

**Aging and Adult Services Agency**  
**Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan Report**  
(FY2019 Appropriation Act - Public Act 207 of 2018)

**March 1, 2019**

**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.*



**PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS  
ASSOCIATION of MICHIGAN**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2018**



PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION of MICHIGAN  
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LANSING, MICHIGAN 48913

## PAAM 2017 ELDER JUSTICE/AT-RISK ADULT PROJECT (EJP) REPORT

Ryan Painter is PAAM's Elder Justice Resource Prosecutor ("EJP"). He has 14 years of experience in litigation and prosecution, and previously served as an APA in Shiawassee County.



Created October 1, 2012, the Elder Justice Project is a collaborative effort between the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and Adult Protective Services

to provide training and support for those professionals involved in the investigation and prosecution of the abuse of vulnerable adults throughout the state of Michigan.

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

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 also:

- Participates in the EJP Project Advisory Committee
- Serves as chairperson of the PREVNT Initiative PAAM Project Advisory Committee
- Teaches as a faculty member for the National Institute for the Prosecution of Elder Abuse
- Serves as a member of the Michigan Association of Check Investigators and the Tri-County Loss Prevention Team
- Serves as a member of the Tri-County Elder Abuse Community Response Team
- Develops trainings and informational materials
- Serves as a member of the work group developing the Michigan Elder Justice Coordinating Council
- Partners with the Department of Health and Human Services to provide training to their workers, as well as coordinate multidisciplinary training efforts between DHHS and local law enforcement
- Promotes use of the Michigan Vulnerable Adult Model Protocol
- Promotes use of the Vulnerable Adult Incident Report tool

## 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.**

| <b>Seminar</b>   | <b>Dates</b> | <b>Participants</b>   | <b>Objectives</b>  | <b>Topics Included</b>  |
|--|--------------|---|--|---|
| State Bar of Michigan Elder Law & Disability Conference (Bay City) | 10-6-17      | Elder Law & Disability Attorneys                                  | Teach attorneys how to better protect their clients from abuse and financial exploitation  | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-New legislation  |
| Multidisciplinary Training (Jackson)                               | 11-17-17     | Police<br>APS Staff<br>Prosecutors                                | Train attendees how to work together and leverage their various abilities to improve outcomes for elder abuse investigations                     | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Sexual Assault<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-New Legislation<br>-Suspicious Deaths |
| Victim Rights Conference (Frankenmuth)                             | 12-5-17      | Victim Rights Coordinators  | Teach victim rights coordinators the basics of elder abuse cases, including how to improve the courtroom experience for vulnerable adult victims | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Sexual Assault<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-Victim Centered Case                  |
| Allegan Vulnerable Adult Network Meeting (Allegan)                 | 3-9-18       | Police<br>APS Staff<br>Prosecutors<br>Attorneys<br>Social Workers | Increase awareness of elder abuse and how to prevent it, report it, and help victims   | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-Prevention   |

|  |                      |   |   |  |
|--|----------------------|---|---|--|
| Multidisciplinary Training (Cadillac)                                | 4-6-18               | Police<br>APS Staff<br>Prosecutors  | Train attendees how to work together and leverage their various abilities to improve outcomes for elder abuse investigations                            | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Sexual Assault<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-New Legislation<br>-Suspicious Deaths  |
| Community Awareness Presentation (Owosso)                            | 5-24-18              | Social Workers<br>Medical Staff<br>Nursing Staff<br>APS Workers   | Increase awareness of elder abuse and how to prevent it, report it, and help victims  | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-Prevention  |
| Victim Rights Seminar (Shanty Creek)                                 | 6-13-18              | Victim Rights Coordinators  | Teach victim rights coordinators the basics of elder abuse cases, including how to improve the courtroom experience for vulnerable adult victims        | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Sexual Assault<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-Victim Centered Case   |
| Michigan Vulnerable Adult Summit (Lansing)                           | 7-17-18              | Police<br>APS Staff<br>Prosecutors<br>Attorneys<br>Social Workers<br>Medical Staff<br>Nursing Staff<br>General Public | Annual statewide summit hosted by PAAM, focused on current trends, legislative update, best practices, and general awareness                            | -Geriatric Update<br>-Age & Poverty<br>-Midland Case Study<br>-Expert Panel Q&A  |
| National Institute for the Prosecution of Elder Abuse (Philadelphia) | 8-6-18 to<br>8-10-18 | Prosecutors   | Funded by the Department of Justice, designed to teach prosecutors from around the country how to effectively apply best practices to elder abuse cases | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Sexual Assault<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-Victim Centered Case<br>-Suspicious Deaths<br>-Best Practices<br>-Litigations Tips |

