

Law Enforcement and Crimes in Long-term Care

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National Adult Protective Services Association



NAPSA www.apsnetwork.org


- ▶ The national voice of abused, neglected and exploited vulnerable adults, advocating for the services they need.
- ▶ Membership organization with representation in every state
- ▶ Funded by the Administration on Aging to establish the first **National APS Resource Center** to provide training, technical assistance and access to research to Adult Protective Services (APS) practitioners
- ▶ Hosts the only national, annual conference on elder abuse, vulnerable adult abuse and APS

My Background


- ▶ US Department of Justice Law Enforcement Assistance Administration*
- ▶ Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence*
- ▶ Illinois Department on Aging:*
 - Adult Protective Services Administrator and
 - Supervisor, State Long-term Care Ombudsman
- ▶ Illinois Attorney General's Office Senior Policy Advisor*
- ▶ NAPSA Executive Director*

* Worked with and trained law enforcement and other criminal justice officials

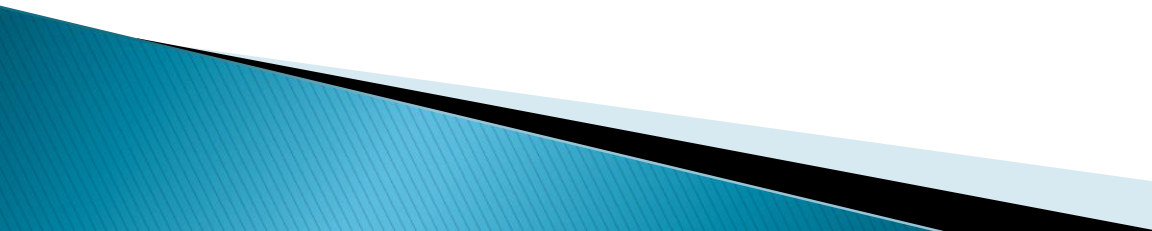
Reach out to law enforcement

- ▶ Multi-disciplinary teams – more and more common
 - ▶ Specialized officers: “Elderly Services/Senior Services Officers”
 - ▶ Patrol beat officers
 - ▶ Chiefs Associations
 - ▶ Triads – usually led by Sheriff’s Office
 - ▶ State Chiefs’ and Sheriffs’ Annual Conferences
 - ▶ Talk to APS
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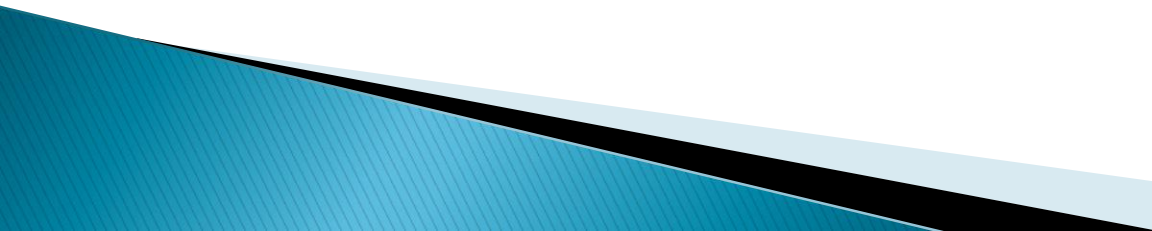
Community Policing

- ▶ If your local department prides itself on community policing, let them know that facilities are part of their community
 - ▶ Invite officers to come to facility events, including resident and family council meetings, to accompany you on visits, and to stop by periodically unannounced
 - ▶ Be alert to any residents who may be related to officers
 - ▶ Involve police in World Elder Abuse Awareness Day events
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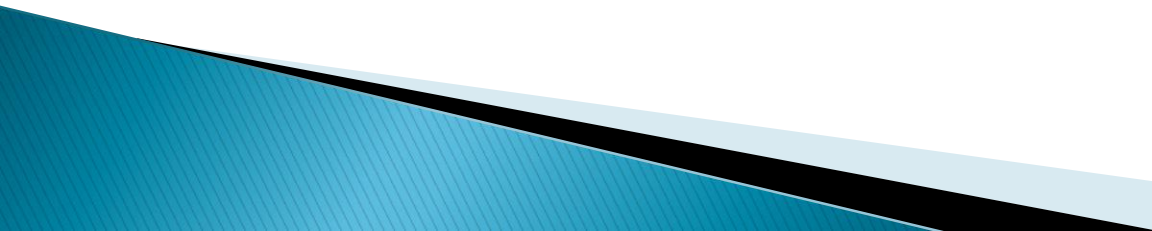
Cops Like to Solve Crimes

- ▶ Educate officers and their higher-ups that crimes, real, honest-to-goodness crimes, occur in facilities – describe them and their effects on victims and their families
 - ▶ Impress on them that these crimes are perpetrated against the most vulnerable citizens, that they often go unsolved, and the perpetrators (if staff) may well go on to commit more crimes against more victims in this or other facilities
 - ▶ Offer to provide training to officers, including role call training
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Cops like to solve crimes #2

- ▶ Training should be as brief as possible and to the point, and if possible should reference criminal statutes
 - ▶ Violent crimes in facilities = domestic violence, as the facility is the resident's home, and should be treated with the same seriousness. Also some crimes are committed by relatives
 - ▶ *Officers who get involved in elder abuse usually become very dedicated and passionate about the issue*
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Everybody likes a pat on the back

- ▶ If an officer goes out of his or her way to help, be sure to send a note to his or her supervisor or chief – or, better yet – write a letter to the editor praising the person and the agency
 - ▶ If possible, nominate local officers for awards – or initiate your own awards
 - ▶ Remember – sheriffs and prosecutors are elected. Anything you can do to promote and acknowledge any positive involvement on their part will help current and future residents
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Thank You

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