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The Commonwealth's Network of Elder Abuse Task Forces

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Summary and Recommendations

House Resolution 2014-929 directed the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LB&FC) to study the existing network of elder abuse task forces in the Commonwealth and to assess the feasibility of expanding the network statewide. In 2014, the importance of elder abuse task forces came to the attention of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Elder Law Task Force. The Court established its task force to review current practices and problems, examine promising practices in other states, and deliver a blueprint of recommendations to address the needs and challenges of the Commonwealth's aging population and elder law issues increasingly coming to the attention of state courts. At the time the Court's Elder Law Task Force was completing its work, only limited information was available about elder abuse task forces in the Commonwealth.

In Pennsylvania, the Department of Aging (PDA) works closely with local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that are responsible for implementing the state's Older Adult Protective Services Act.¹ On behalf of the Department, Temple University's Institute on Protective Services provides required training for all older adult protective service workers and supervisors. Currently, it also works collaboratively with local AAAs to establish elder abuse task forces based on locally identified needs.

We found:

Many national organizations have endorsed elder abuse teams or task forces as a way to more effectively address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In view of the complexity of certain elder abuse cases (i.e., medical, psychiatric, legal, housing, personal care, financial, and family violence issues) and the many diverse programs and disciplines involved, the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) and the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) have endorsed formation of multidisciplinary teams or task forces. According to NAPSA, such task forces may include mental and physical health providers, domestic violence and sexual assault programs, aging and disability networks, substance abuse providers, law enforcement agencies, and the courts.²

Most state adult protective service programs involve multidisciplinary teams, though few are mandated. Only seven (Colorado, Florida, Iowa, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and Wyoming) states have some type of a statutory requirement

¹ Act 1987-79, as amended; 35 P.S. §10225.101 *et seq.*

² Currently, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is sponsoring Elder Abuse Prevention Intervention Program pilots, which include multidisciplinary approaches, and evaluating their outcomes to address the absence of rigorous research concerning elder abuse. It is also supporting development of an Adult Protective Service data system and consulting with states with such systems, such as Pennsylvania, about the design of a national system as is currently in place for child abuse.

for adult protective services multidisciplinary teams. All of the states with such a requirement typically rely on state employees to conduct protective service investigations. They also provide protective services to adults 18 and older through a single protective service agency.³ In two (Colorado and Texas) of the seven states, the statutory mandate applies only to counties with a specified number of cases or a specified population base. Based on such criteria, as many as 19 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties might not meet Colorado's mandate threshold, and 52 of Pennsylvania's counties would not meet Texas' mandate threshold.

Almost 80 percent of Pennsylvania's older adults reside in counties with an elder abuse task force or team that includes prosecutors and law enforcement. The counties without a task force are mostly rural and less populous. Sixteen of the 29 counties without a designated task force individually account for less than one-half of one percent of the state's population 60 years of age and older, and 13 of the 16 have fewer than 10,000 older adults residing in the county. Based on our survey of AAA directors, as of early 2015,

- 29 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties (discussed below) have specifically designated elder abuse task forces, according to the AAA directors for their planning and service area.
- 7 counties (Allegheny, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Montour) have active formal collaborations with teams involving law enforcement, but are without a designated elder abuse task force, though PDA and national literature recognize such collaborations as a type of elder abuse task force.
- 2 counties (Mifflin and Wayne) participate in local judicial and anti-violence task forces but do not report having a designated elder abuse task force.
- 29 counties (Adams, Armstrong, Beaver, Bradford, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Cumberland, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Juniata, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Monroe, Northampton, Perry, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, and Westmoreland) are without a formal elder abuse task force or formal collaboration with law enforcement to address elder abuse.

While without a formal designated task force at the time of our survey, Monroe and Northampton are in the process of forming an elder abuse task force. Westmoreland County, moreover, has a "local Older Adults Protective Service Oversight

³ In Pennsylvania, the Department of Aging is responsible for protective services for older adults, and the Department of Human Services for vulnerable adults under age 60.

Committee” appointed by the County Commissioners. Its Legal Aspects Subcommittee includes representatives of the President Judge, the district attorney, and representatives of the Bar Association, District Magistrates Association, the State Police, and the Legal Services Corporation.

Counties without designated task forces report they, nevertheless, have well-established and cooperative working relationships with their courts, district attorney’s offices, local law enforcement, and community health and human service providers. As a result, one-third (11 of 31) of such counties do not currently perceive a need for a formally designated elder abuse task force. More than half (14 of 18) of the counties that indicate there would be benefits from the formation of a formal elder abuse task force also indicate certain obstacles to task force formation, including the limited available protective services and law enforcement staff time currently available. Three counties noted that, while their district attorney and others are willing to work with the AAA protective service agency on an informal basis, they are not interested in establishing a formal task force.

The 29 counties with a designated elder abuse task force differ in their main purpose, and this influences their membership. We asked Area Agency on Aging Directors to identify the functions of each county’s elder abuse task force, and found the 29 counties task forces fall into two distinct groups:

Group 1: Counties where task forces review specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations and care planning of protective service cases (Berks, Bucks, Clearfield, Dauphin, Fayette, Indiana, Jefferson, Lehigh, Mercer, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Washington, and York).⁴

Group 2: Counties where task forces do not review specific cases to coordinate protective service investigations (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Franklin, Huntingdon, Luzerne, Montgomery, Pike, Schuylkill, Somerset, and Wyoming). About two-thirds of these counties do not review specific cases even for purposes of education. Six of them (Bedford, Blair, Erie, Huntingdon, Montgomery, and Schuylkill) have community awareness and professional training related to elder abuse as their top priorities.

Both groups of task forces have the AAA director and/or protective service supervisor and the district attorney or staff from the district attorney’s office among their membership. About 80 percent of the designated task forces (23 of 29) also have the county sheriff, and/or local municipal law enforcement, and/or Pennsylvania State Police serving on the task force.⁵

⁴ Butler County reported that its task force was just formed and has not specified its key functions. The seven counties (Allegheny, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Montour) that have regular formal collaborative relationships with protective services would also have specific case review for purposes of coordinated investigations and planning as their key function.

⁵ Both groups of task forces also include representatives of financial institutions among their members.

Although most task forces have district attorney and law enforcement participation, only three (Cambria, Huntingdon, and Montgomery) county elder abuse task forces include local judges. In these counties, the task forces do not coordinate protective service investigations.

We were advised by one county (Schuylkill) that a county clerk of courts is currently a member, but not a judge. At one time, a county judge was involved, but ceased involvement due to concern about the possibility of the appearance of a conflict of interest. While the county's task force does not review specific cases, some of its members are also members of a separate county multidisciplinary team that reviews specific cases to provide expert consultation. The National Center for State Courts, while encouraging court participation in multidisciplinary collaborations as the courts are central "to providing justice and restoration for individual victims and promoting public safety," also emphasizes:

Courts are also required to maintain neutrality to ensure due process and equal access to justice for all parties. This mandate precludes court participation in some types of multidisciplinary groups, such as case-staffing teams that focus on investigating suspected elder abuse victims or designing interventions for individuals. Courts can, however, take an active role in multidisciplinary efforts to improve systemic responses to elder abuse and, in more prescribed ways to address abuse in individual cases under the jurisdiction of the court.⁶

The involvement of so many Pennsylvania elder abuse task forces in review of specific cases, including review for purposes of coordinated investigation, and the National Center for State Courts' guidance may account for the limited number of Pennsylvania elder abuse task forces with members of the judiciary serving on them.

Typically, the Area Agency on Aging and/or the District Attorney's Office are involved in coordinating the work of the county elder abuse task force, with multiple agencies responsible for such activities for over half (15 of 28) of the county task forces. Typically, such work is carried out by staff on a volunteer basis with almost two-thirds (17 of 28) of Pennsylvania's elder abuse task forces relying on volunteers, rather than full-time or part-time staff, to support task force activities. Only one county task force (Washington) is reported to have full-time staff assigned to assist it.

Pennsylvania's elder abuse task forces report limited direct funding is available to support their activities. Some of the largest support was reported by Montgomery County, which sponsors an annual elder abuse prevention conference for which it raises \$5,000 through fundraising, and the county provides

⁶ NCSC's *Court Guide to Effective Collaboration on Elder Abuse*, 2012.

\$40,000 in-kind support (i.e., staff time, printing, and travel). Schuylkill County's task force is supported by \$5,000 from the county and a \$53,000 trust fund. About 30 percent (8 of 28) of the counties with designated elder abuse task forces expressed concern about the absence of earmarked federal and state funding to support elder abuse task force activities.

Federal funds for prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation are limited, and well below state funding currently expended for such activities. Title VII of the Older American's Act⁷ authorizes funding for a long list of elder abuse prevention activities, including public education and outreach, training for individuals involved in serving victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and support for multidisciplinary elder justice activities. In FFY 2014, Pennsylvania received an allotment of \$243,000 for elder abuse prevention activities. However, such an amount is:

- Below the Commonwealth's 2004 federal Title VII allotment (\$253,320).
- Less than the Commonwealth expends to contract with Temple University to enhance the capacity of Area Agencies on Aging and law enforcement to identify, investigate, and resolve protective services/elder victimization cases through information provision, case consultation, and technical assistance (\$401,050 in FY 2014-15).
- Less than earmarked state funds for elder abuse education and prevention (\$298,000 in FY 2014-15).
- Less than the earmarked funds included in the AAAs' Aging Block Grant for protective services (\$902,000 in FY 2014-15).

The National Adult Protective Services Association has recommended that Congress establish a set aside for older adult protective services from the Fund established through the Victims of Crime Act similar to what was done in the past for child abuse services. Annually, up to \$20 million may be set aside for Children's Justice Act grants through the Victims of Crime Act Fund to provide for activities such as training for personnel in law enforcement and child protective services, as well as health and mental health professionals, prosecutors, and judges; establish and support child fatality review teams; and support the enactment of laws to improve system response. In FY 2013-14, Pennsylvania received \$1.5 million in federal Children's Justice Act funds.⁸

⁷ 42 U.S.C. §3058i.

⁸ Pennsylvania also receives federal funds for the Court Improvement Program established through the federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act. The Court Improvement Program provides grants to state court systems to conduct assessments of their foster care and adoption laws and judicial processes and to develop system improvements. In FY 2013, \$29 million in federal funding was available for this program nationwide. Pennsylvania's allocation from such funds help support the Pennsylvania Judicial System's dependency courts and its Office of Children and Families.

Recommendations

- 1. The Pennsylvania Department of Aging should continue to support voluntary efforts of local communities to establish elder abuse task forces that meet their local community's identified needs.** Most of the state's older persons reside in areas with elder abuse task forces, though such task forces differ based on local needs. Those areas currently without a task force have cooperative working relationships with local prosecutors, law enforcement, and the courts, and we concluded that little additional value would be added to services for older adults by requiring such areas to formalize a task force. Such a requirement might also divert staff time and resources from essential services.
- 2. The Pennsylvania Department of Aging and the Pennsylvania Unified Judicial System may wish to consider sponsoring a statewide elder abuse public awareness and education campaign involving the local judiciary.** Such a state-sponsored effort would avoid the potential conflict of interest present when the local judiciary participates in existing elder abuse task forces given their role in review of cases for coordinated investigations and care planning.
- 3. The Pennsylvania Department of Aging should advocate for increased federal funding for prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.** Currently, the Commonwealth invests considerable state funds to serve victims of elder abuse and for prevention services. The Department should advocate for increased federal support for these important services.

I. Introduction

House Resolution 2014-929 directed the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LB&FC) to study the existing network of elder abuse task forces in the Commonwealth. It also directed the Committee to assess the feasibility of expanding the network statewide. Appendix A provides a copy of House Resolution 929.

Recently, the role of elder abuse task forces came to the attention of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Elder Law Task Force. The Court's Elder Law Task Force was established by former Chief Justice Castille to review current practices and problems, examine promising practices in other states, and deliver a blueprint of recommendations to address the needs and challenges of the Commonwealth's aging population in view of Pennsylvania having the fourth largest older population in the nation and elder law issues increasingly coming to the attention of state courts. At the time the Elder Law Task Force was completing its work, only limited information was available about elder abuse task forces in the Commonwealth.

In Pennsylvania, the Department of Aging (PDA) works closely with 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) that are responsible for implementing the state's Older Adult Protective Services Act.¹ On behalf of the Department, Temple University's Institute on Protective Services provides required training for all older adult protective services workers and supervisors. Currently, it also works collaboratively with local AAAs to establish elder abuse task forces based on locally identified needs.

Study Scope and Objectives

Specifically, this study seeks to:

1. Identify and profile each existing elder abuse task force in Pennsylvania, including the structure and mechanisms it has established to meet the needs of vulnerable elders.
2. Identify key factors contributing to the establishment and continued operation of existing task forces.
3. Identify AAA service areas that do not currently have an elder abuse task force and consider the need for task forces in such areas.

To identify and profile each existing elder abuse task force in Pennsylvania, we surveyed the 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to determine if the counties they serve currently have a task force that addresses elder abuse. Appendix B provides a

¹Act 1987-79 as amended; 35 P.S. §10225.101 *et seq.*

copy of the County Elder Abuse Task Force Survey of Area Agency on Aging Directors.

Our survey, which was conducted in late February and March 2015, was designed to obtain information about each county's task force composition, major functions, meeting frequency, staffing, and available resources. It was also designed to obtain input about the need for a task force from those AAA directors in areas of the state where such a task force had not been formed. AAAs serving all of the state's 67 counties responded to our survey providing valuable insights as to the Commonwealth's elder abuse task force network and how AAAs work in their communities to prevent and respond to the needs of vulnerable older adults and elder abuse.

The Older Adults Protective Services Act requires the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to conduct an "ongoing campaign designed to inform and educate older adults, professionals and the general public about the need for and availability of protective services..."² It also requires each Area Agency on Aging as part of its annual plan to include a protective service plan.³ We reviewed such plans for FY 2014-15, including sections describing in detail how the agency coordinates protective service related activities with local agencies and organizations that have substantial contact with potential victims or perpetrators of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and abandonment. We also reviewed plan sections describing how the AAA conducts public information and education to inform older adults, professionals, and the general public about the need for protective services.

To identify key factors contributing to the establishment and continued operation of existing task forces, we reviewed national research concerning elder abuse task forces, reasons for their formation, their characteristics, and challenges confronting them. In addition, our survey asked AAA directors about the most important factors that in their view contribute to the formation and operation of an effective task force. We also asked them about the challenges they have confronted in forming and operating a task force and for suggestions on how such challenges may be overcome.

To identify AAA service areas that do not currently have a task force, we surveyed the AAAs. We also reviewed materials provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging concerning the various task forces that the Department and Temple University's Institute on Protective Services previously identified.

² 35 P.S. §10225.301 (a).

³ 35 P.S. §10225.301 (c).

Acknowledgements

LB&FC staff completed this study with assistance from the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and Temple University's Institute on Protective Services. In particular, we thank Teresa Osborne, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, and Wilmarie Gonzalez, Director of the Bureau of Advocacy, and their staff as well as staff from the Institute on Protective Services, including Ron Costen who played a major role in the development of several existing task forces. We also thank Crystal Lowe, the Executive Director of P4A and all of the Area Agency on Aging Directors. Without their valuable assistance, we would not have been able to complete this study.

