

SPECIALIZED FAMILY CARE  
Provider Training

Category	<b>Pre-Service and Annual Training</b>
Title	<b>ABUSE, NEGLECT &amp; EXPLOITATION Part I</b>
Materials	Reducing Risk of Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation, by WVDHHR, APS, KEPRO, Healthcare: <b>Part I Recognition, Reporting &amp; Community Integration</b>
Goal	Provider knows how to prevent abuse, neglect & exploitation of an individual in care.
Credit Hours	1 Hour
Date Developed	January 2017
Developed by	<i>Carol Brewster</i> , SFC Program

This skill-building instruction has been approved for Specialized Family Care Provider training by:

*Veronica McLean*

2/27/2017

**Specialized Family Care Program Manager**

**Date**

*Carol Brewster*

02-27-2017

**Content Reviewed and Updated by: Carol Brewster, FBCS**

**Date**

Training Objectives:

- Specialized Family Care Provider can define abuse, neglect, and exploitation
- Specialized Family Care Provider can recognize signs of neglect, abuse and exploitation
- Specialized Family Care Provider can identify common risk factors for individuals with disabilities and some methods to address these identified risk factors
- Specialized Family Care Provider knows to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation

Training Procedures:

- Specialized Family Care Provider initiated self-study
- Test completed by Specialized Family Care Provider
- Review of test responses by Family Based Care Specialist and Specialized Family Care Provider

I certify that I have completed all the materials associated with this training module. I feel that I have a basic understanding of the material completed.

Specialized Family Care Provider	Start Time	End Time	Date
Reviewed by: _____			
Family Based Care Specialist			Date

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WVDHHR/CED/SFC/ABUSE. NEGLECT.EXPLOITATION/January 201

## **Reducing Risk of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation**

### **Part I: Recognition, Reporting and Community Integration**

#### **Definitions of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation**

##### **Abuse**

- The infliction of or threat to inflict physical pain or injury on or the imprisonment of any incapacitated child or adult

##### **Neglect**

- The failure to provide the necessities of life to an incapacitated child or adult

##### **Exploitation**

- The victimization of an incapacitated child or adult by treating him/her in an unjust, unfair, or cruel manner

##### **Sexual Abuse**

- The coercion of an incapacitated child or adult into having sexual contact with the perpetrator or another person
- A caregiver of the incapacitated person may be involved either directly (i.e. as the perpetrator or sexual partner) or indirectly (by allowing or enabling the conditions which result in the sexual coercion)

##### **Verbal Abuse**

- The use of verbal threats and/or demeaning language.
- The verbal threat(s) must be perceived to be real

##### **Physical Abuse**

- The infliction of, or threat to inflict, physical pain or injury to any incapacitated child or adult, including but not limited to withholding food, hydration, and/or medical treatment
- The infliction of, or threat to inflict, imprisonment upon any incapacitated child or adult, including but not limited to isolation.

##### **Abused Individual**

- An individual whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened by a parent, guardian, custodian or others who knowingly or intentionally inflicts,

attempts to inflict or knowingly allows another person to inflict, physical injury or mental or emotional injury, upon the individual; or sexual abuse or sexual exploitation; or the sale or attempted sale of a child by a parent, guardian, custodian or others and domestic violence...In addition to its broader meaning, physical injury may include an injury to the individual as a result of excessive corporal punishment

### **Neglected Individuals**

- An individual whose physical or mental health is harmed or threatened by a present refusal, failure, or inability of the parent, guardian, custodian or others to supply him/her with necessary food, clothing, shelter, supervision, medical care or education, when such refusal, failure or inability is not due primarily to a lack of financial means on the part of the parent, guardian, custodian or others; or who is presently without necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education or supervision because of the disappearance or absence of a parent, guardian, custodian or others

### **Financial Exploitation**

- The illegal or unethical use or willful dissipation of the funds, property or other assets of an incapacitated child or adult by a formal or informal caregiver, family member, or legal representative – either directly (i.e. as the perpetrator) or indirectly (i.e. by allowing or enabling the condition which permitted the financial exploitation)

### **Self-Neglect**

- The inability of an incapacitated adult to meet his/her own basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, medical care) of daily living due to mental or physical incapacity

## **Recognizing signs of abuse, neglect and exploitation**

### **Physical Signs of Abuse**

- Bruises (you should look for old and new bruises, clustered on one part of body or on upper arms)
- Burns
- Cuts or scars
- Mark left by a gag or restraint
- Imprint injuries (Look for marks shaped like fingers, thumbs, hands, belts, or sticks)
- Missing teeth
- Spotty balding from pulled hair
- Eye injuries
- Broken bones
- Sprains
- Abrasions or scrapes
- Vaginal or rectal pain
- Bleeding from the ears, nose or mouth
- Frequent urinary tract infections or yeast infections
- Painful urination
- Abrasions, bleeding, or bruising in the genital area
- Incontinence in someone who was previously toilet-trained
- Frequent sore throats
- Sudden onset of psychosomatic complaints
- Sudden difficulty walking or sitting

