



ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ELDER ABUSE COMMISSION
 RICHARD CORDRAY, OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

**OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES
 VERN RIFFE CENTER FOR GOVERNMENT AND THE ARTS
 77 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 31ST FLOOR
 WEST B & C CONFERENCE ROOM
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009
 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Emily Barker	Ohio House of Representatives
Kendra Bobulski	Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services (Intern)
Judith Brachman	Interests of the Elderly
Andrew Capehart	Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
Carol Dayton	Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services
Deb Downing	County Commissioners Association of Ohio
Dustin Ellinger	Ohio Department of Health
Cindy Farson	Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Gene Fischer	Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association
Frank Fleischer	Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
Stacey Frohnafel-Hasson	Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities
Christine Haenszel	Ohio Attorney General's Office
Steve Hanson	Supreme Court of Ohio
Roland Hornbostel	Ohio Department of Aging
Vicki Jenkins	Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Cindy Kuhr	Ohio Victim Witness Association
Beverley Laubert	Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman
Leslie McGee	Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Nancy Neylon	Ohio Domestic Violence Network
Adrienne Porter	Ohio Department of Public Safety
Jennifer Springer	Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association
Wayne Summerville	Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
Tom Swift	Ohio Association of Probate Judges
Karla Warren	Ohio Department of Aging
Erin Cummin	Ohio Attorney General's Office
Ginger Kauble	Ohio Attorney General's Office
Ursel McElroy	Ohio Attorney General's Office

WELCOME – Ursel McElroy

- Opened the meeting by welcoming members.
- Agenda and housekeeping items reviewed.

REVIEW SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES – Commission

- September meeting minutes approved.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS – Commission

F. Fleischer

- F. Fleischer has resigned from the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA). Effective immediately, S. Frohnappel-Hasson will serve as the OACBHA representative on the Commission.

A. Porter

- The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) has received a federal grant to review, and where applicable, develop policies on identity theft. Next meeting is scheduled November 2nd at ODPS and interested Commission members are invited to attend.

S. Hanson

- The Summit on Aging is scheduled for October 15, 2010 in Columbus, Ohio. Exact location to be determined.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Commission

- The Commission website is fully functional at www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov. Meeting dates, meeting minutes, public comment tool, and related materials are available for public viewing.
- T. Swift to follow up with the Ohio Bar Association regarding public comment shared in September by Tom Fields of Mentor, Ohio.
- U. McElroy provided an update on subcommittee requests discussed with Attorney General Cordray:
- **Forensic Capacity to Investigate and Prosecute Elder Abuse**
Commission requested the Attorney General enlist the support of the Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation to examine, and where appropriate expand, Ohio's forensic capacity to investigate and prosecute physical and financial crimes committed against the elderly.
 - Potential volume of cases, staff capacity, and jurisdiction are concerns.
 - Alternatives include training local law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges on elder abuse through a federal grant awarded to the Ohio Attorney General's Office.
 - Consider reaching out to organizations (e.g., Ohio Society of Certified Public Accountants) to discuss the need for expertise in elder abuse cases.
 - Expand outreach to law enforcement through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG) – a search engine accessible to law enforcement throughout the state.
 - More information needed on the benefits of creating elder fatality review teams in Ohio. The American Bar Association may be a good resource.
- **Policies and Practices on Serving Elder Abuse Victims**
Commission requested the Attorney General enlist the support of Legislative Affairs staff to facilitate the introduction of legislation.
 - Staff will be available to meet with the Commission.
- **Toll-free Elder Abuse Hotline**
Commission requested the Attorney General enlist the support of Information Technology staff to research the feasibility of installing and maintaining a toll free number that utilizes geographical call routing technology for reporting cases of elder abuse throughout the state.
 - Consider existing 211 system that is functional in many counties of the state as an option.
- **Other**
 - Relying upon a privately funded awareness campaign is not likely an option.
 - The addition of new members will be considered.