Important Note

This report was developed by Legislative Budget and Finance Committee staff. The release of this report should not be construed as indicating that the Committee members endorse all the report's findings and recommendations.

Any questions or comments regarding the contents of this report should be directed to Philip R. Durgin, Executive Director, Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, P.O. Box 8737, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8737.

II. Findings

A. Elder Abuse Teams or Task Forces Are One of Many Tools Recommended for Use in Elder Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Since the 1950s, it has been widely understood that older adults in need of “protective care” may require assistance from a variety of disciplines and services. Assistance from a variety of disciplines and services may be required as older adults who have been abused may experience medical, psychiatric, legal, housing, personal care, financial, and family violence problems. As a result, their situations may be highly complex and require a multidisciplinary response.

In addition to the complexity of certain elder abuse cases, many diverse programs have been created to address such abuse. At the federal and state level, the variety of community programs include, for example, local adult protective services, long-term care ombudsmen, Medicaid fraud control units, the Older Americans Act networks, domestic violence programs, and victim advocate services. The existence of these many distinct through complementary programs heightens the need for coordination among all those involved.

National Associations Endorse Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams and Task Forces

Key national associations have endorsed multidisciplinary teams and task forces as a way to more effectively address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA), for example, has recommended standards to strengthen and support protective service programs. Its current standards include a recommendation that adult protective service programs work closely with other agencies and community partners. According to NAPSA, such agencies and partners may include mental and physical health providers, domestic violence and sexual assault programs, aging and disability networks, substance abuse providers, law enforcement agencies, and the courts.

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) also supports court participation in multidisciplinary collaboration. In its *Court Guide to Effective Collaboration on Elder Abuse*, it notes that multidisciplinary partnerships can assist courts in key areas of their responsibilities in elder abuse cases, such as:

- Assessing cognitive, physical and other conditions that may be relevant to an older person’s needs or legal matters before the court (e.g., decisions on the need for guardianship).

- Crafting appropriate remedies for identified victims of elder abuse (e.g., tailor restraining orders to individual circumstances, order restitution, schedule review hearings to monitor compliance with court orders, and appoint a guardian *ad litem* to monitor provision of services to the victim).
- Managing cases to maximize the older person’s accessibility to court proceedings and effective participation in the adjudication processes (e.g., address physical accessibility to the courtroom, expedite cases involving elder abuse, and schedule cases to accommodate medical needs and fluctuations in capacity and mental alertness).

In addition to court staff, law enforcement, prosecution, protective services, victim advocates, and treatment providers, NCSC’s guide notes that multidisciplinary collaboration might include potential partners such as financial institutions, medical providers, community service providers, and members of existing task forces, in particular, domestic violence and sexual assault task forces.¹

The NCSC also supports judges and court staff involvement in broad community-based coordination efforts to increase community awareness and interest in addressing elder abuse issues. Such involvement may, for example, include:

- developing and distributing brochures about court programs for older adults,
- speaking at various community meetings to increase awareness of how the justice system addresses the problem,
- attending events such as health fairs designated for older adults to show that the justice system is responding to elder abuse, and
- participating in multidisciplinary training on elder abuse to educate the community and professionals.

The National Center for State Courts has also issued a guide for prosecutors. In its guide for prosecutors, it notes that by involving collaborative partners, prosecutors “often can obtain more and better information from and about the older adult victim and witnesses.”² Such collaboration can take several forms. Such forms may, for example, include:

- *Case-Staffing Multi-Disciplinary Teams:* Key agencies and disciplines meeting to discuss difficult cases that may have been designated for prosecution or cases not yet ready for prosecution in an effort to stop the problem before it becomes criminal or to lay the foundation for a stronger case.

¹ National Center for State Courts, *Court Guide to Effective Collaboration on Elder Abuse*, 2012, pp. 6 -7.

² National Center for State Courts, *Prosecution Guide to Effective Collaboration on Elder Abuse*, 2012, p. 3.

- *Elderly Fatality Review Teams*: The team meets to analyze suspicious older adult deaths to determine if the death occurred as a result of neglect or abuse, and if so, what additional investigation should occur to provide for prosecution.
- *Financial Abuse Specialist Teams*: The team responds to individual cases of financial abuse and may include partners such as law enforcement, protective services, representatives of the banking industry, forensic accountants, mental health professionals, and members of the elder law section of the local bar association.
- *Systemic Review Multidisciplinary Teams*: Such teams generally parallel multidisciplinary teams that focus on individual cases. Their purpose, however, is to focus on improving how the criminal justice system and community agencies respond to elder abuse overall.

Multidisciplinary Team Qualities, Challenges, and Limitations

As a result of recognition of the importance of multidisciplinary teams and task forces in addressing elder abuse, there have been several demonstration projects and efforts to study them. Such studies found that some teams or task forces focus on complex individual cases, and others on community systems improvements. Some, moreover, attempt to address both.

Based on such studies, several essential qualities for an effective multidisciplinary team and their challenges and limitations have been identified.³ Effective multidisciplinary teams and task forces, for example, have:

- common purpose and goals,
- capable leadership,
- belief in the importance of collaboration,
- strong infrastructure,
- value the contribution of others,
- mutual accountability among members,
- commitment to honest communication and openly sharing information, and
- results-oriented approaches.

Studies of elder abuse multidisciplinary teams and task forces have also identified important challenges and limitations that confront them. Such challenges and limitations include, for example:

³ Anetzberger, Georgia J. (2011) "The Evolution of a Multidisciplinary Response to Elder Abuse," *Marquette Elder's Advisor*: Vol. 13: Iss.1, Article 1. Available at <http://scholarship.lawmarquette.edu/elders/>.

- lack of participation by key disciplines or systems;
- communication problems across disciplines or systems with different philosophies, goals, and professional definitions;
- law or agency policies that inhibit contact and communication;
- status differences, misperceptions, and mistrust between disciplines or systems;
- interpersonal biases or conflicts;
- competition for recognition and position within the group;
- insufficient administrative support or other resources;
- geographic distance and costs associated with meetings;
- competing work demands and scheduling conflicts;
- difficulty sustaining interest and involvement over time; and
- unrealistic expectations.

Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team/Task Force Evaluations

Unfortunately, to date there has been limited advanced research in the area of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. According to the federal Department of Health and Human Services' *FFY 2015 Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committees*:

...Research in the area of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation is still in its early stages, with limited knowledge of risk and protective factors related to either victims or perpetrators, nor about effective and evidence-based prevention, intervention, and remediation practices....Our understanding of the phenomena of elder abuse is decades behind our understanding of either child abuse or domestic violence. We know that elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation can have devastating consequences, including increased mortality, increases in occurrence and severity of chronic diseases, and the loss of savings and even homes. Additionally, we know that people with disabilities, including older adults, are 4 to 10 times more likely to be victims of violence, abuse or neglect. Research indicates that 11.5 percent of adults with a disability have been victims of sexual assault, versus 3.9 percent of adults without disabilities....However, we do not know the best way to effectively screen for elder and other adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation; what the best programs and practices are to address it; nor how to effectively prevent it from occurring, or reoccurring.

The research on the effectiveness of elder abuse multidisciplinary teams and task forces that has been completed to date,⁴ for example, has focused on project outputs (e.g., number of training sessions, etc.) and participant satisfaction. It has not focused on case outcomes or found that different outcomes would have occurred absent a multidisciplinary team or task force.

Nationally, the absence of rigorous research on adult protective services and multidisciplinary teams and task forces is a problem as today new federal program funding is usually targeted to activities for which there is evidence of successful outcomes. To begin to address the absence of rigorous research, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) selected the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago to evaluate the Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program⁵ pilot projects provided for by the Elder Justice Act.⁶

Through the federal Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program, in FFY 2013, HHS awarded five multi-year grants in four states.⁷ The grant awards include several that involve multidisciplinary approaches.

In Texas:

- The University of Texas, Health Science Center at Houston is piloting a program to increase medication adherence in older adults with chronic health problems and who experience self-neglect.
- The Texas Department of Family & Protective Services is attempting to demonstrate the effectiveness of embedding adult protective service specialists in a primary care group to provide technical assistance and support for increased uses of an index to identify potential elder abuse.

⁴ Including, for example, the work of Teaster and Nerenberg, Twomey, Wiglesworth, and Navarro.

⁵ This program initiative, which helps implement the Elder Justice Act, provides funding to states to test interventions to prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It is intended to draw on existing research and promising practices to build a stronger evidence base and improve data collection systems required to more effectively address elder abuse.

⁶ The Elder Justice Act was enacted as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA P.L. 111-148, as amended) to provide a coordinated federal response to the prevention, detection, and treatment of elder abuse. To accomplish such goals, the Act authorized a variety of grant programs, including, for example, enhancement of long-term care, adult protective service grant programs, long-term care ombudsman program grants and training, and evaluation of elder justice programs. As of late 2014, programs authorized under the Elder Justice Act have not received federal funding through the federal appropriation process. While most existing discretionary programs continued to receive annual appropriations at levels below the amounts authorized in statute, few of the new grant programs have received any discretionary appropriations, according to the Congressional Research Service.

⁷ These grants were not awarded with federal appropriated discretionary funding. To fund the grant awards, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) transferred \$6 million from the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), one of four special funds created by the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, as amended, and designated to receive specific appropriations. PPHF is intended to support a broad range of prevention, wellness, and other public health programs and activities administered by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a variety of HHS agencies.

In New York:

- The New York State Office for the Aging will use grant funds for two enhanced multidisciplinary teams (one in Manhattan and another in the Finger Lakes Region) to include geriatric psychiatrists and forensic accountants. In Manhattan, the forensic accountants paid for through the grant are Manhattan district attorney employees that help investigate cases brought to the attention of the team but that are not being prosecuted.

In California:

- The University of California at Irvine is piloting a multi-dimensional intervention to mitigate key factors associated with risk for elder abuse and neglect in adults with dementia. The pilot program will use service components based on the Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health (REACH) program. REACH was established in 1995 by the National Institute on Aging and the National Institute on Nursing Research. Its interventions for family caregivers include individual information and support, group support and family therapy, skill-based-training approaches, and home-based and environmental interventions.

In Alaska:

- The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services is testing the implementation of a Critical Time Intervention (CTI) case management model to determine if it can be adopted for elder abuse prevention. CTI is a time-limited intervention model that has been successfully used to support those with severe mental illness and the chronically homeless to navigate hurdles in applying for services and to establish a support network. The Department is partnering with the Anchorage Police Department, a foundation, a medical center, the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, Anchorage homeless shelters, and other agencies to identify individuals to be served in the program.

HHS reports that it has as a priority support for the work of adult protective services nationwide. To help accomplish this priority, in addition to various pilot programs, HHS is supporting development of an APS (Adult Protective Service) data system and technical assistance to states on using and interfacing with the proposed national data system. The development of this national data system is currently in progress, according to HHS. Currently, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging is working with HHS and participating in a pilot project to test features of a potential national system.

B. Most States Have Multidisciplinary Teams Involved in Their Adult Protective Service Programs, Though Few Are Mandated

Most states have multidisciplinary teams involved in their provision of adult protective services, according to the most recent national survey of state adult protective service programs¹ by the National Adult Protective Services Association Resource Center (NAPSRC) and the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD).^{2, 3} Typically, such teams involve an array of community care providers and agencies, including law enforcement and mental and medical health providers, and operate on a largely voluntary basis.

Adult Protective Service Multidisciplinary Teams

For the most part, adult protective service multidisciplinary teams nationwide assist with complex case reviews. Just over half of the states (56 percent) also report teams are involved in coordination of public awareness campaigns. Such teams operate through formal agreements to facilitate cooperation in about half of the states, and memorandum of understanding in some others. Confidentiality restrictions are often barriers to interagency cooperation, according to almost half of the states. Nationwide, few receive federal or state funding, and most are not required by state-or county-legislated program requirements.

States With Statutory Provision for Multidisciplinary Teams: The 2012 national adult protective services agency survey identified seven, mostly western, states (Colorado, Florida, Iowa, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and Wyoming) with some type of statutory requirement for adult protective service multidisciplinary teams. As shown in Exhibit 1, none of the seven states report use of federal or state funds to support the work of the team, and only one state reported the team received local funds.

Exhibit 1 also shows that adult protective services units in the seven states with a requirement for a multidisciplinary team are typically administered by the state itself, with activities such as investigations conducted by state employees. While not shown in Exhibit 1, unlike Pennsylvania, all seven states shown in the exhibit offer protective services to adults 18 and older through a single protective service agency.

¹ Since a single state agency often is responsible for the state's adult protective services programs, the national survey focused on adult protective services. Pennsylvania is one of a limited number of states where responsibility for adult protective services involves more than one state agency. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Aging is responsible for protective services for older adults, and the Department of Human Services for vulnerable adults under age 60.

² NAPSRC and NASUAD, *Adult Protective Services in 2012: Increasingly Vulnerable*.

³ In the 2012 survey, Arkansas, Idaho, Montana, New Jersey South Dakota, Wisconsin, and West Virginia did not report protective services participating in multidisciplinary teams.

In two of the seven states, the state's statutory mandate does not apply statewide. In Colorado, a county must have had more than 10 adult protective service cases for the state's multidisciplinary team requirement to apply. In Texas, a county must have a population of at least one-quarter million people for the statutory requirement to apply. Based on such criteria, as many as 19 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties might not meet Colorado's threshold, and 52 Pennsylvania counties would not meet Texas' threshold for forming an adult service multidisciplinary team.

The composition of state-mandated multidisciplinary teams often include local law enforcement and the courts. As shown in Exhibit 1, however, the courts are not included in Iowa's and New Mexico's multidisciplinary teams.

Exhibit 1

States With Statutes Requiring a Multidisciplinary Team

State	Administration	Funding	Organizations Participating	Purpose	Other
Colorado	State supervised county administered	Local	Varies according to case under review and county: law enforcement, legal/courts/criminal justice, domestic violence, medical, mental health, developmental disabilities, financial, animal control/humane society, and disease-specific organizations.	Case review, public awareness, collaboration on complex cases	Applies only to counties with more than 10 cases in the prior year. Counties are expected to have interagency agreements. Many participant agencies refuse to enter into such agreements.
Florida	State administered	Not funded	Varies according to county: law enforcement, legal/courts/criminal justice, domestic violence, medical, mental health, developmental disabilities, coroner.	Case review, training	
Iowa	State administered	Not funded	Law enforcement, medical, mental health, case manager, agencies that provide care.	Case review	
New Mexico	State administered	Not funded	Varies according to case under review: medical, mental health.	Case review, public awareness	
Oregon	County and state	Not funded	Varies according to case under review: law enforcement, legal/court/criminal justice, domestic violence, mental health, financial, animal control/Humane Society.	Case review, public awareness, policy initiatives, training	
Texas	State administered	Not funded. Some have local funds.	Varies according to case under review: law enforcement, legal/courts/criminal justice, domestic violence, medical, mental health, developmental disabilities, financial, coroner, animal control/Humane Society.	Case review, public awareness, policy initiatives, training	Applies only to counties with a population of 250,000 or more.
Wyoming	State administered	Not funded	Varies according to case under review: law enforcement, legal/courts/criminal justice, domestic violence, mental health, developmental disabilities, financial, nursing homes, in-home providers, senior centers.	Case review, public awareness, training	

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff based on the National Adult Protective Services Associations' *Adult Protective Services in 2012: Increasingly Vulnerable*, and review of relevant state statutes and information reported to the LB&FC by state agency staff.