### **Physical Signs of Neglect**

- Dehydration
- Poor or improper hygiene
- Poor grooming

- Malnourishment/weight loss
- A smell of urine or feces on the person
- Clutter, filth, or bad smell in the home
- Improper sleeping, cooking, or bathing arrangements
- Infestations such as fleas, lice, roaches, rodents, bed-bugs
- Poor skin condition or skin breakdown
- Lack of necessary adaptive aids such as glasses, hearing aids, leg braces walkers
- Improper medication management
- Needed medical and dental care not provided
- Lack of adequate or appropriate supervision

### **Behavioral Signs**

- Changes in the way affection is shown, especially if unusual or inappropriate
- Sudden fear of being touched
- Sudden onset of nightmares
- Changes in sleep patterns; difficulty sleeping
- Sudden regression to childlike behaviors
- Sudden unusual interest in or knowledge of sexual matters
- Cruelty to animals
- Sudden fear of bathing or toileting
- Sudden fear of a person or place
- Depression, withdrawal, or mood swings
- Any unexplained change in behavior

### **Signs of Exploitation**

- Sudden decrease in bank account balances
- Sudden change in banking practices
- Sudden problems paying bills or buying food or other necessities

- Sudden changes in wills or other financial documents
- Sudden secretive behavior
- Unexplained disappearance of money or valuable possessions
- Evidence of substandard care
- Bills paid late or unpaid despite the availability of adequate financial resources
- Concerns expressed by a person with a disability that he or she is being exploited
- Lack of money early in the month when disability or other types of government benefits are paid

### **To Preventing Financial Exploitation**

- Individuals should not sign blank checks
- Money or other valuables should not be left out in plain sight
- Strangers should not be given access to bank accounts
- If possible, individuals should not allow friends or family members to pressure them into doing anything they don't want to do.

### **Behaviors of Abusers**

- Anyone can be a perpetrator, and behavior patterns cannot be relied upon to determine if someone is an abuser
- Abusers may actually be those who are highly trusted by others and may be considered upstanding citizens

### **Possible Behaviors of Caregivers who may be Abusers to Look for**

#### **Include:**

- Refusal to follow directions or complete necessary tasks
- Displaying controlling attitudes or behaviors
- Showing up late or not at all
- Working under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- Abusing or harming pets or service animals

- Using threats or menacing looks/body language as a form of intimidation
- Impulsive
- Using vehicle, money or other resources without consent
- Socially isolating person with a disability
- Devalues the person with disabilities
- Speaks for the person with disabilities
- Competes with the person with disabilities
- Displays unwelcoming or uncooperative attitude during home visits
- Frequently makes attempts to be alone with a particular individual for no apparent legitimate purpose

### **Identifying Member Risk of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation**

#### **Risk Factors**

- May have multiple care providers that they rely on for physical assistance
- Taught to be compliant with requests from caregivers or other authority figures
- Often isolated or living in institutional or group settings
- May not have received training/education that addressed healthy intimate relationships and appropriate sexual activities
- May not have been allowed privacy or had the chance to learn about the private areas of the body
- May have limited communication skills, therefore making it harder to resist or disclose abuse
- Often not believed or viewed as credible
- May have challenging behaviors

### **Reporting Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation**

#### **Who Must Report Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation?**

Under West Virginia Law (WV Code 49-6A-2) Certain Persons are Required to Report. These Persons include:

- Medical, dental or mental health professionals
- Christian Science Practitioners
- Religious Healers
- School Teachers or other School Personnel
- Social service workers, including direct care staff
- Child care or foster care workers
- Emergency medical services personnel
- Peace officers or law-enforcement officials
- Members of the clergy
- Circuit court judges, family court judges, or magistrates
- Human Officers
- Employees of the Division of Juvenile Services
- Youth camp administrator or counselor
- Employee, coach or volunteer of an entity that provides organized activities for children
- Commercial film or photographic print processor

### **How Do I Report?**

### **You are a Mandatory Reporter!**

Call Department of Health and Human Resources

Centralized Intake Unit

**1-800-352-6513**

**and**

Alleged sexual abuse or sexual assault, or serious physical abuse

**WILL Be**

reported to local

law enforcement agencies by calling **911**



## **References**

Adult Protective Services Policy Social Services Manual Chapter 1, revised 2013

[http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children adult/aps/policy/APSpolcy EFF2013.pdf](http://www.wvdhhr.org/bcf/children%20adult/aps/policy/APSpolicy%20EFF2013.pdf)

National Center for Elder Abuse [www.ncea.aoa.gov](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov)

West Virginia Medicaid Aged & Disabled Waiver Program: How to Report Adult Abuse and Neglect, 3/2006

WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities, Specialized Family Care Program, Abuse Related Training

<http://sfcp.cedwvu.org/training/abuse-related.php>