

Aging and Adult Services Agency
Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan Report
(FY2018 Appropriation Act - Public Act 107 of 2017)

March 1, 2018

Sec. 1422. (1) *From the funds appropriated in part 1 for aging and adult services administration, not less than \$300,000.00 shall be allocated for the department to contract with the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan to provide the support and services necessary to increase the capability of the state's prosecutors, adult protective service system, and criminal justice system to effectively identify, investigate, and prosecute elder abuse and financial exploitation.*

(2) *By March 1 of the current fiscal year, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan shall provide a report on the efficacy of the contract to the state budget office, the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the house and senate fiscal agencies, and the house and senate policy offices.*



Michigan Department of
Health & Human Services

RICK SNYDER, GOVERNOR
NICK LYON, DIRECTOR

**PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS
ASSOCIATION of MICHIGAN**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2017**



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PAAM 2017 ELDER JUSTICE/AT-RISK ADULT PROJECT REPORT

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The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM) is a voluntary association of the 83 county prosecutors, the Attorney General, and the U.S.

Attorneys serving in Michigan. It is a non-profit Michigan Corporation, and is tax exempt under section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. PAAM was founded in 1928. Its mission is stated in Michigan Compiled Law Section 49.62: "It shall be the duty of the prosecuting attorneys' association to keep the prosecuting attorneys of the state informed of all changes in legislation, law, and matters pertaining to their office through the department of attorney general of the state of Michigan, to the end that a uniform system of conduct, duty and procedure be established in each county of the state."

PAAM recognizes the critical importance of elder and vulnerable adult abuse, exploitation, and neglect, and the heavy toll they incur on society. PAAM also recognizes that financial crimes against the elder and vulnerable adult population present unique challenges and obstacles to detection, recognition, investigation, and prosecution. As one of the nation's premier statewide prosecutor associations, PAAM is uniquely situated to support the detection and investigation of financial crimes against elders and vulnerable adults, and to provide training and tools to help Adult Protective Services, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, and other community partners detect and prevent these costly crimes. PAAM was one of the very first prosecutor associations in the country to create an elder and vulnerable adult abuse resource prosecutor position, and is working hard to increase awareness about elder and vulnerable adult abuse in Michigan.

PAAM's Elder Justice Project was formed on October 1, 2012 as a collaborative effort between the PAAM and the Adult Protective Services division of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Its goal is to provide training and support for professionals who identify, investigate, or prosecute the abuse (physical or financial) of vulnerable adults throughout the state of Michigan.

This report will highlight the efficacy of this project during the 2017 fiscal year, i.e. October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. The Elder Justice Project is solving problems, educating people, offering training to partners serving vulnerable adults, and assisting people as they prepare for the needs of two million Michigan vulnerable adults.

The primary goals of the project include:

- To solve problems
- Educate people on the issues related to vulnerable adult abuse

- Provide multidisciplinary training to partners serving vulnerable adults
- Assist investigative agencies and prosecutors as they prepare for the needs of what will soon become two million Michigan citizens
- Keep prosecutors current on the latest developments in the law
- Facilitate the flow of information between agencies
- Facilitate communication between counties, professionals and agencies

The EJP continues to act as a liaison between the state's prosecutors, law enforcement and Adult Protective Services as they investigate and prosecute vulnerable adult abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The EJP director also:

- Participates in the EJP Project Advisory Committee
- Serves as chairperson of the PREVNT Initiative PAAM Project Advisory Committee
- Serves as a member of the Michigan Association of Check Investigators and the Tri-County Loss Prevention Team
- Publishes newsletters
- Serves as a member of the Tri-County Elder Abuse Community Response Team
- Develops training
- Serves as a member of the work group developing the Michigan Elder Justice Coordinating Council

Elder Justice/At-Risk Adult Training and Workshops

EJP has created a workshop for protocol development. EJP has also developed and delivered training to victim advocates helping vulnerable adult receive the crime victim's rights they deserve. Most importantly, EJP had developed and continues to refine a core multidisciplinary training for APS workers, law enforcement, and prosecutors to enhance investigation and prosecution of vulnerable adult abuse.

