

ONONDAGA COUNTY  
ENHANCED MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM  
(E-MDT)

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Mary Panighetti  
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Onondaga County E-MDT

- E-MDT Coordinator
- Victim Advocate
- Abuse in Later Life Project Coordinator
- Representative from:
  - Onondaga County Sheriff's Office
  - Onondaga County District Attorney's Office
  - Onondaga County Department of Law
  - Onondaga County Department of Adult and Long Term Care
    - Adult Protective Services
    - Office for Aging
- Forensic Accountant
- Geriatric Psychiatrist

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Onondaga County- Hub E-MDT

How are we doing this work?

*New York State Office for Aging (NYSOFA)  
Elder Abuse Prevention Intervention (EAPI)  
Lifespan (Monroe County)*

- Enhancing the E-MDT we currently have
- Developing E-MDT's in surrounding Counties

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### What is an Enhanced Multi disciplinary Team (E-MDT)?

- The E-MDT
  - Is a team of professionals that meet to discuss and trouble shoot complex cases of financial exploitation of older adults
  - Is bound by the common purpose of addressing the safety and wellbeing of a victim of exploitation
- Cases are referred by financial advisors, Adult Protective Services, and other community service providers

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### Why do we need E-MDT's

- Victims of elder abuse are at a higher risk for:
  - negative physical and psychological symptoms
  - increased healthcare usage
  - mortality due to abuse
- The cost of financial exploitation has shown to cost states billions of dollars
  - in lost assets
  - increased need for social services and interventions

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### Functions of the E-MDT

- Provide expert consultation to service providers
- Plan and carry out coordinated investigations and or care planning
- Identify gaps in service provision and systems responses
- Update members about new services, programs and legislation
- Advocate for change through a Coordinated Community Response
  - Training events, outside coalition work

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## Why use an E-MDT?

- No evidenced based research supporting the positive impacts of E-MDT's (yet) but anecdotal evidence indicates benefits to victims and communities.
- Collaborative efforts have shown to be successful for financial restitution and more significantly the overall wellbeing for the victim.

National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)

**Complex cases require a complex response.**

**No one agency can address all of the needs of an older victim.**

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## Benefits for Victims of abuse

- Lessens the burden on the victim
  - Fewer systems to navigate
  - Enhances opportunity to access necessary services
- Provides more informal supports for victim, monitoring and follow up beyond the crisis (with the goal of reducing further incidences of exploitation)
- Provides creative approaches and solutions to complicated circumstances that could not be achieved through one single agency

**What does the victim want and how will the victim maintain his/her safety?**

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## Benefits for Service Provider

- Gain a more complete picture of the situation
  - Different disciplines provide different perspectives
  - Risk assessment
- Strengthen community relationships
- Enhance knowledge and understanding of systems and services for the elderly
  - Agency limitations
- Promote teamwork and cooperation

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## The E-MDT Meeting



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## 5 Elements of the E-MDT

- Shared Decision Making
- Partnership
- Interdependency
- Balanced Power
- Process

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## Case Review

- Introduction
  - Confidentiality Agreement
  - Agenda
- Presentation of the case
- Discussion of the case
- Identify potential recommendations
- Consensus Decisions and assignment of follow up tasks
- Risk assessment

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## Benefits of case review

- Additional forms of abuse or exploitation can be uncovered
- Team members can get immediate feedback on specific case details or evidence
- Work is assigned and divided to avoid duplication of services
- Plans are created to provide a victim focused response to the abuse
- Participants develop a greater respect for each agency and their respective contributions

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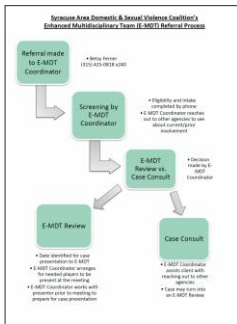
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## How can I bring a case to the E-MDT




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## Case Review- Sandra

Sandra

- 90 year old woman
- Living independently with minimal health and mobility issues
- She has a car and is able to drive

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### Case Review- Sandra

- Report from Financial Planner
  - Excessive withdrawals being made from accounts
  - Nearly \$180,000 taken
- Sandra reports her grandson and his girlfriend have been asking for help/money
  - Getting teeth repaired
  - Car payment and insurance
  - medicines

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### Case Review- Investigation

- January-May
- Included multiple visits to the home of Sandra and conversations with the grandson
- Dead Ends
- Sandra extremely protective of grandson
- Periodic reports of money she gave him

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### Case Review- Results

- Discussion of Case
  - \*Attendees
- Officer and ADA met after meeting to discuss charges
- Vera House Advocate coordinated visit with officer to Sandra's home
- Subpoena "pushed through" and all bank records were obtained
- Arrest of grandson and his girlfriend

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**Case Review- Sandra**

Questions and Discussion

Thank you!!

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**Resources**

- **The United States Department of Justice**
  - Elder Justice Initiative
    - <https://www.justice.gov/elderjustice>
- **The National Center on Elder Abuse**
  - <https://ncea.acl.gov/>
- **The National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse**
  - <http://preventelderabuse.org/>

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