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Protecting Vulnerable Populations

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August 1, 2012

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Today's Speaker

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Discussion Outline

- Who are we protecting?
- What are we protecting them from?
- How do we protect them?



Who are we protecting?

- Youth
 - Preschool
 - School-age
 - Teens
- Seniors



What are we protecting them from?

Abuse can be defined as any behavior directed toward a child or senior by anyone with power over them such as a parent, guardian, care giver, other family member, or other adult or youth, who endangers or impairs their physical or emotional health and development.



Youth & Senior Abuse Statistics

- Estimated 4-6% of elderly in the US
- 500,000 seniors annually
- 6 million children annually
- 30% of abused youth will abuse
- 90% of youth know their abuser

US Department of Health and Human Services



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Who Abuses?

- Someone with power
 - Physical or emotional
 - Control or status
- Someone they know
 - Privacy



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Types of abuse

- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Financial



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Physical abuse

An injury or pattern of injuries that are not accidental.

- Signs
 - Physical
 - Behavioral



Emotional abuse

Any chronic and persistent act by someone with power that endangers an individual's mental or emotional health

- Signs
 - Physical
 - Behavioral



Sexual abuse

The sexual assault or sexual exploitation of an individual, it may consist of numerous acts over a long period or a single incident.

- Signs
 - Physical
 - Behavioral



Neglect

Failure to protect and provide food, shelter, clothing and/or hygiene, supervision and/or care.

- Signs
 - Physical
 - Behavioral



Financial abuse

Stealing money, changing accounts or legal documents, failure to pay bills and/or committing fraud.

- Signs
 - Sudden changes
 - Unexplained actions



How do we protect them?

- No single action
- Comprehensive approach
- Strength vs. Weakness
- Must reflect current trends



How do we protect them?

- Policy
- Selection
- Training
- Supervision
- Communication



Policy

- Board approval
- General outline of philosophies
- Written and communicated
- Reviewed and updated
- Practices developed by leadership



Selection

- Position Descriptions
 - Qualifications
 - Consistent with policy
- Code of Conduct



Selection

- Screening
 - Application
 - Background checks
 - Interviews
 - References



Training

- Staff (employed and volunteer)
- Clients
- Stakeholders and Community
- Supervisors



Training

- Policies & procedures
- Define
- Protection strategies
- Responding & reporting



Supervision

- Standards of conduct
- Online
- Reinforcing behaviors



Supervision

- Strategies
 - One on One
 - Outside Contact
 - Private areas



Communication

- Clients
- Staff (employed and volunteer)
- Stakeholders and Community
- Feedback systems
- Reporting



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Wrap-up

- Who we protect
- What we prevent
- How we protect



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Resources

Elder Abuse & Neglect:
National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)
www.preventelderabuse.org

Helpguide Resource Center
www.helpguide.org

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Resources

Child Abuse & Neglect:
US Department of Health and Human Services
www.childwelfare.org

Safe-Wise Consulting
www.safe-wise.com



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