [http://www.americanbar.org/groups/law\\_aging/resources/guardianship\\_law\\_practice.html](http://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_aging/resources/guardianship_law_practice.html). The update describes 18 laws passed in 15 states during the year.

New Resources for addressing **Resident to Resident Aggression** in residential facilities:

- (1) A recently published Weil Cornell study “Resident-to-Resident Aggression in Long-Term Care Facilities: An Understudied Problem”, Tony Rosen, MPH, Karl Pillemer, PhD, and Mark Lachs, MD, MPH which can be found here: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2741635/>
- (2) The National Center on Elder Abuse and The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care have just released educational tools on this very topic to help inform consumers, family members, and employees about residents rights, identifying mistreatment, and how to get help. Those tools, and other related resources, can be found here: [http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Stop\\_Abuse/Partners/LTC\\_Ombudsman/index.aspx](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/Stop_Abuse/Partners/LTC_Ombudsman/index.aspx)

**National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) and the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence announce webinar series:  
Abuse in Later Life**

The National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL) and the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic & Sexual Violence have created a 5-part webinar series on Abuse in Later Life for civil attorneys, legal advocates and others who wish to gain a deeper understanding of Abuse in Later Life (ALL). The primary focus of these webinars will be addressing the needs of older victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This series is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). **There will be no cost for webinar participants.**

The following webinars will be offered in this series:

- **Module One: Abuse in Later Life: An Overview**  
Thursday, January 22, 2015, 2:00-3:00 pm E.S.T.
- **Module Two: Forming the Relationship with Your Client: Client communication, interview skills, and confidentiality/mandatory reporting concerns**  
Thursday, February 5, 2015, 2:00-3:00 pm E.S.T.
- **Module Three: Client Goal-Setting and Non-Litigation Responses: Client collaboration, developing client priorities and non-litigation responses to ALL**  
Thursday, February 19, 2015, 2:00-3:00 pm E.S.T.
- **Module Four: Legal Resolutions and Remedies in ALL cases: Protective orders, Guardianships, Power of Attorney agreements, end of life health care decision-making and working with the criminal justice system**  
Thursday, March 5, 2015, 2:00-3:00 pm E.S.T.
- **Module Five: Bringing the Case – Trial Skills: Protection of evidence and assets, motion practice, witness testimony methods and supports, direct and cross-examination and application of the Crawford decision in ALL cases**  
Thursday, March 19, 2015, 2:00-3:00 pm E.S.T.

This series will be offered at no cost for participants. The series has also been submitted for CLE credit approval to the American Bar Association (further details on CLE credit can be found at the registration link below).

A full program announcement and registration announcement can be found here: <https://ta2ta.org/events/webinars/ncall.html>.

**Registration will close on Friday, January 16, 2015.** All questions may be directed to Shelly Fox, NCALL Justice System Coordinator, at [sfox@ncall.us](mailto:sfox@ncall.us) or (608) 255-0539, ex. 316.

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## Update Child Protection Task Force

Mary McGurran reported on the work of the Child Protection Task Force named by the Governor in September to recommend improvements to MN laws and systems involved in child protection. Current laws (investigative practices, data practices) will be amended in the 2015 session. Resources and training needs will also be considered. See DHS website for detail on meetings and initial recommendations.

[http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET\\_DYNAMIC\\_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16\\_189877](http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=dhs16_189877)

## **Update on Guardianship Research**

Deb Tulloch reported that the research and assistance from a volunteer attorney are moving forward, although not quickly. Research has yielded models from several other states, and the group will review those toward the ultimate recommendations of best practices.

## **Committee Updates –**

Professional Education Subcommittee – Amanda Vickstrom reported that the group has identified topics and speakers for our meetings in the first quarter of the year. Please let Amanda know whether there are program topics that you would like to see covered at future Partners meetings. [amanda.vickstrom@elderjustice.mn.org](mailto:amanda.vickstrom@elderjustice.mn.org). We want meeting agendas to cover a broad range of elder and disability justice topics and be valuable information for participants.

WEEAD Planning Subcommittee – Sandi Lubrant and Barb Doherty reported that plans are well under way for the speakers and topics of the program. The program will reflect the national Elder Justice Roadmap, issued in the summer of 2014. Continuing education credits will be available for social work, law, and POST.

Public Policy Subcommittee – Iris reported that the PPS is the umbrella for our earlier work in the Service Needs, Civil Law, and Criminal Code Committees. This is a research/development year, not a year with new initiatives, although there are several *ad hoc* research efforts in the pipeline, the Guardianship study (above) and a look at the pros and cons of supervised visitation in vulnerable adult cases. Janice Allen is leading that effort and has done substantial research. The group will meet again in mid-January. Over the course of 2015, we have the opportunity to take a broad look at the laws and systems for vulnerable adult protection, ideally culminating with a Summit at the legislature at the start of the 2016 session (assuming there is a second-year session). Regardless, we are at a point of assessing the current span of laws, policies, systems, and resources and assessing the gaps or flaws. This is similar to the work our predecessor VAJP did in 2007-2008 to produce the 2009 initiative and several subsequent bills that became law.

We will also keep aware of other organizations' and agencies' pertinent legislation. Suzy Scheller noted that several sections of the Minnesota State Bar Association are

considering updates and clarifications in the statutory short-form Power of Attorney law.

Iris also reported on the content of the Elder Justice Policy Seminar she is teaching this semester along with the Externship projects that students will be doing. Those are Caitlin Anderson (MMLA), Shantel Thompson (Omb MH-DD), Erin Kelly (Scheller Legal Solutions), Alicia Bohach (ACT on Alzheimer's), Tessa Cuneo (Minnesota Elder Justice Center), Kathleen Gomez (DHS-APS), and Prescott Weis (Washington County Attorney's Office)

**Minnesota Department of Commerce** –Libby Caulum, Director of Consumer Outreach & Community Relations, Megan Verdeja, Government Affairs Coordinator, and Peter Brickwedde, Government Affairs Director presented an update on 2015 Commerce Department priorities and legislative initiatives that affect elders and vulnerable adults. Recently-passed laws from other states were used as examples of changes that the Department may introduce this session. (See attached slides.)

## **Wrap-up**

### **Next Center Partners Meeting**

February 13, 2015 – William Mitchell College of Law – Room 231