C. Currently, Almost 80 Percent of Pennsylvania’s Older Adults Reside in Counties With an Elder Abuse Task Force or Team That Includes Prosecutors and Law Enforcement

In late February and March 2015, LB&FC staff surveyed all Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors to determine if elder abuse task forces currently operate in their planning and service areas. Exhibit 2 lists the name of each county’s elder abuse task force and counties reported to be without such a task force. As shown in Exhibit 2, Area Agency on Aging Directors report:

- 29 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties have specifically identified elder abuse task forces.
- 7 counties (Allegheny, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Montour) have active formal collaboration with teams involving law enforcement¹ but are without a designated elder abuse task force. Within the national literature such collaborative teams involving law enforcement are considered to be a type of elder abuse task force, and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging in the past has identified such teams as one of several elder abuse task force models. In view of such considerations, we also include such county efforts in our count of county elder abuse task forces.
- 2 counties (Mifflin and Wayne) participate in local judicial and anti-violence task forces but did not report having a designated elder abuse task force. Several other counties (Bedford, Huntingdon, and Mercer), however, report they participate in such formal judicial task forces, and in those counties such task forces also serve as the county’s designated elder abuse task force.
- 29 counties (Adams, Armstrong, Beaver, Bradford, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Cumberland, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Juniata, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Monroe, Northampton, Perry, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, and Westmoreland) are without a formal elder abuse task force or formal collaboration with law enforcement in multidisciplinary teams to address elder abuse.

¹ For example, in Allegheny County the protective service unit has a full-time financial exploitation consultant assigned to work with the District Attorney’s office. In Delaware County, the protective service unit works closely with the District Attorney’s Senior Exploitation Unit. In Lancaster County, a designated liaison from the District Attorney’s office works closely with the protective service unit on joint investigations (when appropriate) and prosecution of cases against alleged perpetrators. The protective service unit also participates in an annual meeting with the District Attorney and local chiefs of police to better inform, educate, and encourage cooperative partnerships with regard to elder abuse. In Lackawanna County, the District Attorney has designated a detective to work on elder abuse cases, and routinely assists in securing records, conducting visits, and as a conduit to local law enforcement when gaps exist. In addition, the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) solicitor provides case consultation and acts as an agency liaison with the courts. The AAA solicitor also provides training and updates regarding changes to existing laws that impact protective services.

Exhibit 2

Elder Abuse Task Forces by County and Area Agency on Aging

County	Area Agency on Aging	Task Force Status
Adams	Adams County Office for Aging, Inc. ^a	None
Allegheny	Allegheny County AAA	None ^b
Armstrong	Armstrong County AAA	None
Beaver	Beaver County Office on Aging	None
Bedford	Huntingdon/Bedford/Fulton AAA	Bedford County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Berks	Berks County Office of Aging	Berks County Elder Abuse Task Force
Blair	Blair Senior Services, Inc. ^a	Yes (No Given Name)
Bradford	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga AAA, Inc. ^a	None
Bucks	Bucks County AAA	Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force of Bucks County
Butler	Butler County AAA	Butler Elder Abuse Task Force
Cambria	Cambria County AAA	Cambria County Elder Abuse Task Force
Cameron	Office of Human Services, Inc. ^a	None
Carbon	Carbon County AAA	None
Centre	Centre County Office of Aging	None
Chester	Chester County Department of Aging Services	Chester County Elder Abuse Task Force
Clarion	Clarion Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Clarion Elder Justice Task Force
Clearfield	Clearfield County AAA, Inc. ^a	Clearfield County Elder Task Force
Clinton	STEP Office of Aging ^a	None
Columbia	Columbia/Montour Aging Office, Inc. ^a	None ^b
Crawford	Active Aging Inc., Crawford County Area Agency on Aging ^a	Helping Elders Live Protected: HELP
Cumberland	Cumberland County Aging and Community Services	None
Dauphin	Dauphin County AAA	Dauphin County Elder Abuse Task Force
Delaware	Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging	None ^b
Elk	Office of Human Services, Inc. ^a	None

Exhibit 2 (Continued)

County	Area Agency on Aging	Task Force Status
Erie	Greater Erie Community Action Committee Area Agency on Aging ^a	Erie County Elder Abuse Task Force
Fayette	Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Fayette County DA/PS Task Force
Franklin	Franklin County AAA	Franklin County Elder Abuse Task Force
Forest	Experience, Inc., Warren/Forest Counties AAA ^a	None
Fulton	Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Area Agency on Aging	None
Greene	Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	None
Huntingdon	Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Area Agency on Aging	Huntingdon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Indiana	Aging Services Inc. ^a	Indiana County Elder Abuse Task Force
Jefferson	Jefferson County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Jefferson County Elder Abuse Task Force
Juniata	Mifflin-Juniata Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	None
Lackawanna	Lackawanna County AAA	None ^{b, c}
Lancaster	Lancaster County Office of Aging	None ^b
Lawrence	Challenges, Options in Aging ^a	None
Lebanon	Lebanon County AAA	None ^{b, c}
Lehigh	Lehigh County Office of Aging & Adult Services	Lehigh County Elder Abuse Task Force
Luzerne	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Elder Abuse Task Force
Lycoming	STEP Office of Aging ^a	None
McKean	Office of Human Services, Inc. ^a	None
Mercer	Mercer County Area on Aging Inc. ^a	Mercer County Criminal Justice Advisory Board
Mifflin	Mifflin-Juniata Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	None ^{c, d}
Monroe	Monroe County AAA	None
Montgomery	Montgomery County Aging & Adult Services	Montgomery County Elder Access to Justice Task Force
Montour	Columbia-Montour Aging Office, Inc. ^a	None ^b
Northampton	Northampton County AAA	None

Exhibit 2 (Continued)

County	Area Agency on Aging	Task Force Status
Northumberland	Northumberland County AAA	Northumberland County Elder Abuse Task Force
Perry	Perry County AAA	None
Philadelphia	Philadelphia Corporation for Aging ^a	Philadelphia Financial Exploitation Prevention Task Force
Pike	Pike County AAA	Pike County Elder Task Force
Potter	Potter County Human Services Area Agency on Aging	None
Schuylkill	Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services	Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance
Snyder	Union-Snyder Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	None
Somerset	AAA of Somerset County	Somerset Protection and Advisory Committee
Sullivan	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga Area on Aging, Inc. ^a	None
Susquehanna	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga Area on Aging, Inc. ^a	None
Tioga	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga Area on Aging, Inc. ^a	None
Union	Union-Snyder Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	None
Venango	Venango County AAA	None
Warren	Experience, Inc. Warren/Forest Counties AAA ^a	None ^c
Washington	Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Washington County Elder Abuse Task Force
Wayne	Wayne County AAA	None ^e
Westmoreland	AAA of Westmoreland County	None
Wyoming	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Area Agency on Aging	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Elder Abuse Task Force
York	York County AAA	York County Elder Abuse Task Force

^a AAA is administered by a private organization rather than the county.

^b Active law enforcement collaboration.

^c Previously had a task force.

^d Participates in the County Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

^e Participates in the County Domestic Violence Task Force.

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from Area Agency on Aging Survey responses and Protective Service Plans.

The 36 Counties With Elder Abuse Task Forces or Collaborative Teams Working With Law Enforcement Include the State’s Most Populous Counties

As shown in Table 1, the 36 counties with formal elder abuse task forces and those with active team collaboration with law enforcement account for almost 80 percent of the state’s older adult population. They include all but one (Westmoreland) of the counties that rank in the top ten older adult counties in the state (Allegheny, Philadelphia, Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, Lancaster, Chester, York, and Berks).

Table 1

Elder Abuse Task Force (EATF) Status by Population 60+		
<u>Elder Abuse Task Force Status</u>	<u>Number of Counties</u>	<u>% of Population 60+</u>
Current EATF	29	56.50%
Team with active formal law enforcement collaboration and no formally designated EATF	7	22.02
Participation in other county judicial or anti-violence task force.....	2	0.94
No EATF.....	29	20.54

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from survey responses and PA State Data Center-Census 2010: Detailed Population and Housing Data, State and Counties.

Six (Bedford, Clarion, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Pike, and Wyoming) of the counties with task forces individually account for less than one-half of one percent of the state’s older adult population. As shown in Exhibit 1, two (Bedford and Huntingdon) of the six counties have task forces that are part of the county’s criminal justice advisory board and one (Wyoming) is part of an Area Agency on Aging service area that includes a county (Luzerne), which ranks 11th in the state in number of older adults.

While Pennsylvania’s existing elder abuse task forces are available to serve the majority of the state’s older adult population, they are not all alike. As discussed in Finding E, they differ in their purpose and focus and composition.

The 29 Counties Without an Elder Abuse Task Force Are Mostly Rural and Less Populous Counties

As shown in Table 1 the 29 counties (Adams, Armstrong, Beaver, Bradford, Cameron, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Cumberland, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Juniata, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean, Monroe, Northampton, Perry, Potter,

Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Venango, Warren, and Westmoreland) without a formal elder abuse task force or team involving law enforcement account for 20 percent of the state's population of 60 and older.

Twenty-four of the 29 counties individually account for less than 1 percent of the state's population 60 years of age and older. Sixteen of the 24 counties individually account for less than one-half of one percent of the state's population 60 years of age and older, and 13 of the 16 counties have fewer than 10,000 older adults residing in the county.

Only five (Beaver, Cumberland, Monroe, Northampton, and Westmoreland) of the 29 counties without an elder abuse task force are among the state's more populous counties, individually account for 1 percent or more of the state's population 60 years of age and older. Two (Monroe and Northampton) of the five counties currently without a task force indicate they are taking steps to establish a formal elder abuse task force. In the case of Northampton County, staffing issues have slowed the process of convening the first task force meeting.

Beaver County reports that it has good working relationships with the courts, law enforcement, and violence prevention agencies, and their staff communicate on a regular basis. It further notes that in the past the county had a Domestic Violence Task Force with which the AAA participated. Currently, the courts, district attorney, and AAA do not see a need for a task force as "everyone works together," and reported that when "big" difficult cases have presented themselves, everyone worked cooperatively.

Only one (Westmoreland) of the 29 counties without a designated task force ranks in the top ten older adult counties in Pennsylvania. Westmoreland County's annual protective service plan, however, notes that it has in place a "local Older Adults Protective Services Oversight Committee" consistent with the requirements of the state's protective services regulations.² Westmoreland's protective service plan reports:

This committee, which is appointed by the County Commissioners and serves in a planning and oversight capacity, has been divided into three functional subcommittees, these being: (1) Legal Aspects;

² 6 Pa.Code §15.46(b) states that "To facilitate the cooperation of law enforcement officials with the provision of protective services when necessary, the agency shall fulfill the following minimum coordinating activities: (1) achieve specific coordination objectives with: (i) Police departments in the planning and service area. (ii) The district attorney's office. (iii) State Police field installations for the planning and service area. (iv) Officials of the court system. (v) Legal assistance agencies. (2) Establish designated points of contact with law enforcement agencies to facilitate access when necessary. (3) Establish basic procedures to be followed when the agency makes reports of criminal conduct or requests for special assistance to law enforcement agencies and when the law enforcement agencies report the need for protective services to the agency. (4) Provide for the necessary exchange of information about protective services for older adults and the role of law enforcement in the provision of those services.

(2) Service Coordination; and (3) Public Education. The Legal Aspects Subcommittee is composed of representatives of the President Judge, the District Attorney and representatives of the Bar Association, District Magistrates Association, the State Police and the Legal Services Corporation. The responsibilities of this subcommittee include the designation of point of contact with law enforcement agencies to facilitate access when necessary...When making reports of criminal conduct or requesting special assistance from law enforcement agencies and based upon past practice, the Protective Services Care Manager, in consultation with the Protective Services Supervisor, contacts the designated persons within the appropriate agencies (e.g., District Attorney, local police, State Police, etc.) to initiate appropriate action with consumer consent unless consumer cannot consent.³

As discussed in Finding D, the remaining counties without a designated elder abuse task force often report they have well-established and cooperative working arrangements currently with their courts, district attorney's offices, and local law enforcement. In one case, the county reported discussing on several occasions the formation of an elder abuse task force, but could not identify additional value that would be added to their existing cooperative partnerships. As the county noted in its response to our survey, an elder abuse task force "needs to be more than a public relations event."

³ AAA of Westmoreland County, FY 2014-15 Annual Protective Service Plan, p. 15.

D. Counties Without an Elder Abuse Task Force Report They Work Closely With Local District Attorneys, Law Enforcement, and Community Service Agencies to Address Elder Abuse

The LB&FC survey of Areas Agency on Aging Directors asked those counties without an elder abuse task force to identify ways in which they coordinate provision of service in complex protective service cases without relying on a formal elder abuse task force. As shown in Exhibit 3, counties without elder abuse task forces report they typically have cooperative working relationships with their district attorneys, law enforcement, and/or community service agencies. All but one reported having such relationships in place. As shown in Exhibit 3, almost half (15 of 31¹) of the counties currently without a designated formal elder abuse task force specifically report working collaboratively with the District Attorney's office on complex protective service cases.

Perceived Need for an Elder Abuse Task Force

Our survey also asked those without a designated elder abuse task force if there currently is a need for such a task force. As shown in Exhibit 3, two (Monroe and Northampton) of the counties reported they are in the process of establishing a task force.

Eighteen of the counties indicate there could be benefits from a formal task force. More than half (14 of 18) of those counties, however, identified reservations about establishing a formal task force. Such reservations include:

- Eight reporting limited protective services and/or law enforcement available staff time.
- Three reporting the District Attorney and others, while cooperating on an informal basis, are not interested in establishing a formal task force.

Some of the AAA Directors reported their staff is small. They and their staff often have blended duties that limit the time available for organizing and staffing a formal elder abuse task force. One AAA Director from a small rural county advised us that limited staffing and financial resources are a major obstacle to the establishment of a formal task force, and “a small AAA with limited funding could find it very difficult to implement a task force.”

Eleven of the AAA directors in counties without a formal task force indicated there currently is not a need for an elder abuse task force, as existing informal arrangements address the needs of their community. They also indicated their participation in other community task forces limits their available time to serve on a formal elder abuse task force as protective service staff time is limited.

¹ This count includes Mifflin and Wayne Counties which participate in local judicial and anti-violence task forces but did not report having a designated elder abuse task force, though such formal judicial task forces are designated elder abuse task forces in several other counties (Bedford, Huntingdon, and Mercer).