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NEW BUSINESS – Commission

- U. McElroy advised subcommittee chairs to begin developing a timeline for short term and long term goals. An annual report will highlight accomplishments.
- Handout prepared by the Research Subcommittee on “services to perpetrators” was distributed.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Commission

- Chris Tudor of Dayton Ohio provided comment on the topic:
 - Gaps in the current elder abuse system.
- Chris Tudor requested the following:
 - Commission addresses the systemic breakdowns in responding to elder abuse victims and their families.
- Commission members exchanged questions and ideas in response to Ms. Tudor’s comments.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Awareness Subcommittee - K. Warren, Chair

- Present: S. Frohn Apfel-Hasson, K. Warren,
- Several elder abuse campaigns were reviewed including California, Illinois, Texas, and the province of Ontario.
- Each campaign had a wide outreach, which included a toll free number to report the abuse.
- Consensus that a statewide reporting number is key to a successful Ohio campaign.
- Ohio Elder Abuse Task Force (2005) launched an awareness campaign with funding from Verizon Wireless. A similar public-private partnership will not be an option for this campaign.
- Alternative funding, such as publicly funded grants, must be considered.
- Subcommittee will seek guidance from the full body at November meeting to determine the campaign’s message.

Justice Subcommittee – R. Hornbostel, Chair

Policy Subcommittee – B. Laubert, Chair

- Present: A. Capehart, D. Ellinger, C. Farson, G. Fischer, F. Fleischer, C. Haenszel, R. Hornbostel, V. Jenkins, C. Kuhr, B. Laubert, L. McGee, S. Nelson, N. Neylon, A. Porter, J. Springer, W. Summerville
- Joint meeting between Justice and Policy Subcommittees.
- The Policy Subcommittee provided an update on its analysis of H.B. 563 of the 126th General Assembly. Most elements would remain unchanged with the following exceptions:
 - Provide an exception in the definition “senior service provider” for Long-term Care Ombudsmen in reporting cases of elder abuse due to federal prohibition.
 - Removal of criminal enhancement penalties.
 - Removal of wiretap surveillance.
 - No consensus reached on language defining the role of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services in educating mandatory reporters.
- The Justice Subcommittee provided an update on its discussion of the creation of a perpetrators registry. Determined this is an issue for the full body to consider.
- Justice Subcommittee proposed broadening the investigative authority of Adult Protective Services to include nursing facilities. Such a provision was not included in H.B. 563, but should be added to any proposed bill from the Commission.
- Next steps for subcommittees:
 - Develop information needed for OHLEG. Will begin with existing Ohio Victim Services Provider Directory published by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.



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- Gain information on what the Ohio Attorney General's Office can offer local prosecutors on the subject of elder abuse.
- Follow up with Ohio Criminal Justice Services on the production of informational cards for law enforcement.
- Plan to discuss proposed legislative changes with Robin Hurst, Legislative Director of the Ohio Attorney General's Office at November meeting.

Research Subcommittee – C. Dayton, Chair

- Present: K. Bobulski, J. Brachman, C. Dayton, D. Downing, U. McElroy
- Teleconference with Dr. Georgia Anetzberger, a national expert and researcher on elder abuse, to discuss research findings on providing services to perpetrators of elder abuse.
- According to Dr. Antezberger:
 - The topic is much understudied. To date, there are no research findings that don't support providing services to perpetrators.
 - A compelling reason for providing services to perpetrators – the risk factors for perpetrators that help predict abuse (e.g., alcoholism), are more reliable predictors than victim characteristics. Addressing these problems could address the abuse or prevent serious harm through early intervention.
 - An unpublished study from 15 years ago in Colorado, showed marked benefits for victims in providing services to perpetrators.
- Consensus that there must be balance between holding perpetrators accountable and providing support to resolve the situation.
- Often victims will not support prosecution or remove the abuser from the home. In some cases, providing services to perpetrators may be the best way to make the environment safer for the victim.
- Discussed the subcommittee's role in promoting research on risk factors, the effectiveness of interventions, and other needed areas.
- Next steps for subcommittee:
 - Identify needed areas of research. Will consider scholastic and application of research.
 - Compile a list of elder abuse researchers in Ohio and nationally.
 - Gather input from researchers on needed areas of study. Appropriate format to do so must be determined (i.e., survey or roundtable).
 - Seek support from the Ohio Board of Regent to collaborate with learning institutions.
 - Seek support from the Center for Disease Control to analyze data.
 - Position Ohio to receive funding for research if it becomes available through the Elder Justice Act.
 - Gather relevant research studies and resources to assist with efforts.

ADJOURN