MALTREATMENT OF VULNERABLE ADULTS: APS ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

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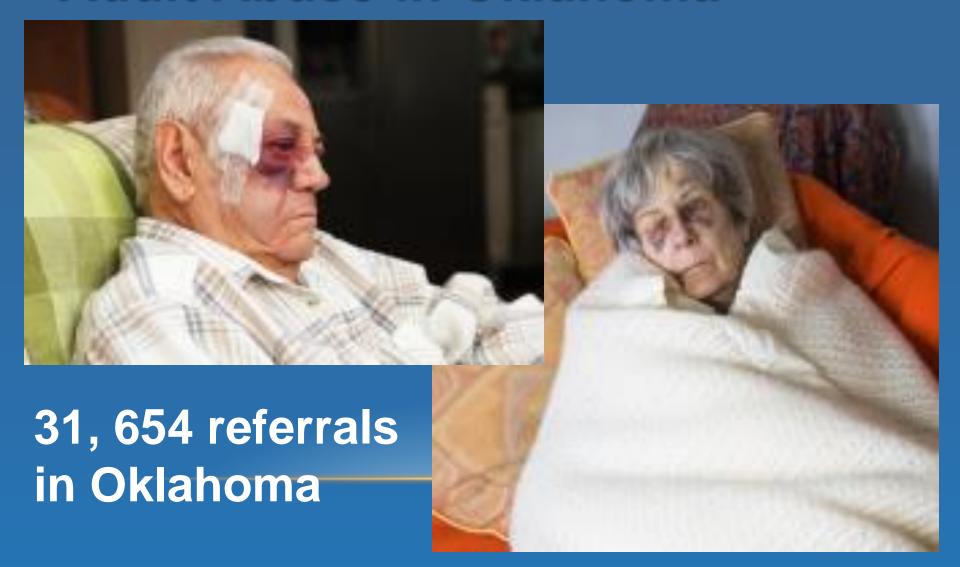
Why should I care about adult abuse?

1 in 10 community residing adults

More than 5 million older adults

1 out of 23&1 out of 44reported

Incidence & Prevalence of Adult Abuse in Oklahoma



Adult Protective Services

Long-Term Care Investigations (LTCI)

Community Adult Protective Services (CAPS)

APS Program Basics

APS referral = allegation of

Vulnerable adult

+

Situation of maltreatment



APS Clients

Vulnerable Adults

- > Age 18+ AND
- Incapacitated
 OR
- Substantially Impaired



Assessing Substantial Impairment

Can the Alleged Victim:

- provide for self care or custody
- manage property and financial affairs
- meet essential requirements for mental or physical health or safety or
- protect self from maltreatment without assistance

Examples of Substantial Impairment

An individual who:

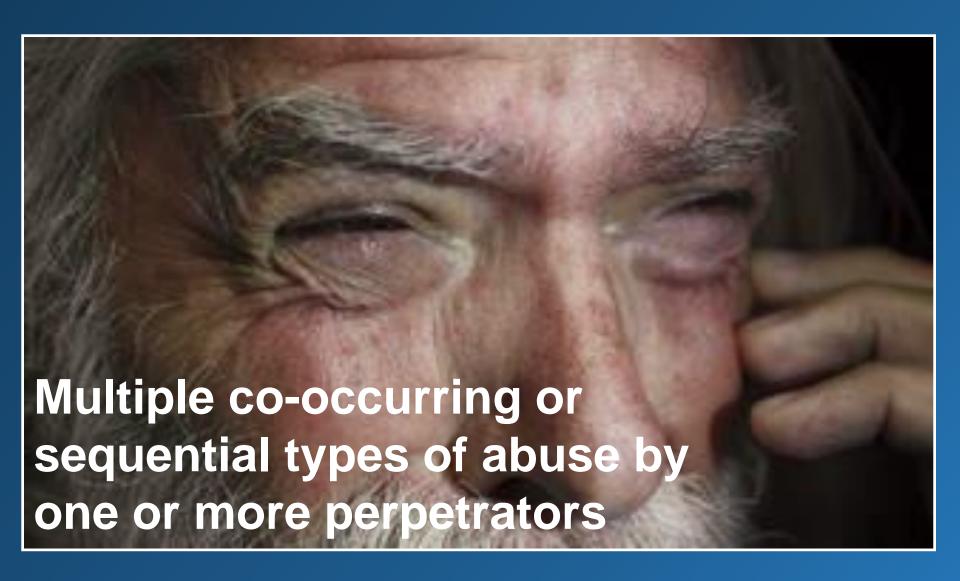
- requires supervision
- needs assistance with taking their medications
- requires assistance with ADLs (bathing, grooming, dressing, transferring, toileting) or IADLs (handling finances, preparing meals, driving or arranging transportation, using the phone, shopping)