Exhibit 3

Ways in Which Counties Without an Elder Abuse Task Force Coordinate Complex Protective Service Cases

County	Area Agency on Aging	How Complex Cases Are Coordinated
Adams	Adams County Office for Aging, Inc. ^a	Works collaboratively with local law enforcement and social service agencies.
Armstrong	Armstrong County AAA	Has excellent relationship with the District Attorney, County Sheriff, local law enforcement, County Offices, human services organizations, physicians, banks, and other local organizations.
Beaver	Beaver County Office on Aging	Has very good working relationship with the District Attorney, County Sheriff, local law enforcement, domestic violence and shelter staff, county legal aid, and the court.
Bradford	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga Area on Aging, Inc. ^a	Meets with State Police and District Attorney to discuss potential criminal cases.
Cameron	Office of Human Services, Inc. ^a	Participates in numerous ongoing agency and community collaborative efforts. Meets with the District Attorney's staff with such meetings able to include State Police, other human service agencies, and the AAA's attorney.
Carbon	Carbon County AAA	Not reported
Centre	Centre County Office of Aging	Previously had an Assistant District Attorney assigned to work with protective service staff. Currently, coordinates with local law enforcement, and the protective service solicitor assists in care planning.
Clinton	STEP Office of Aging ^a	Receives cooperation from the District Attorney and local law enforcement. The courts, District Attorney, and local law enforcement also initiate contact with the AAA when they seek assistance, and the AAA responds.
Cumberland	Cumberland County Aging and Community Services	Works closely with the District Attorney and law enforcement.
Elk	Office of Human Services, Inc. ^a	Participates in numerous ongoing agency and community collaborative efforts. Meets with the District Attorney's staff with such meetings able to include State Police, other human service agencies, and the AAA's attorney.
Forest	Experience, Inc. Warren/Forest Area on Aging ^a	Serves a rural community benefiting from good partnerships with other service providers. Local Elder Care Council provides access to a wealth of assistance.
Fulton	Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Area Agency on Aging	Discusses relevant cases with the District Attorney and follows up with law enforcement. Good working relationships with the local hospital and victim advocate programs.

Exhibit 3 (Continued)

County	Area Agency on Aging	How Complex Cases Are Coordinated
Greene	Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Discusses complex cases appropriate for prosecution with the District Attorney on a case-by-case basis.
Juniata	Mifflin-Juniata Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Networks as much as possible with relevant parties.
Lawrence	Challenges, Options in Aging ^a	Has strong communication among relevant parties.
Lycoming	STEP Office of Aging ^a	Receives cooperation from the District Attorney and local law enforcement. The courts, District Attorney, and local law enforcement also initiate contact with the AAA when they seek assistance and the AAA responds.
McKean	Office of Human Services, Inc. ^a	Participates in numerous ongoing agency and community collaborative efforts. Meets with the District Attorney's staff with such meetings able to include State Police, other human service agencies, and the AAA's attorney.
Mifflin	Mifflin-Juniata Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Participates in the County Criminal Justice Advisory Board ^b to maintain effective relationships with the courts, District Attorney, and law enforcement. ^c
Monroe	Monroe County AAA	In the beginning stages of forming a task force. Gathers together police, health professionals, mental health, and other providers.
Northampton	Northampton County AAA	Establishing a task force. Has strong working relations with the Assistant County Solicitor and a local geriatric physician to assist with difficult cases.
Perry	Perry County AAA	Collaborates with the District Attorney, State Police, and local service agencies.
Potter	Potter County Human Services Area Agency on Aging	Has a very good relationship with the District Attorney and local law enforcement and is able to call on them at any time.
Snyder	Union-Snyder Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Serves a small rural community, has an excellent working relationship with the court, sheriff, and local law enforcement, and participates in a close human service network.
Sullivan	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga Area on Aging, Inc. ^a	Has good working relationship with the District Attorney and local law enforcement and meets on complex criminal cases for guidance.
Susquehanna	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga Area on Aging, Inc. ^a	Has informal working relationships with local law enforcement and meets for difficult complex cases needing guidance related to possible criminal activity.

Exhibit 3 (Continued)

County	Area Agency on Aging	How Complex Cases Are Coordinated
Tioga	Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga Area on Aging, Inc. ^a	Has good working relationship with local law enforcement.
Union	Union-Snyder Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Serves a small rural community, has an excellent working relationship with the court, sheriff, and local law enforcement, and participates in a close human service network.
Venango	Venango County AAA	Has a designated protective service intake crisis unit and participates in the STOP grant committee, which focuses on domestic violence and sexual assault.
Warren	Experience, Inc. Warren/Forest Counties Area on Aging ^{a, c}	Serves a small rural community where everyone works collaboratively and effectively and has an Elder Care Council which enhances cooperation among members serving the elderly.
Wayne	Wayne County AAA	Serves a small rural community with good open communications with the District Attorney, law enforcement, and multiple disciplines, and participates on the County Domestic Violence Task Force. ^b
Westmoreland	Westmoreland County AAA	Provides service through integrated county human services, and is able to readily tap into the judiciary, law enforcement, victim advocate, mental health, and other community programs.

^a AAA is administered by a private organization rather than the county.

^b In some counties this local board also serves as the county’s designed elder abuse task force.

^c Previously had a task force.

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from Area Agency on Aging Survey responses.

E. Pennsylvania's Elder Abuse Task Forces Differ in Their Primary Purpose, and Such Purpose Influences Their Membership

The LB&FC survey of Area Agency on Aging Directors asked them to identify the functions of each county's elder abuse task force. Such functions could include:

- Review of specific cases to provide expert consultation to protective service providers.
- Review of specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigation or care planning of protective service cases.
- Plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training events.
- Plan and carry out training events for professionals involved in protective services, including but not limited to protective service workers, health care professionals, law enforcement, district attorneys, the courts, etc.
- Keep members up to date about new services, programs, and relevant legislation.
- Other options identified by the AAA Director.

We reviewed responses from the 29 counties reported to have a formally designated elder abuse task force to identify the primary purpose of each task force based on their two top reported functions. Exhibit 4 provides the two top functions reported for each such task force. As shown in Exhibit 4:

- Seventeen counties (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clarion, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Huntingdon, Indiana, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, Somerset, and Wyoming) chiefly plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training events. The 17 include six counties (Bedford, Blair, Erie, Huntingdon, Montgomery, and Schuylkill) that also list professional training for those involved in protective services among their top functions.
- Thirteen counties (Berks, Bucks, Clearfield, Dauphin, Fayette, Indiana, Jefferson, Lehigh, Mercer, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Washington, and York) with formally designated elder abuse task forces chiefly review specific cases for purposes of coordinated investigation or care planning. Over half (Berks, Bucks, Dauphin, Mercer, Philadelphia, Washington, and York) of such counties also list review of specific cases to provide consultation among their top functions. As discussed in Finding C, seven additional counties (Allegheny, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Montour), including some of the more populous, have close working arrangements with county law enforcement units on specific cases, and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and national literature

includes such arrangements in their lists of elder abuse task forces. When such counties are taken into account, the number of counties with coordinated investigations by protective service and local law enforcement teams increases to 20.

- Eight counties identified professional training events for those involved in protective services among their top functions. In addition to Bedford, Blair, Erie, Huntingdon, Montgomery, and Schuylkill (which have community awareness and training as a top priority), the eight counties include Jefferson, whose other chief purpose is review of specific cases for joint investigations, and Chester, which identified only one priority for its elder abuse task force.
- Three counties identified keeping members informed among their top functions. They include Clearfield (whose other key function is review of specific cases for joint investigations), Bedford (whose other key function is community awareness and training), and Crawford (which identified only one task force function).

Based on our review of overall survey responses, we found that Pennsylvania county elder abuse task forces fall into two distinct groups:

- *Group 1:* Those that review view specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning of protective service cases.
- *Group 2:* Those that do not review specific cases to coordinate investigations and care planning.

Group 1 -- Counties Where Task Forces Coordinate Protective Service Investigations: In all, 20 counties, including almost all of the most populous, fall into the first group. Such counties include the 13 counties (Berks, Bucks, Clearfield, Dauphin, Fayette, Indiana, Jefferson, Lehigh, Mercer, Northumberland, Philadelphia, Washington, and York) that identify review of specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning of protective service cases as their key function and the seven counties (Allegheny, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Montour) that are without specifically designated county elder abuse task forces but have regular formal collaborations with local law enforcement on protective service. Typically, such counties focus on all forms of abuse, though Clearfield and Philadelphia report focusing on financial abuse, and Lehigh on “high risk” cases.

Exhibit 4

Designated Elder Abuse Task Force (EATF) by County and Key Functions

County	Area Agency on Aging	EATF	Primary Task Force Function(s)
Bedford	Huntingdon/Bedford/Fulton AAA	Bedford County Criminal Justice Advisory Board	Plan and carry our community elder abuse awareness and training and training for professionals involved in protective services.
Berks	Berks County AAA	Berks County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review specific cases to provide expert consultation and plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning.
Blair	Blair Senior Services, Inc. ^a	Name Not Reported	Plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training and training for professionals involved in protective services.
Bucks	Bucks County AAA	Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force of Bucks County	Review specific cases to provide expert consultation and plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning.
Butler	Butler County AAA	Butler Elder Abuse Task Force	Just starting, therefore, function(s) unreported.
Cambria	Cambria County AAA	Cambria County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review specific cases to provide expert consultation and community elder abuse awareness and training.
Chester	Chester County Department of Aging Services	Chester County Elder Abuse Task Force	Plan and carry out training for professionals involved in protective services.
Clarion	Clarion Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Clarion Elder Justice Task Force	Review specific cases to provide expert consultation and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training.
Clearfield	Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Clearfield County Elder Task Force	Review specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning and keep members up to date.

Exhibit 4 (Continued)

County	Area Agency on Aging	EATF	Primary Task Force Function(s)
Crawford	Active Aging Inc., Crawford County Area Agency on Aging ^a	Helping Elders Live Protected: HELP	Keep members up to date about new services, programs, and relevant legislation.
Dauphin	Dauphin County AAA	Dauphin County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review specific cases to provide expert consultation and plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning.
Erie	GECAC Area Agency on Aging ^a	Erie County Elder Abuse Task Force	Plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training and train professionals involved in protective services.
Fayette	Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Fayette County DA/PS Task Force	Review specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning and plan and carry out community awareness and training.
Franklin	Franklin County AAA	Franklin County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review specific cases (in particular fatalities) to provide expert consultation to protective service workers and plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training.
Huntingdon	Huntingdon, Bedford and Fulton Area Agency on Aging	Huntingdon County Criminal Justice Advisory Board	Plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training and training for professionals involved in protective services.
Indiana	Aging Services Inc. ^a	Indiana County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning and plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training.

Exhibit 4 (Continued)

County	Area Agency on Aging	EATF	Primary Task Force Function(s)
Jefferson	Jefferson County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Jefferson County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review of specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning and plan and carry out training for professionals.
Lehigh	Lehigh County Aging and Adult Services	Lehigh County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review specific cases (high risk) to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning and plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training.
Luzerne	Area Agency on Aging Luzerne/Wyoming Counties	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Elder Abuse Task Force	Review of specific cases to provide expert educational consultation and plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training.
Mercer	Mercer County Area on Aging Inc. ^a	Mercer County Criminal Justice Advisory Board	Review of specific cases to provide expert consultation and review of specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning.
Montgomery	Montgomery County Aging and Adult Services	Montgomery County Elder Access to Justice Task Force	Plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training and training for professionals.
Northumberland	Northumberland County AAA	Northumberland County Elder Abuse Task Force	Plan and carry out elder abuse awareness and training and pursue prosecution for substantiated cases.
Philadelphia	Philadelphia Corporation for Aging ^a	Philadelphia Financial Exploitation Prevention Task Force	Review specific cases (financial abuse) to provide expert consultation and plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care.

Exhibit 4 (Continued)

County	Area Agency on Aging	EATF	Primary Task Force Function(s)
Pike	Pike County AAA	Pike County Elder Task Force	Review specific cases to provide expert consultation and plan and carry out community awareness and training.
Schuylkill	Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services	Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance	Plan and carry out community awareness and training and training for professionals.
Somerset	AAA of Somerset County	Protection and Advisory Committee	Review of specific cases (high risk, complex guardianship, and financial exploitation cases) to provide expert consultation and plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training.
Washington	Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc. ^a	Washington County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review specific cases to provide expert consultation and plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning.
Wyoming	Area Agency on Aging Luzerne/Wyoming Counties	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Elder Abuse Task Force	Review of specific cases to provide expert educational consultation and plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training.
York	York County AAA	York County Elder Abuse Task Force	Review specific cases to provide expert consultation and plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning.

^a AAA is administered by a private organization rather than the county.

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from Area Agency on Aging survey responses.

The large number of counties with elder abuse task forces that are involved in coordinated case investigations is not surprising as it is consistent with Pennsylvania's older adult protective service regulations. Such regulations for example, require protective services workers to be trained "in applicable sections of the criminal code and the role of law enforcement officials when criminal conduct is encountered or suspected."¹ They also indicate:

When both a report of need for protective services and a police report have been filed, the protective services investigation shall continue simultaneously with the police investigation. The agency may take steps to coordinate its investigation with the police investigation and the investigation of the State licensing agency and shall make available as provided under Section 15.105 (relating to limited access to records and disclosure of information) relevant information from the case record.²

Group 2 -- Counties Where Task Forces Do Not Coordinate Protective Service Investigations: This second group includes 15 counties (Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Franklin, Huntingdon, Luzerne, Montgomery, Pike, Schuylkill, Somerset, and Wyoming), whose elder abuse task forces have no role in planning and carrying out coordinated investigations or care planning. In about two-thirds of such counties (Bedford, Blair, Chester, Crawford, Erie, Huntingdon, Montgomery, Schuylkill, and Somerset), the task forces do not review specific cases even for purposes of consultation or education. As noted above, six of these counties (Bedford, Blair, Erie, Huntingdon, Montgomery, and Schuylkill) have community awareness and professional training as their top priorities.

Elder Abuse Task Force Membership

All the specifically designated elder abuse task forces identified in our survey include Area Agency on Aging directors and/or protective service supervisors among their members. As shown in Exhibit 5, they also all have a district attorney or staff from the district attorney's office among their members. About 80 percent (23 of 29) of such task forces also have the county sheriff, and/or local municipal law enforcement, and/or the Pennsylvania State Police serving on the task force.

Both groups of elder abuse task forces include representatives from financial institutions in their membership. County elder abuse task forces that are involved in coordinated investigation of protective services cases, however, are somewhat

¹ 6 Pa. Code §15.46(c)

² 6 Pa. Code §15.46(f).

