

Digging Deeper: Racial Disparities in Elder Justice

MEJC Center Partners

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MINNESOTA
ELDER JUSTICE
CENTER

Today's Goals and Format

- ▶ Identify: *What do we know of the basic issues of disparities in Elder Justice issues*
- ▶ Discuss: *Ways to engage communities negatively affected by disparities and develop ways to address the disparities*
- ▶ Brainstorm: *Next steps for Center Partners participants and the Elder Justice community as a whole.*

Outline

- ▶ Background – Context: What do we mean when we say Disparities in Elder Justice?
 - ▶ Some limited research
 - ▶ Communities of color working on these issues (i.e. native American Example)
 - ▶ Contextual Evidence – (Public) Health Outcomes disparities can lead to an educated assumption of poor prevention outcomes
- ▶ What Initiatives are in place to work on disparities – a brief scatter shot
- ▶ One Response – Engage/Empower Communities in Elder Justice Issues (Vic's work)
 - ▶ Overview of project
 - ▶ Current status
 - ▶ Goals and Projected Outcomes related to addressing disparities in elder-justice / general aging issues
- ▶ Group brainstorm – next steps

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Dr. Warne:
 - ▶ Emphasized key cultural differences in “medicine”, healing, interpersonal relationships
 - ▶ Great health inequities: lifespan; health outcomes; Native Americans in health care professions
 - ▶ Challenge and solutions....

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Relatively large amount of research on disparities in health care among older minority populations
 - ▶ Older Americans of color have consistently been shown to have worse health outcomes than their white counterparts.*
 - ▶ This leads to direct and indirect effects on elder abuse and increased vulnerability

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Limited research on specific elder justice/elder abuse issues
- ▶ Some limited research on elder abuse prevalence in African American Communities:
 - ▶ Financial exploitation disproportionately affects African American older adults when compared to non-African Americans*
 - ▶ African Americans may be more vulnerable to stranger-initiated scams or other financially related deceptions, than non-African Americans*
 - ▶ From the National Asian Pacific Center on Aging:
 - ▶ *There is a growing belief that the prevalence and severity of elder mistreatment within AAPI communities and immigrant populations are higher than previously suspected. A recent study, for example, revealed the two most common forms of abuse faced by Chinese older adults are caregiver neglect and financial exploitation. Asian immigrants seem less likely than other populations to report abuse and receive services, often due to language, cultural, social, and institutional barriers. Despite high vulnerability, AAPI older adults continue to face disparities in seeking and accepting help from mainstream elder abuse systems.*

Vic's Project: Overview

- ▶ Background: Experience with the Minnesota Senior Federation
- ▶ New project – modeled on Senior Federation but with a specific focus:
 - ▶ Intentionally set out to listen to diverse cultural backgrounds so as to help empower older communities of color (modeled on Hope for Communities from Phillips Neighborhood)
 - ▶ Funding Sources: Small AAOA grant for Phase One of project; working with the leadership council on Aging for more resources
- ▶ Project has Three Phases
 - ▶ Phase One: Conduct Listening Sessions
 - ▶ Examples: Transportation; Culturally competent services
 - ▶ Phase Two : Compile results into a report
 - ▶ Phase Three: Work with the communities that were engaged to develop next advocacy steps/infrastructure

Vic's Project: Status

- ▶ Some Initial Findings in reviewing Phase One
 - ▶ Tremendous hunger to be engaged
 - ▶ Can't deal with racial equity without engaging others – elders of color – about how they grow old in Minnesota
 - ▶ Dominant culture creates what they believe is the right answer. For examples: American Indian and Somali communities and access to food services that do not take into account dietary interests, etc. Or in healthcare (i.e. where an older American Indian may travel to distant reservation for care rather than get it locally).
 - ▶ Sense of invisibility – people have moved on...separation between children and elders – purpose? Isolated? Etc.
- ▶ Goals and Possible Outcomes:
 - ▶ Address disparities through empowerment and providing an advocacy voice to older Minnesotans of Color (Possibly create an infrastructure for this advocacy)
 - ▶ Help change service delivery to better reflect cultural needs
 - ▶ Other...???

Addressing Disparities in MN

- ▶ What work is your organization doing in this area:
 - ▶ Identifying disparities
 - ▶ Addressing/redressing disparities

RESOURCES

- ▶ [Rural Resource Guide: http://www.ncall.us//FileStream.aspx?FileID=85](http://www.ncall.us//FileStream.aspx?FileID=85)
- ▶ [Elder mistreatment in underserved populations: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5560611/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5560611/)
- ▶ Invisible, Unequal, and Forgotten: Health Disparities in the Elderly:
<https://scholarship.law.nd.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1145&context=ndjlepp>
- ▶ [NCEA Mistreatment of African American Elders Factsheet](#)
 - ▶ <https://ncea.acl.gov/Resources/docs/Research-2-Practice-AfAm-NCEA-2016.pdf>
- ▶ The Experiences, Perceptions, and Help-Seeking Behaviors of Elder Mistreatment among Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Older Adults Participating in Senior Community Service Employment Program
 - ▶ https://napca.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Elder-mistreatment-report_Full_6-27-2014.pdf