

Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

A better quality of life for seniors, their children and grand children

The NSC FOGHORN™



Volume 3, issue 1

January 8, 2004

Special points of interest:

A new survey by the American Prosecutors Research Institute shows the difficulties in gathering and obtaining evidence of elder abuse and prosecuting offenders. The other chief issues prosecutors must deal with are —

- Diminished mental capacity of the victim — 93%
- Physical health of the victim — 76%
- Cooperation by the victim — 62%
- Proving undue influence — 53%
- Witness intimidation — 34.5%

The above shows the most difficult aspect of cases and the % of local prosecutors reporting concern.

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A New Years Message From the NSC President

In the Foghorn this month Vern Perry, our Vice President tells of the experience his wife Janice and he have been experiencing in an unbelievable scam by a senior on a senior. It was only because of Janice's compassion as a caring person that the scam was even discovered and uncovered. You will read all about it in the Foghorn and our February meeting will address that problem and what can be done about it. We do appreciate the help that Metro has provided in this case but thanks only to the assertiveness of Vern and Janice. What concerns me is that when we discover one case there more than likely is another fifty cases going undiscovered. What can we do about it is a great question? If we had politicians and a news media that really did their jobs it would be a lot of help. What they mostly do is play games as politicians to raise reelection money and so, is of little help with serious people needs. And of little help is the news media that spends ninety percent of their time on murders, drunks, car accident and stupid things like a juvenile multi-millionaire spoiled brat getting married in the evening and annulling it when sober in the morning. Neither entity seem to get it that people would like real people issues in the community covered and worked on where they live, work and invest their life savings hoping to buy a home and raise their kids to be responsible citizens.

An interesting development along that line is taking place is a huge multi hundreds of millions of dollars con job by our Clark County Sheriff Bill Young. His sales pitch is that we need hundreds of new cops, machines and brick and mortar in order to keep up with the 90,000 (or whatever) people that move here and 30,000 that leave each year. And of course he expects "we" oldsters to help pick up the tab, even those who have lived here 80 years. Why should we be expected by him to pick up the cost to police of the latest bunch of criminals imported here because of the politicians "Grow & Die" philosophy of doing business? Shouldn't this cost be born by the developers, casinos and politicians who are responsible for this Grow & Die mentality? I have told Sheriff Young in no uncertain terms at a public meeting that he should go to the politicians and their money trough (developers, casinos and service industry) for the money. We will do much more on this in the future as the battle for more humongous debt heats up.

Along that line, recently I had occasion to call the LVMPD Southeast Area Command about some abandoned vehicles and several boats on the street, with one having an expired California license, where I wanted Metro to do their "neighborhood" job. Well guess what? Weeks go by and nothing happens. So I went to their new building on Harmon and Sandhill and guess what the two people I talked with said? "Well with 5,000 people a month moving here", their usual Blarney that makes me sick. I challenged them with the fact that the number is bogus because 99% of the new homeowners will be in gated communities who do their own policing except if one of our daily murders happens to take place there. This pretty much stymies them because now it gets down mostly to the hundreds of thousands of temporaries living in the apartment buildings that mostly cause the problem. Well isn't that mostly the Grow & Die mentality to feed the developers, service industry and casinos that should pick up the tab? More on this later.

We do wish you a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year. — **Ken**

Major Types of Elder Abuse

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is defined as the use of physical force that may result in bodily injury, physical pain, or impairment. Physical abuse may include but is not limited to such acts of violence as striking (with or without an object), hitting, beating, pushing, shoving, shaking, slapping, kicking, pinching, and burning. In addition, inappropriate use of drugs and physical restraints, force-feeding, and physical punishment of any kind also are examples of physical abuse.

