

**Aging and Adult Services Agency**  
**Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan Report**  
(FY2021 Appropriation Act - Public Act 166 of 2020)

**March 1, 2021**

*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.*





# PAAM ANNUAL REPORT FY2020

## Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan



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# PAAM'S ONLINE PRESENCE

PAAM recognized at the beginning of the pandemic that traditional trainings held in-person around the state would no longer work. So, we got smart, and went online.

- PAAM created a new series of topical forums hosted at MIPAAM.com and our Elder Justice unit has access to over 1060 registered members, including elected prosecutors and sheriffs, APS workers and police detectives, elder law attorneys, and other professionals that work to protect vulnerable adults. This allows each member to share information, training opportunities, and best practices, and keep abreast of upcoming legal changes and new funding opportunities, etc.
- PAAM posted a series of new hour-long training videos to its website, and these videos are available to all prosecutors in Michigan to help them understand the dynamics of elder abuse and how to effectively prosecute them. The videos were recorded from the training webinars hosted during the Summer of 2020, which included information about:
  - Elder Abuse basics
  - Cognitive aging effects on older adults
  - How to investigate cases involving financial services providers (e.g. banks)
  - Complex financial fraud cases involving vulnerable adults



# TRAINING SUMMARY

## FY2020 Trainings

PAAM began FY2020 with in-person trainings then swiftly transitioned to online webinars and content delivered via email and forum. Below are our major trainings from FY2020.

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	DATE	ATTENDEES
Law Enforcement Elder Fraud Training	Sandusky	1/16	42
Multidisciplinary Team Training	Muskegon	2/24	41
Intro to Elder Abuse	Webinar	4/9	235
Cognitive Aging for Prosecutors	Webinar	4/23	143
Elder Abuse & Banks	Webinar	5/7	181
Elder Abuse Case Studies	Webinar	5/21	114
How to Investigate Elder Abuse	Webinar	6/5	83
National Credit Union Conference	Webinar	10/19-12/7	212 <sup>[TA(1)]</sup>
<b>Total Attendees trained</b>			<b>1051</b>

## Attendee Break Down

In 2020, attendees were largely APS and law enforcement, although an increased number of prosecutors attended (due to the convenience of the online format). Additional professionals to collaborate with, who routinely discover elder abuse, include elder law attorneys, investment professionals, and bank employees. PAAM was invited to speak at an online conference co-hosted by the National Association of Credit Unions (NASCUS) and the Credit Union National Association (CUNA). PAAM looks forward to new opportunities to increase our audience of allied professionals in the years to come.

# PAAM PARTICIPATION IN THE AG'S ELDER ABUSE TASK FORCE

PAAM Elder Justice Program Director, Ryan Painter, was appointed Chairperson of the Law Enforcement Training Subcommittee. Mr. Painter has played an active role in producing elder abuse training videos which have been uploaded to the state online training website (Mi-TRAIN) for viewing by all of Michigan's law enforcement. Law enforcement can register on the Mi-TRAIN website to view all the videos, and thereby learn how to better investigate elder abuse and elder fraud cases. PAAM has posted four of these training videos to Mi-TRAIN so far, with 4,548 law enforcement having viewed them to-date. The training videos include:

- "Investigating Elder Abuse: Joint Banks Accounts"
- "Investigating Elder Abuse: Vulnerable Adult Incident Report"
- "APS & Banks: Partners in Investigating Elder Financial Abuse"
- "Investigating Elder Abuse: Collecting Key Evidence".

Mr. Painter has also played an active role as a member of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Drafting Committee and helped author the new Michigan Vulnerable Adult Team Protocol (Mi-VAT), which at the time of writing is in draft form and should be completed and published, by the task force, during 2021. This new protocol is a tool for local counties to increase communication and resource sharing by agencies involved in investigating elder and vulnerable adult abuse, including prosecutors, law enforcement, APS, and other local stakeholders.

## CONCLUSION:

While 2020 was a challenging year, PAAM looks forward to moving ahead with MDHHS to meet its FY2021 Elder Justice Program goals. PAAM will continue its work with the Attorney General's Elder Abuse Task Force. PAAM intends to offer training on the Mi-VAT protocol and offer support to local prosecutors, police, and APS to make this a reality. PAAM also intends to continue its help and support to our local bank and credit union partners. Finally, PAAM looks forward to resuming its role as the co-host of the MDHHS Michigan Elder Abuse Summit.

# PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN



FY2020 Annual Report to AASA

/S/ Ryan C. Painter

Date: 1/26/2021

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