



## **The Coalition for the Advocacy, Prevention, and Elimination of Abuse in Older Adults (CAPE)**

*Experience has shown that the problem of elder abuse is best addressed as a multi-disciplinary effort with a strong foundation at the local level.* Because individual agencies alone cannot fully address the problem, communities nationwide have increasingly focused their efforts on elder abuse detection, intervention and prevention strategies through formal or informal collaborations or partnerships.

CAPE is a collaborative effort in the Greater Bridgeport community to help seniors escape abusive situations. Representatives of the Greater Bridgeport area agencies and organizations, as well as community members have been working together since April, 2008 to focus their efforts on the issue of elder abuse. By joining those who work with and are concerned about elders together, it is our hope that the incidence of elder abuse will be reduced..

The collaborative project is supported by the National Center on Elder Abuse and the Administration on Aging in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the generosity of local businesses.

The group currently has three subcommittees: advocacy, awareness, and case-conferencing.

- The Advocacy Subcommittee is working to build political attention to elder abuse through a legislative agenda and by identifying gaps in services in the Greater Bridgeport area.
- The Awareness Subcommittee is working on efforts to make the community more aware of the issue of elder abuse, how to prevent it, and the available services in our community.
- The Case-Conference Subcommittee discusses specific cases of abuse, how organizations responded to specific situations, and how resources were deployed or limited. Most importantly, the subcommittee brainstorms how the collaborative can help to better serve victims and network professionals.

*To join or find out more about CAPE, please fill out the sheet on the reverse side of this document.*

**What is Elder Abuse?**

Elder Abuse is the financial, emotional, verbal, sexual physical mistreatment, neglect, or abandonment of an adult 60 years of age or older.

In Connecticut, physical injury and financial abuse to the elderly and disabled are criminal offenses. Also unique to Connecticut is a mandated reporting rule for some professionals who suspect a case of elder abuse. Anyone, however, may report.

**Statistics on Elder Abuse**

Elder abuse is a national problem that will continue to rise with increase in the number of older adults. Connecticut is no exception to this pending increase.

- Estimates of the incidence of elder abuse ranges from 2% to 10%, depending on the survey method.<sup>1</sup>
- Data on elder abuse in domestic settings suggest that 1 in 14 incidents, *excluding* self-neglect cases, come to the attention of authorities.<sup>2</sup>
- Connecticut has the highest rate of reported elder abuse cases, which is almost three times the national median.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 640 cases of elder abuse were opened in Fairfield County alone. Approximately, 330 of these cases were in the Greater Bridgeport Area.

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**Join CAPE!**

\_\_\_\_\_ YES! Please add me to the list of people interested in this collaborative, and contact me about scheduled meetings and events.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Subcommittee Preference:

- Awareness
- Advocacy
- Case Conference

Please email this information to [lsnow@jhe.org](mailto:lsnow@jhe.org), or mail this form to: Laura Snow, Institute on Aging, The Jewish Home for the Elderly 175 Jefferson Street Fairfield, CT 06825

*Please contact Laura Snow at 203-365-6403 or Mary Donnelley at SWCAA at 203-333-9288 if you have questions. If there are other people you feel should be aware of our group, please let us know. Thanks!*

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<sup>1</sup> Lachs, Mark S., and Karl Pillemer, October 2004. "Elder Abuse", *The Lancet*, Vol. 364: 1192-1263.  
<sup>2</sup> Pillemer, Karl, and David Finkelhor. 1988. "The Prevalence of Elder Abuse: A Random Sample Survey," *The Gerontologist*, 28: 51-57.  
<sup>3</sup> *The 2004 Survey of State Adult Protective Services: Abuse of Adults 60 Years of Age and Older*, 2006. The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and The National Adult Protective Services Association, prepared for The National Center on Elder Abuse. [www.elderabusecenter.org](http://www.elderabusecenter.org).