Signs and symptoms of physical abuse include but are not limited to:

- bruises, black eyes, welts, lacerations, and rope marks;
- bone fractures, broken bones, and skull fractures;
- open wounds, cuts, punctures, untreated injuries in various stages of healing;
- sprains, dislocations, and internal injuries/bleeding;
- broken eyeglasses/frames, physical signs of being subjected to punishment, and signs of being re-strained;
- laboratory findings of medication overdose or under utilization of prescribed drugs;
- an elder's report of being hit, slapped, kicked, or mistreated;
- an elder's sudden change in behavior; and
- the caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see an elder alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is defined as non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with an elderly person. Sexual contact with any person incapable of giving consent is also considered sexual abuse. It includes, but is not limited to, unwanted touching, all types of sexual assault or battery, such as rape, sodomy, coerced nudity, and sexually explicit photographing.

Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse include but are not limited to:

- bruises around the breasts or genital area;
- unexplained venereal disease or genital infections;
- unexplained vaginal or anal bleeding;
- torn, stained, or bloody underclothing; and
- an elder's report of being sexually assaulted or raped.

Emotional or Psychological Abuse

Emotional or psychological abuse is defined as the infliction of anguish, pain, or distress through verbal or nonverbal acts. Emotional/psychological abuse includes but is not limited to verbal assaults, insults, threats, intimidation, humiliation, and harassment. In addition, treating an older person like an infant; isolating an elderly person from his/her family, friends, or regular activities; giving an older person the "silent treatment;" and enforced social isolation are examples of emotional/psychological abuse.

Signs and symptoms of emotional/psychological abuse include but are not limited to:

- being emotionally upset or agitated;
- being extremely withdrawn and non communicative or non responsive;
- unusual behavior usually attributed to dementia (e.g., sucking, biting, rocking); and
- an elder's report of being verbally or emotionally mistreated.

Neglect

Neglect is defined as the refusal or failure to fulfill any part of a person's obligations or duties to an elder.
(Continued on page 4)

“Please Don’t Quote Me”

I think we have to be very, very concerned with the growth that is going on in the Las Vegas Valley. We need to do everything we can, post-haste...to take control of this whole (Eldorado) Valley area.
— Boulder City Mayor Bob Ferraro



Who Was Who in 2003?

Our speakers were:

January — Thomas Mitchell — Las Vegas Review Journal Editor

February — Steven Miller — Nevada Policy Research Institute

March — Mark Glyman, M.D., D.D.S — Sleep Apnea

April — Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman

May — Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Assistant Sheriff Michael Zagorski

June — James O’Reilly — Elder Law Attorney

July — Nevada State Assemblyman Bob Beers

August — George Harris — Republican Liberty Caucus and NSC’s own Knight Allen

September — Jim Rogers — Sunbelt Communications Company — KVBC

October — United States Senator Harry Reid

November — Former Nevada State Treasurer Bob Seale, CPA

December — The Nevada State Troupers — Entertainment Group

What a year that was !!!!!

(Abuse – Continued from page2)

Neglect may also include failure of a person who has fiduciary responsibilities to provide care for an elder (e.g., pay for necessary home care services) or the failure on the part of an in-home service provider to provide necessary care.

Neglect typically means the refusal or failure to provide an elderly person with such life necessities as food, water, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medicine, comfort, personal safety, and other essentials included in an implied or agreed-upon responsibility to an elder.

Signs and symptoms of neglect include but are not limited to:

- dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, and poor personal hygiene;
- unattended or untreated health problems;
- hazardous or unsafe living condition/arrangements (e.g., improper wiring, no heat, or no running water);
- unsanitary and unclean living conditions (e.g. dirt, fleas, lice on person, soiled bedding, fecal/urine smell, inadequate clothing); and
- an elder's report of being mistreated.

Abandonment

Abandonment is defined as the desertion of an elderly person by an individual who has assumed responsibility for providing care for an elder, or by a person with physical custody of an elder.

Signs and symptoms of abandonment include but are not limited to:

- the desertion of an elder at a hospital, a nursing facility, or other similar institution;
- the desertion of an elder at a shopping center or other public location; and
- an elder's own report of being abandoned.