**Table 1. Elder Justice/At-Risk Adult Program – Recap of Trainings
October 2016 to September 2017.**

Seminar	Dates	Participants	Objectives	Topics Included
<p>Multidisciplinary Vulnerable Adult Training</p> <p>Co-Hosted with Cass County Prosecutor</p> <p>Southwestern Michigan College, Dowagiac</p>	11/1/16	Law enforcement, APS, prosecutors	Provide training to law enforcement, APS, and prosecutors about identifying, investigating, and prosecuting vulnerable adult abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Sexual Assault -Parasitic Living -New legislation -Suspicious deaths
<p>“Senior Safe” Training</p> <p>Co-Hosted with LARA</p> <p>MSU Management Education Center, Auburn Hills</p>	12/8/16	Financial services professionals, LARA employees	Provide training to professional money managers and account representatives on vulnerable adult abuse, identifying embezzlement, and fraud, and reporting duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Parasitic Living -New legislation -Banking rules -Probate/estate topics
<p>Vulnerable Adult Boot Camp</p> <p>Oakland Community College Police Academy, Auburn Hills</p>	2/1/17	Law enforcement	Intensive day-long primer on investigating vulnerable adult abuse cases to police academy class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Sexual Assault -Parasitic Living -Suspicious deaths -Subpoenas & warrants -Bank records -Working with APS

Elder Law & Estates: What Law Enforcement & Prosecutors Need to Know Crowne Plaza, Lansing	4/10/17	Law enforcement, Prosecutors, APS, guardians and conservators	Introduction to probate and estate topics commonly encountered in elder fraud cases, otherwise unfamiliar to law enforcement / prosecutors	-Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Misuse of guardianships, POAs, joint bank accounts -Medicaid fraud -Building a paper case
APS Elder Abuse Training Double Tree by Hilton, Grand Rapids	5/19/17	APS workers and supervisors	Provide working understanding of prosecutor duties, how to work effectively with police, clarify APS policies	-Criminal Justice System -Prosecutor duties -Police duties -Effective report writing -Joint Investigations -Model Protocol
APS Elder Abuse Training Holiday Inn, Flint	5/22/17 (AM)	APS workers and supervisors	Provide working understanding of prosecutor duties, how to work effectively with police, clarify APS policies	-Criminal Justice System -Prosecutor duties -Police duties -Effective report writing -Joint Investigations -Model Protocol
Multidisciplinary Vulnerable Adult Training (Intensive ½ Day Seminar) Holiday Inn, Flint	5/22/17 (PM)	Law enforcement, APS, prosecutors	Provide training to law enforcement, APS, and prosecutors about identifying, investigating, and prosecuting vulnerable adult abuse	-Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Sexual Assault -Parasitic Living -New legislation -Suspicious deaths

Community Vulnerable Adult Seminar Co-Hosted with Midland County Prosecutor Holiday Inn, Midland	5/24/17	Law enforcement, APS, prosecutors, general public	Provide introduction to basics of vulnerable adult / elder abuse, fraud, and neglect	-Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Sexual Assault -Parasitic Living -Model Protocol -Community Solutions -New legislation -Suspicious deaths
Community Vulnerable Adult Seminar Co-Hosted with Grand Traverse County Prosecutor Twin Lakes Lodge, Traverse City	6/2/17	Law enforcement, APS, prosecutors, general public	Provide introduction to basics of vulnerable adult / elder abuse, fraud, and neglect	-Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Sexual Assault -Parasitic Living -Model Protocol -Community Solutions -New legislation -Suspicious deaths
Annual Elder Abuse Summit Comfort Inn Conference Center, Mount Pleasant	6/21/17	Law enforcement, APS, prosecutors, elder law practitioners, guardians and conservators, medical personnel, general public	Provide new information about the changing world of vulnerable adult abuse, including developments in medical science	-Legal Update -Changes in the brain of stroke/dementia victims -Internet safety for seniors -Advocating for Vulnerable Adults -Ethics -Victim Services for Seniors
APS Elder Abuse Training Okemos Conference Center, Okemos	6/26/17	APS workers and supervisors	Provide working understanding of prosecutor duties, how to work effectively with police, clarify APS policies	-Criminal Justice System -Prosecutor duties -Police duties -Effective report writing -Joint Investigations -Model Protocol