Types of Maltreatment

- Abuse
- Neglect
- Self-Neglect
- Caretaker Financial Exploitation
- Non-Caretaker
 Financial
 Exploitation

- Financial Neglect
- Abandonment
- Sexual Abuse
- Verbal Abuse
- Personal Degradation

Polyvictimization



What is a Caretaker? (Title 43A Section 10-103 A 6)

A person who has:

- a. the responsibility for the care of a vulnerable adult or the financial management of the resources of the vulnerable adult as a result of a family relationship,
- b. assumed the responsibility for the care of the vulnerable adult voluntarily, by contract, or as a result of the ties of friendship, or
- been appointed a guardian, limited guardian, or conservator pursuant to the Oklahoma Guardianship Act

Examples of Caretaker

An individual who:

- sets up the client's medication or assists with medications
- assists client with bathing or dressing
- prepares client's meals
- does the housekeeping or other household chores
- provides transportation on a regular basis
- handles client's finances
- assists client with paying bills





Possible Warning Signs: Physical Abuse

- Unexplained or untreated injury or illness
- Bruises, especially layered
- Malnutrition, weight loss, dehydration
- Abrasions, cuts, lacerations
- Burns, especially patterned

Possible Warning Signs: Sexual Abuse

- Genital injuries
- Human bite marks
- Imprint injuries
- Bruising on thighs, buttocks, or breasts
- Frequent unexplained physical illness or complaints
- Genital or urinary tract irritation, injury, infection, or scarring
- Sexually transmitted diseases*
- Pregnancy*







Possible Warning Signs: Neglect

- Unsafe living environment
- Malnutrition/dehydration
- Lack of medical care—untreated medical conditions
- Over or under medication
- Skin breakdown/decubitus ulcers
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inappropriate clothing
- Isolation

Possible Warning Signs: Behavioral, Mental, & Emotional

- Anger, irritability
- Apathy, fearfulness, nervousness
- Clothing dirty, seldom changed, inappropriate
- Confusion, disorientation, wandering
- Decreased quality of personal hygiene







Possible Warning Signs: Environmental

- Hoarding
- House in poor repair
- Inadequate clothing, food, or shelter
- Offensive odors (feces, urine, rotted food)
- Vermin infestations (rodents, insects, bed bugs)

Possible Warning Signs: Financial

- Forced, tricked, or manipulated signatures
- Unpaid rent or utilities
- Inappropriate bank activity
- Personal belongings missing

Possible Warning Signs: Caregiver Behaviors

- Reacts inappropriately
- Isolates
- Refuses to allow medical care
- Refuses to pay for necessities or care
- Verbally critical and threatening
- Consistently over or underreacts