Exhibit 5

The Elder Abuse Task Force's Primary/Core Members Include

County	County Area Agency on Aging	County District Attorney and Staff	Law Enforcement Officers: Municipal, County, and State	Other	Domestic Violence Agency Staff	Financial Agency Representative(s)	Mental Health Professional(s) and Physicians	Local Legal Association Member(s)	Developmental Disability Specialist(s)	Clergy	AAA Ombudsman	County Judge(s)	State Agency Licensing Staff
Adams													
Allegheny													
Armstrong													
Beaver													
Bedford	X	X	X		X								
Berks	X	X		X			X		X				
Blair	X	X											
Bradford													
Bucks	X	X	X	X	X	X		X					
Butler	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X		
Cambria	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X	
Cameron													
Carbon													
Centre													
Chester	X	X		X				X			X		
Clarion	X	X	X	X	X	X				X			
Clearfield	X	X	X										
Clinton													
Columbia													
Crawford	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Cumberland													
Dauphin	X	X	X	X		X							
Delaware													
Elk													
Erie	X	X	X	X	X								
Fayette	X	X		X									
Forest													
Franklin	X	X	X	X						X			
Fulton													
Greene													
Huntingdon	X	X	X		X			X	X			X	
Indiana	X	X	X		X	X	X		X				
Jefferson	X	X	X		X	X	X						
Juniata													

Exhibit 5 (Continued)

County	County Area Agency on Aging	County District Attorney and Staff	Law Enforcement Officers: Municipal, County, and State	Other	Domestic Violence Agency Staff	Financial Agency Representative(s)	Mental Health Professional(s) and Physicians	Local Legal Association Member(s)	Developmental Disability Specialist(s)	Clergy	AAA Ombudsman	County Judge(s)	State Agency Licensing Staff
Lackawanna													
Lancaster													
Lawrence													
Lebanon													
Lehigh	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Luzerne	X	X	X	X	X		X						X
Lycoming													
McKean													
Mercer	X	X	X		X		X		X				
Mifflin													
Monroe													
Montgomery	X	X	X	X	X		X	X				X	X
Montour													
Northampton													
Northumberland	X	X		X									
Perry													
Philadelphia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		
Pike	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						
Potter													
Schuylkill	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Snyder													
Somerset	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		
Sullivan													
Susquehanna													
Tioga													
Union													
Venango													
Warren													
Washington	X	X		X									
Wayne													
Westmoreland													
Wyoming	X	X	X	X	X			X					
York	X	X	X			X		X					

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff using information from Area Agency on Aging Directors' survey responses.

more likely to have a financial institution representative among their members. Over 50 percent (7 of 13) of the task forces involved in coordinated investigations have such members compared to about 40 percent (6 of 15) of those not involved in such investigations.³

Despite the significant number of task forces with district attorney and law enforcement participation, only three (Cambria, Huntingdon, and Montgomery) county elder abuse task forces include local judges, and these task forces are not involved in coordination of protective service investigations. Two (Huntingdon and Montgomery) of the three task forces, moreover, have no role in reviewing specific cases for purposes of consultation.

We were advised by the Schuylkill County Area Agency on Aging Director, who has been with its elder abuse task force since its formation, that a county clerk of courts⁴ currently is a member of its task force, but not a judge. At one time a county judge was involved with the task force, however, the judge ceased involvement because of concern about the possibility of the appearance of a conflict of interest. While the Schuylkill County elder abuse task force does not review specific cases, some elder abuse task force members are also members of a separate multidisciplinary team that does review specific protective service cases for expert consultation and coordination.

As discussed in Finding A, the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) encourages court participation in multidisciplinary collaboration to effectively address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. In its guide for state court participation in such partnerships,⁵ NCSC emphasizes the courts are central to “providing justice and restoration for individual victims and promoting public safety.” It goes on to note, however, that:

...Courts are also required to maintain neutrality to ensure due process and equal access to justice for all parties. This mandate precludes court participation in some types of multidisciplinary groups, such as case-staffing teams that focus on investigating suspected elder abuse victims or designing interventions for individuals. Courts can, however, take an active role in multidisciplinary efforts to improve systemic responses to elder abuse⁶ and, in more prescribed ways to address abuse in individual cases⁷ under the jurisdiction of the court.

³ Butler County has been excluded from this part of our analysis as it had not identified its key functions at the time of our survey though it had identified its elder abuse task force members.

⁴ One other county (Lehigh) reported having a court administrator as a task force member.

⁵ NCSC's *Court Guide to Effective Collaboration on Elder Abuse, 2012*.

⁶ According to NCSC, multidisciplinary groups involved in systemic review consider the entire set of services related to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation to determine how to create a seamless network for victims of such crimes.

⁷ Examples may include, for example, victim advocates working with protection order participants or alleged victims in criminal cases and judges engaging directly with offenders who have not complied with a court order.

The involvement of so many Pennsylvania elder abuse task forces in review of specific cases, including review for purposes of coordinated investigation and the National Center for State Courts' guidance, may account for the limited number of Pennsylvania elder abuse task forces with members of the judiciary serving on them.

The two groups of elder abuse task forces also differ somewhat in the extent to which they involve other community agencies in their membership. For example,

- Over 30 percent (4 of 13) of the task forces involved in coordinated investigations consist only of protective service, district attorney, and law enforcement representatives compared to less than 15 percent (2 of 15) of the task forces not involved in coordinated investigations.
- About 40 percent (5 of 13) of the task forces involved in coordinated investigations include representatives of domestic violence programs on the task force compared to 80 percent (12 of 15) of the task forces not involved in coordinated investigations.
- About 50 percent (6 of 13) of the task forces involved in coordinated investigations include a physician or mental health professional compared to about 40 percent (6 of 15) of the task forces not involved in coordinated investigations.
- About 25 percent (3 of 13) of the task forces involved in coordinated investigations include the local legal aid association compared to about half (7 of 15) of the task forces not involved in coordinated investigations.

Both groups identified a variety of "other" task force members in response to our survey. Counties with task forces involved in coordinated investigation and planning identified the protective services legal counsel, county solicitor, local coroner, consumer protection agency, victim-witness advocate, PA Attorney General's Office, Office of Inspector General, Federal Bureau of Investigation, US. Postal Inspector, Homeland Security, and Orphan's Court Administrator among their "other" members.

Similarly, counties with task forces not involved in coordinated investigations and planning identified the AAA solicitor, coroner, PA Attorney General's Office, local attorneys, crime victim center, victim advocates, and the clerk of courts among their "other" members. In addition, they identified hospitals, private social service providers, senior centers, citizens, public defenders, educators, funeral directors, community professionals, rape crisis agencies, county commissioners, and state legislators among their "other" members. Three counties (Luzerne, Pike, and Wyoming) currently have legislators and/or their staff serving on the county's elder abuse task force.

Meeting Frequency

Both groups of task forces tend to meet on a monthly or quarterly basis. About half of the task forces involved in coordinated investigations (6 of 13) and those not involved in coordinated investigations (8 of 15) meet monthly. About 40 percent (5 of 13) of the task forces involved in coordinated investigations and about 30 percent (4 of 15) of those not involved in coordinated investigations meet on a quarterly basis. Only one county (Berks) reported annual meetings, and one county (Erie) reported meeting every six months. Three counties (Blair, Clarion, and Jefferson) reported meeting on an as needed basis.

F. The Majority of Pennsylvania Elder Abuse Task Forces Rely on the Volunteer Efforts of Their Members

LB&FC staff asked Area Agency on Aging directors to provide information on how their county elder abuse task force activities are supported. We asked how each county task force was staffed and about direct financial resources available to support task force activities.

Elder Abuse Task Force Staffing

Specifically, in our survey, we asked AAA directors to identify from a list of items the one that best describes how elder abuse task force activities are staffed. Possible ways include:

- Dedicated staff are assigned full-time to coordinate the activities of the Task Force.
- Dedicated staff are assigned part-time to coordinate the activities of the Task Force.
- Staff are not assigned to assist the Task Force.
- Task Force activities are performed by members on a volunteer¹ basis.

Almost two-thirds (17 of 28) of the task forces,² including over half (7 of 13) of the task forces involved in coordinated elder abuse investigations and planning and almost 70 percent (10 of 15) of those not involved in coordinated investigations, report task force activities are performed by members on a volunteer basis. Such task forces include those in Bucks, Dauphin, Fayette, Indiana, Lehigh, Mercer, and Philadelphia Counties, which coordinate investigations and planning; and Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Erie, Franklin, Luzerne, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wyoming Counties, which are not involved in coordinating investigations and planning.

One quarter of the task forces have dedicated staff assigned to assist with their activities, including three task forces (Clearfield, Washington, and York) involved in coordinated investigations and planning, and four task forces (Clarion,

¹ Volunteer, in this context, typically means professional paid staff performing tasks outside of their expected job assignments (e.g., seeking private donations from private funds to support a conference, performing activities above and beyond their typical work hours), and those who are not compensated for hours spent in task force activity completion (e.g., a geriatrician in private practice who serves on a task force).

² Butler County, which has a task force, has been excluded from this analysis as it is just starting and has not yet specified its goals and objectives. The seven counties (Allegheny, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Montour) that have regular collaborative relationships with law enforcement that are considered as task forces by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and in national literature, have also been excluded from this analysis as they would not have responded to relevant survey questions.

Crawford, Montgomery, and Somerset) not involved in such investigations and planning. The Washington County task force is the only task force reported to have full-time staff assigned to assist its activities.

We also asked Area Agency on Aging directors which agency is responsible for staffing and coordinating the activities of the task force. As shown in Exhibits 6 and 7, responsibility for staffing and coordinating the activities of the task force is shared by multiple agencies in just over half (15 of 28) of the counties. Typically, such responsibility is shared by the Area Agency on Aging and the District Attorney's Office.

When only one agency is responsible, it is often the Area Agency on Aging. The District Attorney's Office, however, is solely responsible for task force coordination in three counties (Mercer, Bedford, and Huntingdon).

Exhibits 6 and 7 also show that other agencies and task force members are often (9 of 28) involved in assisting the Area Agency on Aging and/or the District Attorney's Office in coordinating the work of the task force. Such assistance is more likely to occur with task forces that do not have a role in coordinated elder abuse investigations and care planning.

As shown in Exhibit 7, Schuylkill County reports staffing arrangements that differ from other counties. In Schuylkill County, all task force members are responsible for coordinating activities.

Exhibit 6

Agency(ies) Providing Staff to Coordinate Elder Abuse Task Force Activities			
EATFs Coordinating Elder Abuse Investigations and Care Planning			
<u>County Task Force</u>	<u>Area Agency on Aging</u>	<u>District Attorney's Office</u>	<u>Other</u>
Berks.....			Not reported
Bucks	X	X	Victims Assistance Network
Clearfield.....	X	X	
Dauphin.....	X		
Fayette	X	X	
Indiana	X	X	
Jefferson	X		
Lehigh	X	X	
Mercer.....		X	
Northumberland	X	X	
Philadelphia	X		
Washington			Not reported
York.....	X	X	

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from AAA survey responses.

Exhibit 7

Agency(ies) Providing Staff to Coordinate Elder Abuse Task Force Activities
 EATFs Not Coordinating Elder Abuse Investigations and Care Planning

<u>County Task Force</u>	<u>Area Agency on Aging</u>	<u>District Attorney's Office</u>	<u>Other</u>
Bedford.....		X	
Blair	X	X	
Cambria.....	X		
Chester.....	X		
Clarion	X		
Crawford.....	X	X	X
Erie	X	X	X
Franklin.....	X	X	X
Huntingdon.....		X	
Luzerne	X	X	X
Montgomery	X	X	X
Pike	X	X	X
Schuylkill			Member volunteers
Somerset.....	X		
Wyoming	X	X	X

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from AAA survey responses.

Elder Abuse Task Force Direct Funding

Our survey asked Area Agency on Aging directors about direct funding for task force activities. As shown in Exhibits 8 and 9, with a few notable exceptions, limited direct funding is available to support elder abuse task force activities. Typically, when public funds are available, they are state Lottery funds available to the Area Agency on Aging for services to older persons in the planning and service area.

Many of the task forces rely on non-public members (including financial and health care institutions and accountants) to provide financial support for task force activities. In particular, such support is provided for task force public awareness and professional education and training activities, which require direct financial support beyond volunteered staff time.

Exhibit 8

Elder Abuse Task Force Direct Funding
 EATF Coordinating Investigations and Care Planning

	Federal Older Americans Act	Federal Social Service Block Grant	Other Federal	State Aging Block Grant	County	Non- Profit	Other
Berks							Not reported
Bucks.....					X ^a		X ^b
Clearfield		X				X ^c	X ^d
Dauphin ^e							
Fayette							Not reported
Indiana.....				X ^f	X ^g		X ^h
Jefferson.....				X	X		X
Lehigh.....				X			
Mercer							Currently, only in-kind support from all members
Northumberland							Not reported
Philadelphia.....				X ⁱ			
Washington							Not reported
York.....	X						

^a \$5,000 for annual elder abuse symposium.

^b Occasional grants, but none currently.

^c Local ARDC (Aging and Disabilities Resource Center)-Link to cover event costs and handouts.

^d \$800 in-kind support from banks.

^e Task force mission is part of each members core work.

^f \$2,500.

^g \$2,500.

^h \$1,000.

ⁱ \$10,000 annually.

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from survey responses.

Exhibit 9

Elder Abuse Task Force Funding
EATF Not Coordinating Investigations and Care Planning

County Task Force	Federal Older Americans Act	Federal Social Services Block Grant	Other Federal	State Aging Block Grant	County	Other
Bedford.....					X	
Blair						X ^a
Cambria.....				X ^b		X ^c
Chester.....						X ^d
Clarion.....				X ^e		X ^f
Crawford.....				X ^g		X ^h
Erie.....			X ⁱ			
Franklin				X ^j	X ^k	X ^l
Huntingdon.....						Not reported
Luzerne						Not reported
Montgomery ...						X ^m
Pike				X ⁿ	X ^o	X ^p
Schuylkill					X ^q	X ^r
Somerset.....						X ^s
Wyoming						X ^t

^a 2,500 for 2014 Elder Justice Day.

^b \$1,000 (estimate).

^c In-kind support is provided.

^d Donations for Elder Justice Day.

^e \$350 per month for staffing, copying, etc.

^f \$2,200 for an event with a sponsor.

^g \$300.

^h In-kind support of \$300.

ⁱ Department of Justice STOP Violence grant \$15,000 (estimate).

^j \$500 for activities.

^k \$200 for supplies.

^l In-kind staff support \$9,000 (estimate).

^m \$5,000 fundraising for conference; \$40,000 in-kind support for staff time, printing, travel from county offices.

ⁿ \$1,000.

^o \$250.

^p \$1,400 financial support from financial institutions and health care providers for events and advertising.

^q \$5,000.

^r Hornbrook Trust \$53,000.

^s \$2,250 from a bank and CPA firm to sponsor last year's event.

^t Some funds are generated through professional training events.

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from survey responses.

One (Erie) task force currently has a federal discretionary grant. Others report having received discretionary grant funding in the past.³

Two of the task forces report significantly more financial resources than others. Montgomery County's task force, for example, receives an estimated \$40,000 from in-kind support from the county and \$5,000 through fund raising for its annual conference. Schuylkill County receives \$5,000 from the county commissioners and funds from a trust to support its public awareness and professional education activities. Recently, these two elder abuse task forces came to the attention of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Elder Law Task Force, as possible models for the formation of such elder abuse task forces throughout the state.

The absence of earmarked federal and state funding in support of elder abuse task force activities is a problem for several existing elder abuse task forces. About 30 percent (8 of 28) of the counties with designated elder abuse task forces expressed concern about the lack of specific funds to support task force activities,⁴ such as Elder Justice Day receptions, promotional items, etc. Others noted that the need to devote more staff time for fundraising to finance such events can be problematic. Task forces that specifically expressed concern about the absence of dedicated funds (Berks, Bucks, Chester, Clarion, Montgomery, Philadelphia, Schuylkill, and Somerset) include counties which, for the most part, have or have had direct funding to support some of their activities.