<p>Presentation to the Grand Rapids / Kent County Area Agency on Aging</p> <p>AAA Offices, Grand Rapids</p>	7/10/17	Local seniors and advocates	Provide introduction to basics of vulnerable adult / elder abuse, fraud, and neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Parasitic Living -Model Protocol -Community Solutions -New legislation -Advocacy for Seniors
<p>Kalamazoo Law Enforcement Seminar</p> <p>Co-Hosted with Kalamazoo County Sheriff</p> <p>County Offices, Kalamazoo</p>	7/19/17	Law Enforcement	Intensive day-long primer on investigating vulnerable adult abuse cases to sheriff's deputies and local law enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Sexual Assault -Parasitic Living -Suspicious deaths -Subpoenas & warrants -Bank records -Working with APS
<p>APS Elder Abuse Training</p> <p>Comfort Suites, Benton Harbor</p>	7/21/17	APS workers and supervisors	Provide working understanding of prosecutor duties, how to work effectively with police, clarify APS policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Criminal Justice System -Prosecutor duties -Police duties -Effective report writing -Joint Investigations -Model Protocol
<p>National Institute for the Prosecution of Elder Abuse</p> <p>Hosted by DOJ</p> <p>Des Moines, IA</p>	8/7/17-8/11/17	Prosecutors only	PAAM was invited to help train prosecutors from around the country to effectively prosecute elder abuse / financial abuse cases in intensive week-long institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Investigation -Working with APS -Handling bank records -Building a case without a victim -Working with APS and other services providers -Trial strategies -Ethics

Multidisciplinary Vulnerable Adult Training Embassy Suites by Hilton, Troy	9/15/17	Law enforcement, APS, prosecutors	Provide training to law enforcement, APS, and prosecutors about identifying, investigating, and prosecuting vulnerable adult abuse	-Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Sexual Assault -Parasitic Living -New legislation -Suspicious deaths
State Ombudsman Annual Conference Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth	9/21/17	State Ombudsmen	Presentation to state ombudsmen on elder abuse, financial abuse, and the role of police and prosecutors	-Investigations inside care facilities -Working with APS -Joint Investigations -Collecting Evidence
Multidisciplinary Vulnerable Adult Training Co-Hosted with Kent County Prosecutor Kent County Area Agency on Aging Building, Grand Rapids	9/26/17	Law enforcement, APS, prosecutors	Provide training to law enforcement, APS, and prosecutors about identifying, investigating, and prosecuting vulnerable adult abuse	-Elder Abuse -Financial Exploitation -Sexual Assault -Parasitic Living -New legislation -Suspicious deaths

Technical Assistance

The EJP provides technical assistance to prosecuting attorneys, adult protective service workers and law enforcement by providing resource material, consultations, newsletters, webinars, and listserv. We also assisted investigators and prosecutors as they solved problems on individual cases. We also helped develop a ***Vulnerable Adult Incident Report*** to help law enforcement during the initial investigations. We have been promoting this tool at our trainings, and a copy

is available for download on the PAAM website.

Vulnerable Adult Abuse Protocol Development 43 Counties with a Protocol for the Investigation of Vulnerable Adult Abuse

When we began the Elder Justice Project none of Michigan's 83 counties had a protocol for the investigation of vulnerable adult abuse. After training, Michigan now has 43 counties with a multi-agency protocol for the investigation of vulnerable adult abuse. Many other counties are in the process of adopting a protocol.

Listserv

EJP created a listserv for individuals involved in the investigation and prosecution of vulnerable adult abuse. The purpose of the listserv is to provide immediate updates regarding legislation, case law, and current scams. We pool our knowledge to answer questions regarding current investigations, find solutions to recurring problems and share information.



The listserv is relatively new. We currently have approximately 200 subscribers. Membership includes prosecutors, law enforcement, adult protective services, state ombudsmen, LARA, AASA, DHHS, forensic pathologists, medical death investigators and members of American Indian Tribal Law Enforcement, among others.

PREVNT PREVENT ELDER AND VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION TODAY

The Aging & Adult Services Agency, formerly Office of Services to the Aging, has granted funding to the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan to continue its work on the PREVNT Initiative, and expand on the nine-month pilot program it began in 2014. Primarily it allows PAAM to hire an investigator to provide investigative assistance to the original four pilot counties, as well as any referrals from all other counties in Michigan. We also have continued to increase reporting and the use of multidisciplinary teams. PAAM hired retired police detective Thomas Holcomb as its PREVNT Initiative Elder Justice Financial Abuse Investigator in 2015, and he has continued his excellent work for Michigan's prosecutors and law enforcement since that time.

We are currently working with DHHS, Elder Law of Michigan (ELM), and other PREVNT grantees to establish a statewide Elder Justice Coordinating Council, that will provide assistance to community groups and local agencies working to raise awareness of elder abuse.

Future

SUMMIT – The 6th Annual Michigan Elder Justice/At-Risk Adult Summit is scheduled for July 17th, 2018 at the Lansing Center, Lansing, MI.

TRAINING & MORE – EJP is embarking on an ambitious training schedule for 2018. Future trainings have been scheduled throughout the year. Please see the PAAM website for a complete list of trainings, as well as online content including power points, research, outreach materials for the public, and more.