OCAPS
Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
OCAPS was established in 1985, soon after passage of the Adult Protective Services (APS) law in Ohio.

The primary principles of OCAPS were to:

- To fund the Protective Services Law for Adults
- To promote additional public policy to protect vulnerable adults
- To educate professionals and the public about elder abuse
- To stimulate models for problem detection, prevention and treatment

More than 37 years later OCAPS is the longest continuous state elder abuse network and its intended purpose it still relevant today.
Who We Are

- Non-profit with Board of Directors
- Volunteer led with an executive director and structured committees
- Priorities include: OCAPS Annual Conference, educational trainings, advocacy for additional funding and legislative change through testimony, letter writing campaigns, and meetings with public officials.
The Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services’ mission: Maximizing protection and dignity of older adults through collaboration, education and advocacy.

- Sylvia Pla-Raith, Chair
- Deana Green, Chair-Elect
- Natasha Pietrocola, Second Vice-Chair
- Brooke Lynch, Secretary
- Melanie Harkinson, Treasurer
- Maridell Couture, Chair, Public Policy Committee
- Carol Dayton, Chair, Development Committee
- Kristina Allwood and Amy Welling, Co-Chairs, Conference Committee
- Hilari Style, Chair, Communications Committee
- Susan Marshall, Executive Director
Regional Affiliates

Regional Affiliates are the Board of Directors partners who share the mission and purpose of OCAPS. They provide a resource for advocacy, information/education and recommendations for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Five Regional Affiliates have been established by OCAPS: Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest.
Statewide Partnerships

- AARP Ohio
- Advocates for Ohio's Future
- Ohio Association of Probate Judges
- Ohio Attorney General Elder Abuse Commission
- Ohio Department on Aging
- Ohio Domestic Violence Network
- Ohio Job and Family Service Directors’ Association
- Policy Matters Ohio
OCAPS Advocacy

- Member of the Ohio Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Commission
- Member of the ODJFS APS Statewide Council
- Advocates on issues and monitors state/federal legislation affecting elder abuse and elder justice issues
- Advocates for increased funding/resources to fully implement APS and elder abuse laws
- Provides updated information on pending and current legislative and public policy issues
- Builds collaboration with statewide advocacy organizations
Adult Protective Services Funding (JFS ALI 600-534)
APS Funding: State Budget

- 2014-2015 state budget allocation $500,000
- Based on formula, some counties received as little as $2,000
- Availability of services dependent on local funding
- 2015 one-time allocation $10 million - Changes to APS law helped to build infrastructure including I-TEAMS
- 2018-2019 state budget allocation $2.6 million - $30,000/county
- 2020-2021 state budget allocation $4.2 million – $48,000/county
- 2022-2023 state budget allocation $5.7 million - $65,000/county
OCAPS: What We Learned From Legislators

- Need to provide a thorough understanding of APS
- Value of having county/constituent APS staff in meetings
- Strong data to demonstrate need
- Need for outcome measurements and quality assurance
- Need success stories
OCAPS Public Policy Work

- APS Funding Workgroup
- Elder Fraud and Financial Exploitation (Wilson’s Law)
- Social Isolation bills and Guardianship Law (Rule 66) Proposed Revision
Where We Need To Be

- Elder abuse remains severely underreported problem
- Address ageism to systemically build supports
- Increase APS capacity
- Invest in adequate funding/resources
Join the OCAPS Team

Annual Membership Rates

- Individual - $50
- Student/Retiree - $25
- Organizational
  - 1-5 staff  $125
  - 6-10 Staff  $250
  - 11-15 Staff  $500
  - 16+ staff  $750
Contact information

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