

Complementing Cases:

Other Legal Strategies and Services for Seniors



Legal Aid of
Western Ohio, Inc.

Gary J. Weston, Senior Attorney
Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.
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Focus of this presentation:



- ❖ In addition to helping individual clients through legal advice and representation (cases), legal service programs provide other important legal services
- ❖ This presentation will focus on strategies and services legal service providers can provide in partnership with other senior service providers and stakeholders

Full range of legal services for seniors

**Individual case handling and client representation
are extremely important**

However, because of

- ❖ **Limited resources,**
- ❖ **Large number of persons needing help, &**
- ❖ **Significance of problems/issues involved,**

Other **STRATEGIES & SERVICES** are also helpful

PREVENTION & EARLY INTERVENTION

help seniors avoid or lessen legal problems, when possible

CLIENT-EMPOWERMENT

help seniors attain knowledge, skills, resources to help themselves

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACHES

work with others to help seniors attain more comprehensive solutions



Pop Quiz:

- **Question: What's the best way to resolve any legal problem?**
 - **Answer: Avoid having the problem in the first place!**

**Prevention can be a very important strategy for
Seniors & Senior Service Providers
(regarding legal issues and other needs!)**

It can save:

TIME, MONEY, PROPERTY, & LIVES!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Teach seniors about legal rights, responsibilities, resources, options

“*PRO SE*”/SELF-ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Give seniors tools to advocate for self & resolve issues

COLLABORATIVE SERVICES

Work with partners for more efficient, effective services & solutions

Community Education & Outreach Example: “Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself” Project



“Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself” SERIES FOR SENIORS Free legal class and legal clinics

This project was developed as part of the
Access to Justice Practice Group at
Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO) &
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE)

Community education & outreach example: “Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself” Project



- **Class content (5 classes):**
 - **JUSTICE FOR SENIORS**
(ways to get legal help & handle your legal issues)
 - **KEEPING SENIORS SAFE**
(ways to prevent or stop abuse & exploitation)
 - **FINANCIAL POA'S & MORE**
(ways POA's can be helpful or harmful—and alternatives)
 - **HEALTH ADVANCE DIRECTIVES**
(ways to plan ahead for health care decisions)
 - **WILLS & ESTATES**
(ways to transfer property at death)

Community education & outreach example: “Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself” Project



“PLAN AHEAD & PROTECT YOURSELF” Series for Seniors	
Classes	Clinics
Justice for Seniors	
Keeping Seniors Safe	
Financial POA’s & More	Financial POA’s
Health Advance Directives	Health Care POA & Living Will
Wills & Estates	Last Will & Testament
Classes can be provided in segments, separately, consolidated with other classes, or “customized” as needed and appropriate. Clinics can be provided in conjunction with hosted or community classes, or done separately.	

Community education & outreach example: “Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself” Project



➤ INTENDED OUTCOMES FOR ATTENDEES:

- Learn key legal rights, responsibilities & options
- Understand how to access legal resources
- Make well-informed financial, health care & estate decisions
- Become empowered through new knowledge and skills
- Prevent, reduce, or resolve financial exploitation
- Protect themselves, their property, information & legal rights

Community education & outreach example: “Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself” Project



➤ **CLASS VENUES:**

HOSTED SITE—LIVE CLASS (senior center, senior housing, etc.)

COMMUNITY SITE—LIVE CLASS (public library, community center, etc.)

VIRTUAL SITE— Anywhere and everywhere a senior can appropriately access the educational material in a user-friendly and successful way (at home, service agency, online, etc.)

Community education & outreach example: “Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself” Project



CHALLENGES

Resources

some grants don't fund community education & outreach

Restrictions

some funder eligibility or program restrictions limit services

Realities

practical issues of scheduling, logistics, communications, etc.

Community education & outreach example: “Plan Ahead & Protect Yourself” Project



POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- ❖ Positive results for individual seniors
- ❖ More efficient and effective use of resources
---- funding, time, human resources, etc.
- ❖ More comprehensive, longer-lasting, farther-reaching solutions

Collaborative Services Example: Multi-Disciplinary Teams



Multi-Disciplinary Teams **a/k/a Interdisciplinary (or “I”) Teams**

Persons from diverse professions

work together to

prevent or remedy elder

abuse, neglect & exploitation

Collaborative Services Example: Multi-Disciplinary Teams

Some of the benefits of this approach:

- Helps resolve difficult cases
- Allows more comprehensive solutions by having various professions, agencies, systems, resources “at the table”
- Strengthens service coordination
- Helps identify service gaps
- Raises awareness and commitment to needed work
- Other?

Collaborative Services Example: Multi-Disciplinary Teams

Example of one Multi-Disciplinary Team:

C.A.A.N.E. Collaboration Against Abuse, Neglect & Exploitation
(Montgomery County)



Collaborative Services Example: Multi-Disciplinary Teams

CAANE Mission Statement

- ❖ To develop collaborative partnerships to prevent and eliminate elder abuse, neglect and exploitation of older and vulnerable adults through comprehensive and effective education, advocacy, intervention and services.



Collaborative Services Example: Multi-Disciplinary Teams



Examples of CAANE Activities & Accomplishments

- ❖ Elder Abuse Awareness Days
- ❖ Professional Symposiums and Seminars
- ❖ Public Education Programs
- ❖ Successful Case Reviews
- ❖ Interagency collaboration on particular issues
- ❖ Other

Questions & Answers?



Discussion?

THANK YOU!



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