As discussed in Finding H, funding for older adult protective service investigations and services for those who have been abused is limited. If the Pennsylvania General Assembly were to mandate each county have an elder abuse task force and

³The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency has funded several violence prevention and victim assistance projects that involve a coordinated approach to education and service. Temple University's Institute on Protective Services, for example, received funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, to support its work with task forces in Luzerne, Wyoming, Schuylkill, Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland Counties. In the past, the Commission has also provided funds for several projects in Bucks County. Such projects included an Elder Victim Advocate Initiative, which among its activities supported community and other training on elder abuse in cooperation with the Bucks County Crimes Against Older Adults Task Force. Butler County received funding for a project entitled "Serving Our Seniors," which included, in part, large-print pamphlets for elders, quick reference guides for medical professionals, county-wide observance of "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day," training events for seniors, and resurrection of a "Senior Task Force." Chester County's Crime Victims' Center was also awarded a grant, which provided for its participation on the Chester County Elder Abuse Task Force and education and awareness presentation sessions throughout the county to senior centers, allied human service organizations, and healthcare professional and justice system personnel. Mercer County's Elder Victim Advocacy Project worked with the Area Agency on Aging and Mercer County's Elder Task Force and patrons of senior centers to design a senior friendly brochure on elder abuse, publish articles in area newspapers and publications, and develop public service announcements on elder abuse. In recent years, however, such federal funding for victims assistance projects has decreased. In the past, Temple University and the Philadelphia Corporation on Aging and AAAs in south central Pennsylvania have also received direct federal Older American Act grants to support elder abuse task force activities.

⁴ While only about 30 percent of the AAA directors with designated elder abuse task forces reported task force funding as a challenge, a group of elder justice experts in 2014 reported raising money to cover start-up costs and certain ongoing multidisciplinary team operating costs as a challenge. The group recommended multidisciplinary teams cultivate funding sources to sustain their activities.

provide funding for such a task force, as has been recommended by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Elder Law Task Force, it would reasonably need to appropriate from \$350,000 to \$3.35 million in state funds (assuming between \$5,000 and \$50,000 per county) to support such local task forces statewide. Finding G provides additional information on challenges confronting Pennsylvania's specified elder abuse task forces.

G. Pennsylvania's Elder Abuse Task Forces Face Several Challenges

Our survey asked Area Agency on Aging Directors to identify challenges that face a county elder abuse task force. In addition to lack of a designated funding source, the most frequently identified challenges are:

- Lack of participation by certain disciplines and/or inconsistent member participation.
- Insufficient staff or available staff time to provide for task force participation.
- Lack of cases to review.

Lack of Participation

More than half of the task forces (15 of 28)¹ find it challenging to gain participation from certain disciplines. As shown in Exhibits 10 and 11, such issues occur for the two different groups of task forces—those task forces involved in coordinated investigations and care planning and those not involved in such activities. Participation challenges that may be encountered include:

- initially obtaining commitment of certain disciplines to participate and
- obtaining ongoing participation from members.

As shown in Exhibit 10, task forces involved in coordinated investigations and care planning would like to have greater participation from the county coroner, sheriff, local judiciary, and local law enforcement. Task forces not involved in coordinated investigations and care planning would also like to have greater participation from local law enforcement representatives. They also seek greater involvement of health care professionals, including physicians and mental health professionals.

Both groups of task forces have identified ways to encourage participation. Typically, such ways include personal contact from the District Attorney or Area Agency on Aging Director. One county (Pike) even suggested that the District Attorney, Area Agency on Aging Director, or local legislators extend invitations to physicians and mental health professionals to encourage their participation.

¹ Butler County, which has a task force, has been excluded from this analysis as it is just starting. The seven counties (Allegheny, Columbia, Delaware, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Montour) that have regular collaborative relationships with law enforcement that are considered as task forces by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and in the national literature have also been excluded from this analysis as they would not have responded to relevant survey questions.

Exhibit 10

**EATFs Reporting Participation by Certain Disciplines and/or
Inconsistent Participation as a Challenge**

EATFs With Coordinated Investigation and Care Planning

County Task Force	Participation Challenge Reported	Ways to Address/Comment
Berks	X	Intermittent participation may be addressed by engaging all members in redefining the task force mission.
Bucks	X	Extend open invitation for coroner and sheriff's office to participate. Allow alternate participants for members occasionally unable to attend due to crisis situations.
Clearfield		
Dauphin		
Fayette	X	
Indiana	X	Attempt to generate commitments from physicians and the judiciary.
Jefferson		
Lehigh	X	As all non-core members do not attend regularly (everyone is busy with their jobs), the core group moves things forward.
Mercer		
Northumberland	X	Invite law enforcement to participate in case reviews.
Philadelphia		
Washington	X	
York		

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from AAA director survey responses.

Exhibit 11

**EATFs Reporting Participation by Certain Disciplines and/or
Inconsistent Participation as a Challenge**

EATFs Without Coordinated Investigation and Care Planning

County Task Force	Participation Challenge Reported	Ways to Address/Comment
Bedford		
Blair	X	
Cambria	X	Improve the quality of the meetings.
Chester	X	Secure commitment from the District Attorney's Office for law enforcement to regularly attend. Change the date and time of the meeting to increase participation.
Clarion	X	Key members of the task force contact mental health professions to discuss the importance of the task force and its benefits. Law enforcement work schedules make it difficult for them to attend, and as existing relationships are good and without problems, they see no need to attend.
Crawford		
Erie		
Franklin	X	Promote increased attendance by a physician and local law enforcement.
Huntingdon		
Luzerne	X	More outreach to local, county and state law enforcement officials.
Montgomery		
Pike	X	Extend personal invitation from the District Attorney and Area Agency on Aging Director or legislative counterparts inviting physicians and mental health professionals to participate.
Schuylkill	X	Personally recruit those with time and talents required by the task force. Continue membership based on participation at a number of mandatory meetings or assistance with training events.
Somerset		
Wyoming	X	More flexible scheduling of meetings to accommodate the most members.

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from AAA director survey responses.

Insufficient Staff Time and Time Constraints

Over one-third (10 of 28) of the task forces report insufficient numbers of staff or available staff time as a challenge confronting elder abuse task forces. As clearly shown in Exhibits 12 and 13, sufficient staff time is more of a challenge for task forces that do not coordinate investigations and care planning than for those who do.

Such differences likely occur as task forces that coordinate investigations and care planning are more likely to be involved in direct service provision rather than related activities such as community awareness or education sessions. As such, the agencies involved may view the work of the task force as essential to direct service provision and assure sufficient staff are assigned. As noted in Findings C and D, some counties currently without task forces report limited staff time delayed their formation of a formal task force or influenced their decision not to establish one, and such challenges have been identified by elder abuse task forces in national studies.

Exhibit 12

EATFs Reporting Insufficient Staff Time and Time Constraints as a Challenge
EATFs With Coordinated Investigation and Care Planning Responsibilities

County Task Force	Staffing and Time Challenge Reported	Ways to Address/Comment
Berks		
Bucks		
Clearfield		
Dauphin		
Fayette		
Indiana	X	Limit the number of staff that participate.
Jefferson		
Lehigh		
Mercer		
Northumberland		
Philadelphia		
Washington		
York		

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from survey responses.

Exhibit 13

EAFTs Reporting Insufficient Staff Time and Time Constraints as a Challenge
 EAFTs Without Coordinated Investigation and Care Planning Responsibilities

County Task Force	Staffing and Time Challenge Reported	Ways to Address/Comment
Bedford	X	Incorporate a number of different meetings into one when participants do not have the time to commit to all activities.
Blair	X	Recruit more members to assist with educational sessions.
Cambria		
Chester		
Clarion	X	At times, law enforcement members do not have sufficient time.
Crawford	X	Staffing the task force along with other duties becomes overwhelming.
Erie		
Franklin	X	
Huntingdon	X	Plan multiple meetings to occur at the same meeting location.
Luzerne		
Montgomery		
Pike	X	Attempt to delegate to other task force members when the time required of Area Agency on Aging staff is greater than initially anticipated.
Schuylkill	X	Time constraints are often why members do not participate.
Somerset	X	More funding from the state level for protective services community outreach and ombudsman services.
Wyoming		

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from AAA director survey responses.

Lack of Cases to Review

As shown in Exhibits 14 and 15, some elder abuse task force have as their major purpose review of cases to provide expert consultation or to identify cases for purposes of protective service training. When task forces have such missions, ironically, the absence of cases for review can present a challenge for elder abuse task forces that are seeking to sustain ongoing member interest and commitment.

About 20 percent (5 of 28) of the Commonwealth’s elder abuse task forces report that having a sufficient number of cases to review can be a challenge. In part, such challenges may be related to the size of the county, with less populous counties likely to have fewer potential protective service cases. In part, such challenges may be due to differing views among task force members about the types of cases to be presented for review.

Exhibit 14

EATFs Reporting Lack of Cases to Review as a Challenge
 EATFs With Coordinated Investigation and Care Planning Responsibilities

County Task Force	Case Sufficiency Challenge Reported	Ways to Address/Comment
Berks		
Bucks		
Clearfield		
Dauphin		
Fayette		
Indiana	X	Only an occasional problem.
Jefferson		
Lehigh		
Mercer	X	A small county may need to encourage more referrals and referral sources.
Northumberland		
Philadelphia		
Washington		
York		

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from AAA director survey responses.

Factors Important in Forming an Effective Elder Abuse Task Force

We asked all of the Area Agency on Aging directors, both those with and those without designated elder abuse task forces, to identify the most important factors in forming and contributing to an effective elder abuse task force. At least half of the counties identified the following three factors as key to a task force’s formation and effective working.

- Three-quarters of the counties (50 of 67) reported knowledge of elder abuse in the community among health and human service professionals, elected officials, and law enforcement.
- Almost two-thirds (42 of 67) reported strong commitment to the task force’s identified goals and objectives.
- Fifty percent (34 of 67) reported strong public awareness of the existence of elder abuse.

Exhibit 15

EATFs Reporting Lack of Cases to Review as a Challenge
 EATFs Without Coordinated Investigation and Care Planning Responsibilities

County Task Force	Case Sufficiency Challenge Reported	Ways to Address/Comment
Bedford		
Blair		
Cambria	X	Encourage police to bring cases to the meeting.
Chester	X	District Attorney's Office and law enforcement will not participate in task force case reviews.
Clarion		
Crawford		
Erie	X	Have members keep records of "difficult cases" to discuss when meetings are held even though intervention occurs prior to the meeting.
Franklin		
Huntingdon		
Luzerne		
Montgomery		
Pike		
Schuylkill		
Somerset		
Wyoming		

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from AAA director survey responses.

The importance of such factors is underscored by other survey responses including the:

- Importance of identifying specific task force functions and selection of members based on the agreed upon functions (see Finding E).
- Challenge of maintaining ongoing member participation (noted above).
- Reliance of task forces on volunteer efforts by members (see Finding F).
- Limited availability of direct funding for task force activities (see Finding F).
- Availability of protective service or district attorney staff time to support the non-direct service activities of the task force (noted above).

Only about 20 percent (12 of 67) of the counties reported that technical assistance from state law enforcement and victim advocacy agencies is key to establishment of an effective elder abuse task force. Even fewer (5 of 67) reported that technical assistance from state health and human service agencies is a key factor in the formation of a task force. In part, such responses may be due to the existence of a variety of manuals and information currently available to support those interested in forming an elder abuse task force in their community.²

Factors key to the formation and effective working of a task force, such as awareness, commitment, and volunteer efforts, would be difficult to legislate and mandate at a national or state level. Typically, local communities are best positioned to consider and promote such factors. As one Area Agency on Aging Director with a task force that investigates and participates in specific case planning noted:

... We respectfully suggest the state government should refrain from involvement in County or regional Elder Abuse Task Forces. Each county is unique and has the best grasp on what will or will not work in its specific area. Those counties that have Task Forces are doing a great job and any mandates or direction from state government may compromise the work each Task Force does. The most important person in the success of a Task Force is the local District Attorney. The DA is an elected official who does not report to anyone at the state. If the DA believes there is too much regulation or mandate as it relates to a Task Force we fear they will opt to simply handle elder abuse on their own without the local AAA input....In [our county] judges have taken the position (and we believe it is the appropriate position) that a Judge cannot sit on the Task Force. At each Task Force meeting we discuss investigations of cases that presumably will one day come before the Court in a criminal proceeding. If a Judge has been privy to information about that case that was gained from attending Task Force meetings said Judge would likely need to recuse themselves from hearing the case.

²The National Center on Elder Abuse has produced a manual that may be used by those interested in starting multidisciplinary partnerships to address elder abuse. In February 2015, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging & Institute on Protective Services at Temple University released the second edition of *Building a Successful Task Force for Victimized Older Adults*. The National Center for State Courts has issued its *Court Guide to Effective Collaboration on Elder Abuse* and *Prosecution Guide to Effective Collaboration on Elder Abuse*. The American Bar Association's Commission on Law and Aging and the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance has developed *Legal Issues Related to Elder Abuse a Pocket Guide for Law Enforcement* and *Legal Issues Related to Elder Abuse: A Desk Guide for Law Enforcement*. Some programs have also produced detailed manuals to assist the working of an elder abuse task force. The Human Services Department of the County of Sonoma, California, for example, has produced *A Collaborative Approach to Multidisciplinary Teams in Sonoma County*. This manual provides guidance on need statements, review of current research, information on the functioning of different types of teams in California, membership, meeting attendance, meeting time and frequency, meeting format, topic and products, case summary guides, improving team organization, and enhancing outcomes.

The Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A) and the Pennsylvania District Attorney Association advised LB&FC staff that they have not developed formal positions concerning formation of elder abuse task forces. Consistent with our survey responses, they have discussed such task forces and generally support their development. They, however, emphasize that Pennsylvania's 67 counties differ in many substantial ways and each county has to tailor an approach that best fits its identified needs and available infrastructure and resources.

H. Federal Funds for Prevention of Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Are Limited

The federal Older American's Act¹ authorizes programs for prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and directs state agencies, in consultation with Area Agencies on Aging, to develop and enhance such programs. Specifically, Title VII of the Act,² authorizes funding for a long list of activities that include, for example:

- Public education and outreach to identify and prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Public education and outreach to promote financial literacy and prevent identity theft and financial exploitation of older individuals.
- Special and on-going training for individuals involved in serving victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, on the topics of self-determination, individual rights, state and federal requirements concerning confidentiality, and other topics determined by the state agency.
- Supporting multidisciplinary elder justice activities, such as:
 - Supporting and studying team approaches for bringing a coordinated multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary response to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including a response from individuals in social service, health care, public safety, and legal disciplines.
 - Establishing a state coordinating council, which shall identify the individual state's needs and provide the federal Department of Health and Human Services with information and recommendations relating to efforts by the state to combat elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
 - Providing training, technical assistance and other methods of support to groups carrying out multidisciplinary efforts at the state.
 - Broadening and studying various models for elder fatality and serious injury review teams, to make recommendations about their composition, protocols, functions, timing, roles, and responsibilities.
 - Developing best practices for use in long-term care facilities that reduce the risk of elder abuse for residents, including the risk of resident-to-resident abuse.

¹ 42 U.S.C. §§3001-3058ff.

