

# Reflections on Minnesota's 2022 Legislative Session and New Horizons for Elder Justice

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# Agenda

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- What Happened?
  - 2022 Session Re-Cap
- What's Next?
  - Summary of Key Issues for 2023
- Further Horizons for Elder Justice Issues
  - Elder justice policy issues to consider over the next 5-10 years

# What Happened (So Far)

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# Billions of State Surplus Dollars Remain Unspent

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- Context is critical:
  - All lawmakers were up for re-election
  - Re-districting occurred in Feb
  - Lots of retirements and changes coming
- Close to \$3 billion of federal and state money spent on unemployment trust fund and \$500 million on frontline worker pay in a deal earlier in session
- Speaker of the House Hortman (DFL), Senate Majority Leader Miller (GOP), and Gov. Walz (DFL) forged an agreement on spending, taxes, and reserves

# Billions of State Surplus Dollars Remain Unspent

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- The leadership deal allotted \$1 billion dollars to HHS spending and \$600 million for public safety.
- As conference committees debated the specifics of their bills, things began to stall in the final days of session with time running out.
- In HHS:
  - GOP proposal spent most of the money on staffing issues in long term care
  - DFL proposal included money for that issue (not as much) and for other programs including homelessness and early childhood issues.

# Special Session?

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- Session ended on May 23
- Many lawmakers and organizations are calling for a special session to pick up where they left off and finalize the “deal” that leadership made
- So far, there does not appear to be movement toward a special session while lawmakers are gearing up for the election in November

# So did anything pass? (Yes!)

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- A Health and Human Services policy bill with items of agreement between house and senate passed and was signed into law. It includes:
  - The Vulnerable Adult Act re-design Phase 1
  - Change of Ownership requirements in Nursing Homes
- Over 95 million dollars for mental health services for children and adults.

# Adult Protection Re-Design

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- Among many other changes:
  - Counties are required to make public investigative priorities
  - Definition of familial neglect was modified to incentive services.
  - Created “two-track system” for self-neglect to encourage person-centered services.



# **Key Issues for 2023**

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# More Work to Do

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- Staffing in long term care settings
- Services for in-home care
- Long-term care settings policy (Assisted Living and other settings)

# More Work to Do

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- Continued work on Guardianship and Supported decision making
- Adult Protection and VAA Re-Design Phase 2
  - Must increase access to services and decrease disparities
  - Statewide funding for VAA
  - Address access inequities as highlighted in the 2021 DHS report

# Where Are We Headed?

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# Elder Justice Issues to Focus on in Next 5-10 Years

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- Major demographic and labor shifts in the next 5-10 years (already happening)
- Reliance on the caring professions workforce (Benefits? Wages? Government programs)

# Elder Justice Issues to Focus on in Next 5-10 Years

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- Abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation outside of facilities
- Continued updating and reforming of our adult protection system
- Addressing racial disparities in the various aging systems (long term care services and adult protection)

# Contact Us

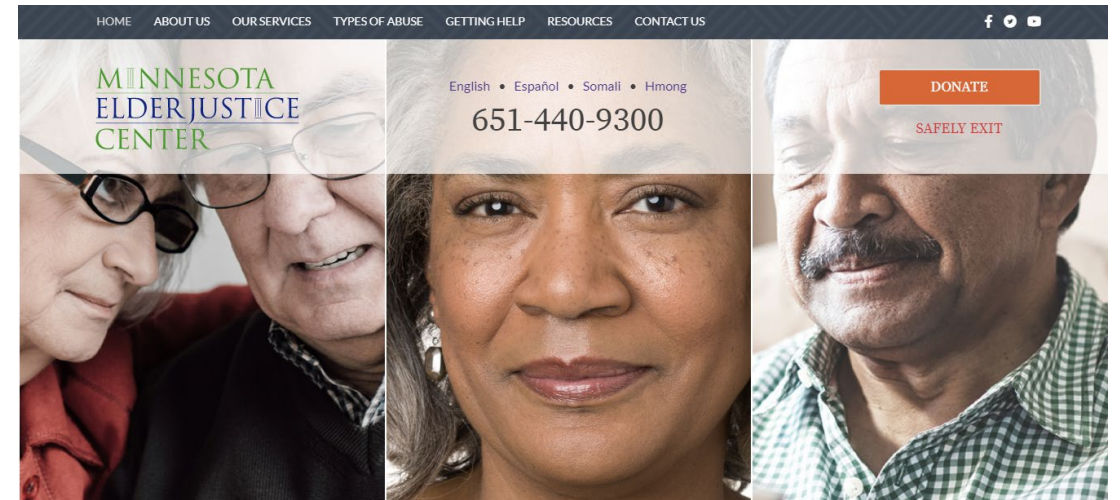
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