Response Time

Urgent

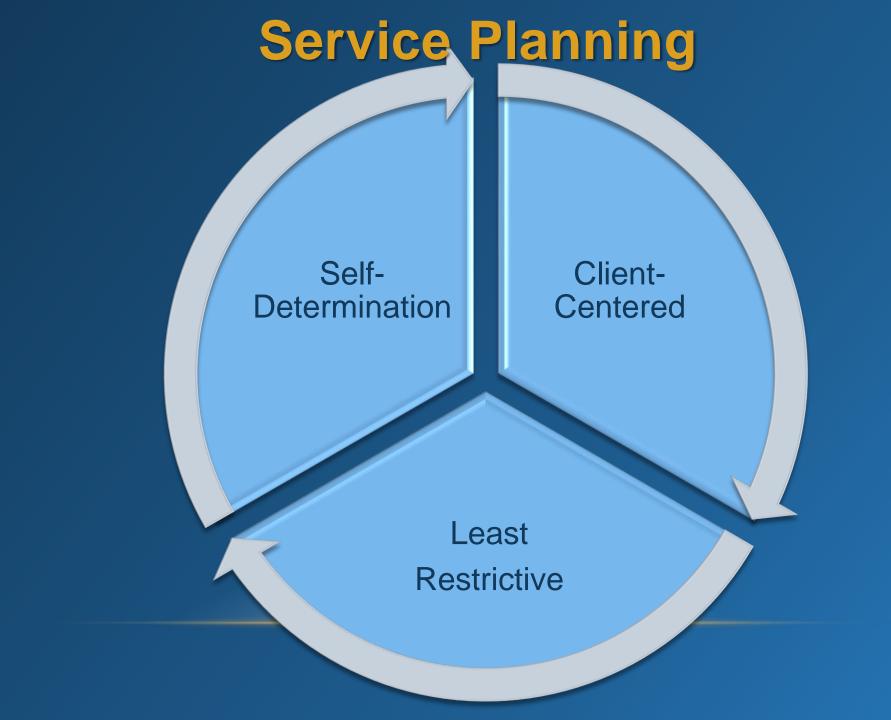
- Prompt action may be required
- Initiation within 24 hours or sooner

Non-Urgent

- Prompt action not indicated
- Initiation fivebusiness days, not to exceed 120 hours

CAPS Process

- Referral assigned by screening specialist
- Notification to law enforcement for investigations
- Contact made with client, alleged perpetrator, and/or collaterals
- Assessment of client's needs, risk, & capacity to consent
- Service planning
- Findings letter sent to known next of kin and caretaker
- Findings sent to the state District Attorney



APS Services Through Temporary Guardianship

APS can only provide involuntary services when:

- the client lacks capacity to consent
- there is no one else available to make appropriate decisions for the client AND
- the client is at substantial risk of death or immediate and serious physical harm or financial exploitation of the estate

Case Closure

Situation is remedied

Circumstances are stable

Client retains capacity and refuses

services



Duty to Report: Title 43A §10-104

Who – any person having reasonable cause

When - as soon as person is aware of the situation

Where - to DHS or local law enforcement

Mandatory Reporters: Title 43A §10-104

- B. Persons required to make reports pursuant to this section shall include, but not be limited to:
- Physicians
- Operators of emergency response vehicles and other medical professionals
- Social workers and mental health professionals
- Law enforcement officials
- Staff of domestic violence programs
- Long-term care facility personnel, including staff of nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICFs/IID), assisted living facilities, and residential care facilities

Mandatory Reporters: Title 43A §10-104 cont.

- Other health care professionals
- Persons entering into transactions with a caretaker or other person who has assumed the role of financial management for a vulnerable adult
- Staff of residential care facilities, group homes, or employment settings for individuals with intellectual disabilities
- Job coaches, community service workers, and personal care assistants
- Municipal employees

Making an APS Referral

Report to:

Public Access
 Abuseisnotok.org (use Chrome)

Abuse & Neglect Hotline
 1-800-522-3511

Local law enforcement

Adult Protective Services District Map



District Directors

D1 Kim Allison

D2 Kerry Wilson

D3 Russell Jones

Questions