² 42 U.S.C. §3058i

Federal Funding for Elder Abuse

Federal Title VII funds for such activities are very limited and include funding for activities other than just the prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.³ Many had anticipated federal funding for such activities would be increased with the passage of the Elder Justice Act as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.⁴

The Elder Justice Act was enacted to provide a coordinated federal response to the prevention, detection, and treatment of elder abuse somewhat similar to the Children's Justice Act. It, however, did not establish a set aside specifically for elder abuse from the federal Crime Victims Fund to support Elder Justice Act grant programs as occurred with the Children's Justice Act (discussed below). Newly authorized grant programs, moreover, have not received appropriated funding, and existing elder rights programs have only continued to receive the same or reduced federal appropriations.

In FFY 2014, nationally, only \$4.7 million in Federal Title VII funding was allotted for prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. Ten years prior, \$5.1 million was allotted. In FFY 2004, Pennsylvania received an allotment of \$253,320 for elder abuse prevention. By 2014, its allotment had been reduced to \$242,944.

Pennsylvania's current federal allotment for elder abuse prevention (\$242,944) is well below the amount it currently expends to contract with Temple University to enhance the capacity of Area Agencies on Aging and law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate, and resolve protective services/elder victimization cases through information provision, case consultation, and technical assistance. In FY 2013-14, the Department expended over \$370,000 for such activities. The Department's current budget includes \$401,050 to support Temple's work, and requests a similar amount for FY 2015-16.

Pennsylvania's federal allocation for elder abuse prevention is also well below the amount of state funds currently earmarked for such activities. In FY 2014-15, \$298,000 in state funds are earmarked for elder abuse education and prevention, with an additional \$902,000 included in the Area Agency on Aging Block Grant for protective services. Similar amounts are included in the Department's FY 2015-16 budget request.

³Title VII provides for a variety of advocacy programs, including the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Programs for the Prevention of Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation; State Elder Rights and Legal Assistance Development Programs; and Insurance/Benefits Outreach Counseling and Assistance Programs. More than three-quarters of Title VII funds are for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, according to the Congressional Research Service.

⁴ ACA P.L. 111-148, as amended

Pennsylvania, like most states, must rely on state and local funds for protective service public awareness, reporting, investigations, and direct services. In national studies conducted by the U.S. General Accountability Office, states have reported that with the increase in the number of elder abuse cases and the increased complexity of such cases, the lack of sufficient funding impedes their ability to adequately respond to elder abuse.

Almost 93 percent of the funding for protective services for older adults in Pennsylvania is from non-federal sources, according to the U.S. General Accountability Office. Pennsylvania's Area Agencies on Aging use the aging block grant funds they receive to support a full range of services for older Pennsylvanians for protective services. The exact amount of such block grant funds is not known. In 2012, however, the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (in a national survey) estimated Area Agencies on Aging spend over \$12 million annually from their block grants for protective services.

Table 2 provides the federal Title VII funding provided to Area Agencies on Aging as reported by the Department to the Pennsylvania General Assembly in the materials it submits to the Appropriations Committees. The amounts shown in Table 2, however, significantly overstate the amount of federal funding available to local AAAs for prevention of elder abuse as they also include funding for the federally required Ombudsman Program and federal earmarked funding for the federal State Health Insurance and Assistance Programs. In Pennsylvania, this program is known as APPRISE, and it is funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.⁵

⁵ The federal State Health Insurance Program is funded through the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and provides a grant to the Pennsylvania Department of Aging to operate a statewide program and oversee the operation of eleven telecenters that serve as the statewide toll-free helpline for health insurance and health benefit counseling. The local Area Agencies on Aging are responsible for the APPRISE program's local administration. In addition to providing counseling to Medicare beneficiaries about the broad range of health insurance options, rights, and benefits, the program conducts targeted outreach to beneficiaries with limited income to increase their awareness and assist them to apply for "extra help" available to such beneficiaries.

Table 2

Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging Title VII Elder Rights Program Funding

Area Agency on Aging	County	Title VII Elder Rights Programs		2014-15 Available	2015-16 Request
		2012-13	2013-14		
Active Aging Inc.	Crawford	\$ 16,626	\$ 25,408	\$ 97,426	\$ 97,426
Adams County Office of Aging Inc.	Adams	13,675	21,828	19,539	19,539
Aging Services Inc.	Indiana	15,575	23,139	23,371	23,371
Allegheny County Area Agency on Aging	Allegheny	204,187	227,797	240,971	240,971
Area Agency on Aging for the Counties of Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna and Tioga	Bradford	36,331	49,812	49,175	49,175
Armstrong County Area Agency on Aging	Armstrong	16,389	23,299	22,745	22,745
Beaver County Office on Aging	Beaver	25,545	33,236	34,029	34,029
Berks County Area Agency on Aging	Berks	61,271	73,533	83,998	83,998
Blair Senior Services Inc.	Blair	332,482	264,232	182,100	182,100
Bucks County Area Agency on Aging	Bucks	52,368	59,584	68,877	68,877
Butler County Area Agency on Aging	Butler	23,882	32,062	38,515	38,515
Cambria County Area Agency on Aging	Cambria	28,147	36,873	36,254	36,254
Carbon County Area Agency on Aging	Carbon	17,807	19,526	18,999	18,999
Lawrence County Area Agency on Aging	Lawrence	16,291	22,956	24,110	24,110
Centre County Area Agency on Aging	Centre	28,850	37,774	34,746	34,746
Department of Aging Services	Chester	40,248	47,353	48,474	48,474
Clarion Area Agency on Aging, Inc.	Clarion	12,730	18,541	17,914	17,914
Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.	Clearfield	37,018	39,722	61,465	61,465
Columbia Montour Aging Office Inc.	Columbia	14,900	25,820	20,586	20,586
Cumberland County Office of Aging	Cumberland	28,247	32,782	48,588	48,588
Dauphin County Agency on Aging	Dauphin	31,072	38,676	41,587	41,587
Office of Services for the Aging	Delaware	73,214	86,146	91,383	91,383
Forest-Warren County Area Agency on Aging	Warren	17,457	21,757	27,694	27,694
Franklin County Area Agency on Aging	Franklin	22,388	30,359	30,653	30,653
Greater Erie Community Action Committee	Erie	20,097	41,422	41,932	41,932
Huntingdon Bedford Fulton Area Agency on Aging	Bedford	28,074	36,499	31,609	31,609

Table 2 (Continued)

Area Agency on Aging	County	Title VII Elder Rights Programs		2014-15 Available	2015-16 Available
		2012-13	2013-14		
Jefferson County Area Agency on Aging, Inc.	Jefferson	\$ 28,710	\$ 36,468	\$ 34,566	\$ 34,566
Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging	Lackawanna	48,131	57,515	68,262	68,262
Office of Aging	Lancaster	48,758	60,373	69,006	69,006
Lebanon County Area Agency on Aging	Lebanon	16,879	23,333	23,373	23,373
County of Lehigh Area Agency on Aging/Adult Services	Lehigh	34,400	43,146	49,886	49,886
Luzerne-Wyoming County Bureau for Aging	Luzerne	57,690	72,378	80,180	80,180
Clinton-Lycoming for Community Action, Step, Inc.	Lycoming	25,245	37,486	33,558	33,558
Mercer County Area Agency on Aging	Mercer	19,812	28,653	27,638	27,638
Mifflin Juniata Area Agency on Aging, Inc.	Mifflin	15,262	24,791	20,998	20,998
Monroe County Area Agency on Aging	Monroe	18,077	26,625	36,104	36,104
Montgomery County Aging and Adults Services	Montgomery	69,711	85,871	89,033	89,033
Northampton County Area Agency on Aging	Northampton	30,846	39,442	51,118	51,118
Northumberland County Area Agency on Aging	Northumberland	19,587	26,690	26,876	26,876
Office of Human Services Inc.	Elk	17,117	29,220	23,671	23,671
Perry County Area Agency on Aging	Perry	12,100	17,576	17,050	17,050
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging	Philadelphia	292,827	322,206	338,740	338,740
Pike County Area Agency on Aging	Pike	16,547	18,162	17,091	17,091
Potter County Area Agency on Aging	Potter	11,680	18,069	15,557	15,557
Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services	Schuylkill	202,081	335,897	323,252	323,252
Area Agency on Aging of Somerset County	Somerset	18,239	24,816	38,722	38,722
Southwestern PA AAA Inc.	Washington	176,137	200,381	250,308	250,308
Union Snyder Agency on Aging Inc.	Union	13,570	22,669	37,014	37,014
Venango County Area Agency on Aging	Venango	13,500	20,235	18,553	18,553
Wayne County Area Agency on Aging	Wayne	13,290	19,875	25,061	25,061
Westmoreland County Area Agency on Aging	Westmoreland	69,958	82,600	90,310	90,310
York County Area Agency on Aging	York	175,028	52,928	65,348	65,348

Source: Developed by LB&FC staff from Pennsylvania Department of Aging Appropriations Committee Hearing Materials for FY2014-15 and FY2015-16.

The limited dedicated federal funding for elder abuse prevention and intervention services is of concern nationally as the elderly comprise the fastest growing population group, and serious adverse consequences are associated with elder abuse and exploitation. According to the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA),

In its roles and functions, APS [adult protective services] is comparable to child protective services with two critical differences: one, APS deals with adults, who unless adjudicated incompetent by a court of law, have the right to live their lives as they see fit. This includes making a lot of “bad” decisions by the standards of the larger community. The hardest thing APS deals with is deciding when and at what point clients are unable to make their own decisions. Secondly, APS has very few resources vis a vis child protective services. Although it is dealing with an exploding population and ever more complex cases, APS programs often must deal with decreasing numbers of staff and resources. Between 2007 and 2012, almost half of state APS programs had their budgets cut while 87% saw their reports and caseloads increase, some by as much as 100%.⁶

NAPSA has recommended to Congress that adult protective services, including older adult protective services, be funded under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)⁷ similar to what has been done for child abuse. Specifically, it has recommended that Congress “authorize a 10% set-aside of the \$2.3 billion available for VOCA to fund adult protective services and other elder abuse initiatives.”⁸

Children’s Justice Act Grants: The VOCA set-aside for certain child abuse grants is based on the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). CAPTA included program authorization for Children’s Justice Act grants, but did not fund them. Rather, it authorized funding for such grants through VOCA’s Crime Victims Fund. Consistent with CAPTA’s program authorization, VOCA authorized a set-aside from the Crime Victims Fund for the Children’s Justice Act grants. Annually, up to \$20 million may be set aside for such grants from the Fund. In FFY 2013, the federal Department of Justice distributed \$17 million from the Fund for Children’s Justice Act grants.

⁶ Testimony of Kathleen M. Quinn, Executive Director, National Adult Protective Services Association, Senate Special Committee on Aging Hearing: Broken Trust: Combating Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Seniors, January 28, 2015.

⁷ The federal Victims of Crime Act established a Crime Victims Fund. The Crime Victims Fund consists primarily of criminal fines and fees paid to the federal government and is administered by the Department of Justice.

⁸ Other victim services funded by VOCA include victim-witness, domestic violence, and sexual assault programs.

Children's Justice Act grants are provided to states to improve the assessment, investigation, and/or prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases. Typical Children's Justice Act grants include:

- developing curricula and conducting training for personnel in law enforcement and child protective services, as well as health and mental health professionals, prosecutors, and judges;
- establishing and supporting local and/or state child fatality review teams, including multidisciplinary training and team development; and
- supporting the enactment of laws to improve system response.

In order for a state to qualify to receive such grants, it must establish and maintain a multidisciplinary taskforce to review how the state handles civil and criminal child abuse and neglect cases. The taskforce must make recommendations for ways to improve handling of cases through reform of state law, regulations, and procedures and training and/or testing of experimental programs. States are also required to receive recommendations from the taskforce every three years and must implement recommendations or develop an alternative plan. In FY 2013-14, \$1.5 million in federal funds were available to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services for such grants.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families' Court Improvement Program: The funds set aside from the Crime Victims Fund for Children's Justice Act grants are not the only federal funds available to states to better serve dependent, abused, and neglected children. The federal Promoting Safe and Stable Families program,⁹ for example, authorizes grants to states and territories that meet specific federal requirements to prevent maltreatment in at-risk families, assure children's safety in the home, preserve intact families in which children have been maltreated, address problems of families whose children have been placed in foster care to enable timely reunification, and support adoptive families through supportive services. In addition to the federal funding for direct services to children and families, certain federal funds are set aside for related programs and activities. Such related programs and activities include, among others, the Court Improvement Program.

The Court Improvement Program provides grants to state court systems to conduct assessments of their foster care and adoption laws and judicial processes and to develop system improvements. In FFY 2013, \$29 million in funding was available for the Court Improvement Program nationwide.¹⁰ Activities funded through this program may include, for example:

⁹ Authorized under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act.

¹⁰ In FY 2013-14, \$937,000 in federal funds were available to Pennsylvania's Judicial System through the federal Court Improvement Program. The Pennsylvania Judicial System's Office of Children and Families is funded with federal Court Improvement Program funds.

- joint agency-court training,
- automated docketing and case tracking,
- linked agency-court data systems,
- time specific docketing,
- formalized relationships with the child welfare agency, and
- Children and Family Service Review¹¹ program improvement plan development and implementation.

The federal Victims of Child Abuse Act¹² also authorized several child welfare programs administered by the federal Department of Justice. Such funds support the expansion of Children's Advocacy Centers. Such centers coordinate multidisciplinary responses to child abuse to ensure child abuse victims receive the support services they need and do not experience additional trauma through the investigations. They also seek to improve the prosecution of child abuse cases through training and technical assistance to attorneys and others involved in criminal prosecution of child abuse. In FFY 2012, \$18 million was available nationwide for such programs.

¹¹Federal Children and Family Service periodic reviews of state child welfare systems to ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements.

¹² Title II of the Crime Control Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §13021 et seq.

III. Appendices

APPENDIX A

PRIOR PRINTER'S NO. 3874

PRINTER'S NO. 4097

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 929

Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY KNOWLES, HENNESSEY, BISHOP, D. COSTA, KOTIK, THOMAS, SAYLOR, MILLARD, READSHAW, MICOZZIE, BAKER, BROOKS, MAHONEY, WHITE, YOUNGBLOOD, CALTAGIRONE, MENTZER, BOBACK, TOBASH, GRELL, SWANGER, COHEN, HEFFLEY, GROVE, MURT, GINGRICH, EVERETT, NEILSON, KAUFFMAN, BIZZARRO, HARHAI, FLECK, GILLEN, GOODMAN, WATSON, McNEILL AND QUINN, JUNE 27, 2014

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

A RESOLUTION

Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of the existing network of elder abuse task forces in this Commonwealth and to assess the feasibility of expanding the network Statewide.