|  |         |                                    |  |   |
|--|---------|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Prosecuting Attorneys of Michigan Summer Conference (Mackinac) | 8-24-18 | Prosecutors                        | Unit update for PAAM membership at Mackinac  | -Training Opportunities<br>-New Legislation<br>-Upcoming Events   |
| Multidisciplinary Training (Midland)                           | 9-28-18 | Police<br>APS Staff<br>Prosecutors | Train attendees how to work together and leverage their various abilities to improve outcomes for elder abuse investigations | -Elder Abuse<br>-Financial Exploitation<br>-Sexual Assault<br>-Parasitic Living<br>-New Legislation<br>-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 (Model Vulnerable Adult Protocol or “MVP”). After training and working diligently, Michigan now has 48 signed MVP agreements covering 50 counties. 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.

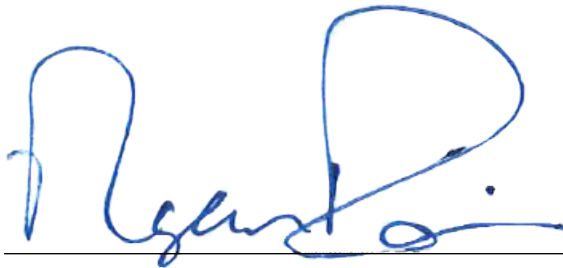
**PREVNT**  
**Prevent Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Today**

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 (EJCC). The EJCC will provide assistance to community groups and local agencies working to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation.

**Future**

**TRAINING & MORE** – EJP is embarking on an ambitious training schedule for 2019. 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.



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Ryan C. Painter  
Director of the Elder Justice Project  
Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

2-5-19

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Date

## APPENDIX OF ATTENDEES

### 2017-2018 Trainings Attendees Breakdown

**Training City:** Jackson

**Training Date:** November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**APS Workers:** 11

**Law enforcement:** 5

**Prosecutors:** 1

**Licensing professionals:** 5

**Others:** 5 (1 Law Clerk, 1 medical Examiner, 2 Tri-County Aging professionals, 1 Home Help Services)

**= 27**

**Training City:** Kalamazoo (Radisson Hotel)

**Training Date:** February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

**APS Workers:** 12

**Law enforcement:** 8

**Prosecutors:** 2

**Licensing professionals:** 5

**Others:** 21 (7 Homecare professionals, 4 Financial Institutions, 2 Tri-County Aging professionals, 3 Senior Services, 1 Licensing Agency, 1 Law firm, 5 Other)

**= 48**

**Training City:** Brighton (Homewood Suites)

**Training Date:** March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**APS Workers:** 17

**Law enforcement:** 1

**Prosecutors:** 2

**Victim Advocates:** 2

**Independent Living (SOM):** 2

**Community Mental Health in Emergency Services:** 2

**Others:** 8

**= 34**

**Training City:** Cadillac (Evergreen Resort)

**Training Date:** April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**APS Workers:** 9

**Law enforcement:** 5

**Prosecutors:** 3

**Victim Advocates:** 4

**Medical/Health professionals:** 9

**Aging Commission/Councils:** 6

**Senior centers/services:** 7

**Living Centers/Home Care:** 5

**= 48**



**Training City:** Lansing (Lansing Center – Summit)  
**Training Date:** July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
**APS Workers:** 96  
**Law enforcement:** 9  
**Prosecutors:** 8  
**Other Legal professionals:** 8  
**Victim Advocates:** 5  
**Community Mental Health in Emergency Services:** 2  
**Licensing Consultant:** 9  
**Medical professionals:** 6  
**Home Care/Services:** 23  
**Financial Services:** 3  
**Social Worker:** 3  
**Aging Commission/ Council:** 2  
**Others:** 5  
**= 179**