



Pilot Project: Training for APS Caseworkers on Gathering Information about Clients' Decision-making Abilities

Planning Project Committee (PPC) Members – Phase One and Phase Two

Robert Abrams, MD, is a Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine and an Attending Psychiatrist at New York-Presbyterian Hospital. He is board-certified in both General and Geriatric Psychiatry, but exclusively sees patients 60+. Since the 1980s, Dr. Abrams has published extensively in the field of geriatric psychiatry, focusing on treatment of geriatric depression, suicide, personality disorders and self-neglect in the elderly. Dr. Abrams is also a member of the NYC Elder Abuse Center's elder abuse multidisciplinary teams.

Pam Ansell, MSW, is the Director of Special Projects in the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine. Ms. Ansell assists NYCEAC with numerous projects including coordinating the APS Decision-making Ability pilot training project. Ms. Ansell has been involved with the Division's palliative care consultation service, assisting with administration and program development. Additionally, Ms. Ansell leads the Geriatric Fellows' Psychosocial Consortium, bringing together the NY metropolitan area geriatric fellowship programs to strengthen psychosocial education for geriatric fellows.

Risa Breckman, LCSW, is the Director of the NYC Elder Abuse Center, a project of Weill Cornell Medicine's Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. Ms. Breckman has worked in the field of elder justice for more than three decades in numerous clinical and educational capacities. In addition, throughout her career, Ms. Breckman has developed innovative prevention and intervention programs. She is currently seeking to replicate a few of these in an effort to assist as many elder abuse victims as possible in NYC and beyond.

***Jean Callahan Esq, MSW**, is the Director of the Brookdale Center on Healthy Aging of Hunter College. She presents frequently on elder abuse, financial exploitation, guardianship, and access to health care for older adults. Prior to joining Brookdale, Jean provided direct legal services for older New Yorkers and was the founding Director of the Guardianship Project at the Vera Institute of Justice, which provides high quality Article 81 guardianship services for incapacitated elderly New Yorkers regardless of their ability to pay for services. Jean is on NYCEAC's Steering Committee and participates on NYCEAC's MDTs.

Deborah-Holt Knight is the Deputy Commissioner, NYC Adult Protective Services (APS). Having a passion for working with vulnerable New Yorkers and staff development, she has been on the APS team for 31 years, starting in 1985 as a caseworker, assessing clients for eligibility, investigating allegations of abuse, interacting with law enforcement and testifying in court hearings. She is now responsible for the citywide operations and administration of APS. In this capacity she is developing policy and procedures, and providing training and community outreach.

Jason Karlawish, MD, is a Professor of Medicine, Medical Ethics and Health Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. He cares for patients at the Penn Memory Center and directs the Neurodegenerative Disease Ethics and Policy Program. He has investigated the development of Alzheimer's disease treatments and diagnostics, informed consent, quality of life, research and treatment decision-making, and voting by persons with cognitive impairment and residents of long term care facilities. His research in these areas has also led to an interest in the assessment of capacity in older adults. Dr. Karlawish has worked with colleagues to develop new, innovative tools to assist physicians and other professionals in the assessment of capacity.

Mark Lachs, MD, MPH, is NYCEAC's Medical Director, the Irene and Roy Psaty Distinguished Professor of Medicine at WCMC, the Co-Chief of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, and the Director of Geriatrics for the NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System. Both a clinician and a researcher, Dr. Lachs has conducted numerous studies of elder abuse outcomes and epidemiology, and he is principal investigator of the largest longitudinal study of elder abuse victims. He has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization's international screening study of elder abuse.

Veronica LoFaso, MD, is an Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital within the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine. She provides geriatric medicine consultations to NYCEAC's MDTs, helping the teams evaluate and respond to the myriad medical issues that are presented to them. An award-winning educator, she has developed and conducted numerous elder abuse trainings throughout the greater NYC area and nationally. She has managed cases of elder abuse in NYPH's Geriatrics out-patient and house call practice.

Nancy Needell, MD, is an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medicine and is double-boarded in both Forensic and Geriatric Psychiatry. She spent several years working as a forensic psychiatrist, treating and evaluating patients and educating judges, lawyers, and other professionals working in the criminal justice system. Currently, she works in the Psychiatric Emergency Room and will be the psychiatrist for Cornell's Geriatric Psychiatry Mobile Crisis Team, which is scheduled to be operational in the coming weeks. Dr. Needell is also a member of NYCEAC's elder abuse multidisciplinary teams.

Geoffrey L. Rogers is the Director of Learning and Development at the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging at Hunter College. He has more than two decades of professional experience helping individuals and organizations learn, manage change and seize new opportunities. Prior to joining Brookdale in 2007 as Director of Learning and Development, Geoff was Director of Operations for the New York City Home Energy Assistance Program. He worked in advertising, publishing and marketing and served as a Director of Special Projects, Director of Training and Director of Operations for New York City Adult Protective Services.

Charlie Sabatino, JD, is the Director of The American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, which examines a wide range of laws related issues affecting older persons. This work results in valuable research, resources, conferences, technical assistance and training programs, and demonstration projects of considerable value to the legal profession, other helping professions, and the public at large. The ABA Commission on Law and Aging has national reach and will assist in disseminating the project's results nationally.

* **Lin Saberski** was the Deputy Commissioner of NYC APS for close to 16 years. During her tenure, APS established linkages with the NYPD, District Attorneys and many varied community based organizations and institutions. Ms. Saberski is a member of the Steering Committee of NYCEAC, a CoChair of the New York County Elder Fatality Review Committee and won a 2008 Sloan Award for excellence in government.

Joy Solomon, Esq, is the Director and Managing Attorney of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, an emergency shelter for elder abuse victims. Ms. Solomon spearheaded the formation of the Weinberg Center in 2005, as well as the SPRING Alliance in 2012, a national network of elder abuse shelters working collaboratively with community organizations, including APS, hospitals, and case management organizations, to help support the elder abuse victims they serve. Joy serves on the board of the National Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and NYCEAC's Steering Committee.

*PPC Member – Phase One Only