WHEREAS, The Department of Aging of the Commonwealth is responsible for oversight and implementation of the act of November 6, 1987 (P.L.381, No.79), known as the Older Adults Protective Services Act, (OAPSA) for individuals who are 60 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the percentage of persons 65 years of age and older, behind only Florida, Maine and West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, The department works closely with the 52 local area agencies on aging who implement the OAPSA program at the local level; and

WHEREAS, According to the department, in fiscal year ~~2011-2012~~ 2012-2013, there were over ~~18,000~~ 18,500 reports of abuse and given current trends in this Commonwealth and nationally, it is anticipated that this number will continue to rise; and

WHEREAS, Of the ~~18,000~~ 18,500 abuse reports, cases of neglect represent over ~~66%~~ 64% and financial exploitation represents the second most common and fastest growing category at 16% of all reports; and

Appendix A (Continued)

WHEREAS, Elder abuse victims need to not only receive protective services to cope with the harm that has been done to them, but they also need to have the ability to seek restitution and justice; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Aging Institute on Protective Services at Temple University has worked collaboratively with local area agencies on aging to establish multidisciplinary elder abuse task forces that bring together professionals from many different entities that work with victimized older adults in order to bring different but equally valuable knowledge and perspectives to work cooperatively in identifying and responding to elder victimization; and

WHEREAS, The 33 currently existing elder abuse task forces have proven that public awareness, education and community partnerships are crucial in combating elder abuse and that each existing task force is unique and tailored to meet the needs of each individual community and the various genres in those communities, including, but not limited to, social services, law enforcement and financial institutions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of the existing network of elder abuse task forces in this Commonwealth; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee review the structure of each existing elder abuse task force and develop a profile of the current task forces, recognizing that each model is uniquely designed due to the differing political and governmental structures in each jurisdiction as well as the various mechanisms that exist to meet the needs of vulnerable elders; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee identify key factors that contributed to the establishment and continued operation of the existing task forces, including, but not limited to, funding mechanisms utilized for operation of the task forces as well as barriers that were overcome in order to achieve the establishment of the task forces; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee identify local area agencies on aging service areas that do not currently have multidisciplinary elder abuse task forces, investigate the need to establish such task forces and make recommendations accordingly; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee prepare a report of its findings and recommendations and transmit copies of the report to the Aging and Older Adult Services Committee no later than six months after adoption of this resolution.

APPENDIX B

County Elder Abuse Task Force Survey of Area Agency on Aging Directors

House Resolution 929 directed the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study the existing network of Elder Abuse Task Forces and assess the feasibility of expanding the network statewide. Our study seeks to identify and profile each existing Elder Abuse Task Force in Pennsylvania and identify key factors contribution to its establishment and continued operation. It also seeks to identify counties in Area Agency on Aging (AAA) service areas that do not currently have a Task Force.

Survey Completion

Please complete this survey concerning the Elder Abuse Task Force(s) in each county served by your Area Agency on Aging. It is important that we have information for all 67 Pennsylvania counties.

If your Area Agency on Aging serves multiple counties, please complete a separate survey for each county. In some counties, multiple Elder Abuse Task Forces have been formed. If multiple task forces have been formed in your county, please complete a separate survey for each Elder Abuse Task Force in the county.

We ask that you complete the survey by March 25, 2015.

County Survey Response

1. County Identification:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Adams	<input type="checkbox"/> 18. Clinton	<input type="checkbox"/> 35. Lackawanna	<input type="checkbox"/> 52. Pike
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Allegheny	<input type="checkbox"/> 19. Columbia	<input type="checkbox"/> 36. Lancaster	<input type="checkbox"/> 53. Potter
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Armstrong	<input type="checkbox"/> 20. Crawford	<input type="checkbox"/> 37. Lawrence	<input type="checkbox"/> 54. Schuylkill
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Beaver	<input type="checkbox"/> 21. Cumberland	<input type="checkbox"/> 38. Lebanon	<input type="checkbox"/> 55. Snyder
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Bedford	<input type="checkbox"/> 22. Dauphin	<input type="checkbox"/> 39. Lehigh	<input type="checkbox"/> 56. Somerset
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Berks	<input type="checkbox"/> 23. Delaware	<input type="checkbox"/> 40. Luzerne	<input type="checkbox"/> 57. Sullivan
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Blair	<input type="checkbox"/> 24. Elk	<input type="checkbox"/> 41. Lycoming	<input type="checkbox"/> 58. Susquehanna
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Bradford	<input type="checkbox"/> 25. Erie	<input type="checkbox"/> 42. McKean	<input type="checkbox"/> 59. Tioga
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Bucks	<input type="checkbox"/> 26. Fayette	<input type="checkbox"/> 43. Mercer	<input type="checkbox"/> 60. Union
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Butler	<input type="checkbox"/> 27. Forest	<input type="checkbox"/> 44. Mifflin	<input type="checkbox"/> 61. Venango
<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Cambria	<input type="checkbox"/> 28. Franklin	<input type="checkbox"/> 45. Monroe	<input type="checkbox"/> 62. Warren
<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Cameron	<input type="checkbox"/> 29. Fulton	<input type="checkbox"/> 46. Montgomery	<input type="checkbox"/> 63. Washington
<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Carbon	<input type="checkbox"/> 30. Greene	<input type="checkbox"/> 47. Montour	<input type="checkbox"/> 64. Wayne
<input type="checkbox"/> 14. Centre	<input type="checkbox"/> 31. Huntingdon	<input type="checkbox"/> 48. Northampton	<input type="checkbox"/> 65. Westmoreland
<input type="checkbox"/> 15. Chester	<input type="checkbox"/> 32. Indiana	<input type="checkbox"/> 49. Northumberland	<input type="checkbox"/> 66. Wyoming
<input type="checkbox"/> 16. Clarion	<input type="checkbox"/> 33. Jefferson	<input type="checkbox"/> 50. Perry	<input type="checkbox"/> 67. York
<input type="checkbox"/> 17. Clearfield	<input type="checkbox"/> 34. Juniata	<input type="checkbox"/> 51. Philadelphia	

Appendix B (Continued)

Existence of a County Elder Abuse Task Force

2. Has an Elder Abuse Task Force been formed in the county as of January 2015?

- 2a. Yes
- 2b. No
- 2c. A Task Force was formed in the past, but it no longer functions.

If you checked 2b. or 2c. above, please proceed to answer questions 17 through 20.

If you checked 2a above, please proceed to question 3.

3. How many Elder Abuse Task Forces operate in your planning and service area?

- 3a. One (Task Force Name: _____)
- 3b. More than one (Name(s) of Other Task Forces if applicable)

4. The agency/organization or community group primarily/most responsible for the formation of the county Elder Abuse Task Force: (please check no more than two)

- 4a. The Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
- 4b. The AAA's Protective Service Provider Agency
- 4c. Other county or private social service agencies
- 4d. Local hospitals and/or health care providers
- 4e. The county district attorney
- 4f. The county commissioners
- 4g. The county judiciary
- 4h. Municipal law enforcement offices
- 4i. Members of the Local Legal Association
- 4j. Local clergy
- 4k. Other (specify) _____

5. The Elder Abuse Task Force's primary/core members include: (check all that apply)

- 5a. The County Area Agency on Aging Director
- 5b. The AAA Protective Service Supervisor
- 5c. The AAA Protective Service Workers
- 5d. The AAA Protective Service Provider agency staff
- 5e. The AAA Ombudsman
- 5f. The County District Attorney
- 5g. The County District Attorney's staff
- 5h. The County Sheriff and/or staff

Appendix B (Continued)

- 5i. Municipal law enforcement officers
- 5j. County Judge(s)
- 5k. Physician(s)
- 5l. Mental Health professional(s)
- 5m. Developmental Disability specialist(s)
- 5n. Financial agency representative(s)
- 5o. Clergy
- 5p. Humane Society/Animal Shelter representative(s)
- 5q. Domestic Violence agency staff
- 5r. Local Legal Association member(s)
- 5s. State agency licensing staff
- 5t. State Police
- 5u. Other (specify) _____

Major Function(s) of the County Elder Abuse Task Force

6. The major function(s) of the County Elder Abuse Task Force: (check all that apply)

- 6a. Review of specific cases to provide expert consultation to protective service providers
- 6b. Review of specific cases to plan and carry out coordinated investigations or care planning of protective service cases.
- 6c. Plan and carry out community elder abuse awareness and training events.
- 6d. Plan and carry out training events for professionals involved in protective services, including but not limited to protective service workers, health care professionals, law enforcement, district attorneys, the courts, etc.
- 6e. Keep members up to date about new services, programs, and relevant legislation.
- 6f. Other (specify) _____

7. If the Task Force reviews specific cases (items 6a and/or 6b above are checked) what types of cases are reviewed?

- 7a. All types of abuse and clients.
- 7b. Exclusively financial abuse cases
- 7c. Fatalities.
- 7d. High risk cases
- 7e. The focus is on medical and/or psychological aspect of cases.
- 7f. Other (specify) _____

Appendix B (Continued)

8. If the Task Force plans and carries out community awareness and training events (item 6c. above is checked), how frequently are such events conducted?

- 8a. Monthly
- 8b. Quarterly
- 8c. Annually
- 8d. As the need arises
- 8e. Other (specify) _____

9. If the Task Force plans and carries out training events for professionals (item 6d above is checked), how frequently are such events conducted?

- 9a. Monthly
- 9b. Quarterly
- 9c. Annually
- 9d. As the need arises
- 9e. Other (specify) _____

Elder Abuse Task Force Meetings

10. How often does the Task Force routinely meet?

- 10a. Monthly
- 10b. Quarterly
- 10c. Every six months
- 10d. Once a year
- 10e. On an as needed basis

11. Is attendance at scheduled Task Force meetings optional for core members?

- 11a. Optional
- 11b. Not optional/required (e.g., required for continued membership)

County Elder Abuse Task Force Staffing

12. How is the work of the County Elder Abuse Task Force staffed? (check one item that best describes how activities of the Task Force are staffed)

- 12a. Dedicated staff are assigned full time to coordinate the activities of the Task Force.
- 12b. Dedicated staff are assigned part time to coordinate the activities of the Task Force.
- 12c. Staff are not assigned to assist the Task Force.
- 12d. Task Force activities are performed by members on a volunteer basis.

Appendix B (Continued)

13. Which agency(ies) provides staff to coordinate the activities of the Task Force and what is your estimate of the number of hours of staff time involved over a one month period?

<u>Agency(ies)</u>	<u>Number of Hours</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 13a. Area Agency on Aging	13d. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 13b. District Attorney's Office	13e. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 13c. Other (please specify) _____	13f. _____

Funding for the Elder Abuse Task Force

14. Indicate the source(s) of direct funding for the Task Force and, if known, the estimated funding amount.

<u>Source of Funding</u>	<u>Estimated \$ Amount</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> 14a. Federal Older Americans Act funding	14j. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14b. Federal Social Service Block Grant funding	14k. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14c. Other Federal funding (specify) _____	14l. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14d. State AAA funding	14m. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14e. Other state funding (specify) _____	14n. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14f. County funding	14o. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14g. Foundations/United Way/Private, etc.	14p. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14h. Other (specify) _____	14q. _____
<input type="checkbox"/> 14i. Only in-kind support is provided	

15. If you checked 14i. above and no direct funding is provided for the Elder Abuse Task Force, please identify some of the reasons the Task Force may not require or receive direct funding.

Challenges Confronting Elder Abuse Task Force Formation and Operation

16. Please identify challenges that may confront a county Elder Abuse Task Force; and, if possible, comment on how such challenges maybe overcome. (check all that apply)

- 16a. Lack of participation by certain disciplines (specify) _____
- 16b. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____
- 16c. Client Confidentiality issues (specify) _____
- 16d. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____
- 16e. Members do not participate regularly _____
- 16f. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____
- 16g. Animosity between members _____
- 16h. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____

Appendix B (Continued)

- __ 16i. Lack of follow-through by members (specify) _____
- __ 16j. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____

- __ 16k. Lack of cases for review _____
- __ 16l. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____

- __ 16m. Members do not feel time is well spent _____
- __ 16n. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____

- __ 16o. Insufficient number of staff or staff time available to provide for Task Force participation. _____
- __ 16p. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____

- __ 16q. Lack of funding resources _____
- __ 16r. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____

- __ 16s. Other (specify) _____
- __ 16t. How such a challenge maybe overcome: _____

17. From your perspective, please rank the three most important factors in forming and contributing to an effective Elder Abuse Task Force. (Check 3 most important):

- ___ 17a. Strong public awareness of the existence of elder abuse.
- ___ 17b. Knowledge of elder abuse in the community among health and human service professionals, elected officials, law enforcement, etc.
- ___ 17c. Effective leadership.
- ___ 17d. Strong commitment to the Task Force’s identified goals and objectives.
- ___ 17e. Development of a strategic plan to implement the Task Force’s goals and objectives.
- ___ 17f. Formal arrangements for the Task Force operations (formal agreements/memorandum, bylaws, records of meetings, job descriptions, procedure manuals, etc.)
- ___ 17g. Technical assistance from state health and human service agencies.
- ___ 17h. Technical assistance from state law enforcement and victim advocacy agencies.
- ___ 17i. Absence of federal leadership and federal appropriations for elder abuse services.
- ___ 17j. Other (specify) _____

Counties Currently Without an Elder Abuse Task Force

18. If your county does not have an Elder Abuse Task Force, are there ways in which the county coordinates provision of service in complex protective service cases without relying on an Elder Abuse Task Force? _____

Appendix B (Continued)

19. In your view, is there currently a need for an Elder Abuse Task Force? If so, what major functions should the Task Force perform, and what is the key reason the county does not currently have a Task Force? _____

20. Please use this space to convey any other information you think may be important to the study. _____

Contact information for survey respondent for any follow-up questions:

Name: _____

Agency/organization and position: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

C. Response to This Report



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGING

June 12, 2015

Philip R. Durgin
Executive Director
Legislative Budget and Finance Committee
400 Finance Building
613 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8737

Dear Mr. Durgin:

Please know of our gratitude for the work completed by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, and in particular to the Project Manager, Maryann Nardone, Ph.D., to conduct such a thorough review of Elder Abuse Task Forces throughout the Commonwealth. We recognize that such task forces serve as a critical component of Pennsylvania's network for implementing the Older Adults Protective Services Act. In communities throughout the sixty-seven counties of our Commonwealth, Elder Abuse Task Forces serve as a key resource for information sharing, cross training, and case consultation as well as public awareness in their local areas.

The Department of Aging agrees with the recommendations made to support voluntary establishment of task forces, to expand partnership with the Pennsylvania Unified Judicial System and to advocate for additional federal funding. To this end, nearly 15 years ago the Department in partnership with the Institute on Protective Services at Temple University began providing funding and guidance to local Area Agencies on Aging in order to help and otherwise better support their efforts to establish and maintain elder abuse task forces. Over the years, the number of task forces has grown from a handful of counties to over half of the Commonwealth. We are committed to continue these efforts.

In addition, the Department is working to expand its public education efforts. During the past three years, the Department and its network of local Area Agencies on Aging have worked to increase the number of Elder Justice Day events as well as regional trainings for local district attorneys and agency on aging solicitors. In 2015, over 200 officials participated in such regional trainings which also offer continuing legal educational credits.

Regretfully, there is presently limited federal funding dedicated to the administration of an adult protective services program; and funding through the Older American's Act is also declining. The Department of Aging continues to provide increased funding through the Aging Services Block Grant to support a growing and complex Older Adults Protective Services program. As the number of older adults and the number of reports of elder abuse continue to increase, it is critical that we

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advocate for federal funding to also increase. This past fiscal year, the Department was one of the pilot states for the first ever National Adult Maltreatment Reporting System. We believe that our participation in the creation of such a national reporting system is an important first step that will enhance our ability to successfully advocate for additional federal funding for our older adult protective services.

Thank you again for your comprehensive review of Elder Abuse Task Forces throughout the Commonwealth and helping further understanding of these important local partnerships.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teresa Osborne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "O".

Teresa Osborne
Secretary of Aging