Financial or Material Exploitation

Financial or material exploitation is defined as the illegal or improper use of an elder's funds, property, or assets. Examples include, but are not limited to, cashing an elderly person's checks without authorization or permission; forging an older person's signature; misusing or stealing an older person's money or possessions; coercing or deceiving an older person into signing any document (e.g., contracts or will); and the improper use of conservatorship, guardianship, or power of attorney.

Signs and symptoms of financial or material exploitation include but are not limited to:

- sudden changes in bank account or banking practice, including an unexplained withdrawal of large sums of money by a person accompanying the elder;
- the inclusion of additional names on an elder's bank signature card;
- unauthorized withdrawal of the elder's funds using the elder's ATM card;
- abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents;
- unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions;
- substandard care being provided or bills unpaid despite the availability of adequate financial resources;
- discovery of an elder's signature being forged for financial transactions or for the titles of his/her possessions;
- sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming their rights to an elder's affairs and possessions;
- unexplained sudden transfer of assets to a family member or someone outside the family;
- the provision of services that are not necessary; and
- an elder's report of financial exploitation. **(Continued on page 5)**

(Abuse – Continued from page 4)**Self-neglect**

Self-neglect is characterized as the behavior of an elderly person that threatens his/her own health or safety. Self-neglect generally manifests itself in an older person as a refusal or failure to provide himself/herself with adequate food, water, clothing, shelter, personal hygiene, medication (when indicated), and safety precautions.

The definition of self-neglect excludes a situation in which a mentally competent older person, who understands the consequences of his/her decisions, makes a conscious and voluntary decision to engage in acts that threaten his/her health or safety as a matter of personal choice.

Signs and symptoms of self-neglect include but are not limited to:
dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene;
hazardous or unsafe living conditions/arrangements (e.g., improper wiring, no indoor plumbing, no heat, no running water);
unsanitary or unclean living quarters (e.g., animal/insect infestation, no functioning toilet, fecal/urine smell);
inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of the necessary medical aids (e.g., eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures); and
grossly inadequate housing or homelessness.

(From the National Center On Elder Abuse)

Where Do You Report Abuse?

Division Of Aging Services At:

- (775) 687-4210 (Carson)
- (775) 688-2964 (Reno)
- (775) 738-1966 (Elko)
- (702) 486-3545 (Las Vegas)
- Your local police department or sheriff's office
- Any county's office for protective services
- For patients in facilities which receive Medicaid funds, the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit at:
 - (775) 687-4704 (Carson)
 - (702) 486-3780 (Las Vegas)
 -

Who Must Report Abuse?

Anyone may report elder abuse. However some are required by law to report it. Those in the medical or therapy fields must make the report as soon as reasonable practical but in no event later than 24 hours after there is reason to believe that the older person has been abused, neglected, exploited, or isolated. Also required to report are those employed by a facility that provides care for older persons, a clergyman, coroner, home nursing provider, attorney (unless knowledge is from an accused client), Department of Human Resources employee, law enforcement personnel, social workers, and funeral and mortuary workers.

An Actual Case of Financial Exploitation

by Vern Perry

My wife, Lou Janice, is a volunteer for the Senior Dimension's "Friendly Caller" program. She regularly calls elderly Senior Dimension members who are shut-ins or have few or no friends or relatives to talk to. These people appreciate the calls very much and are happy to know that someone cares.

One of her assignments 82 year-old Mary (fictitious name) who also had a "Visiting Companion" who helped her with shopping and other things that were hard for her to do. Unfortunately she let him use her ATM card and he found out how much money she had. He then quit the "Visiting Companion" program and started working on his own with her.

Her doctor prescribed a drug to relieve her leg pains. After awhile this medicine caused her to lose her appetite and hallucinate among other things. The symptoms worsened until she no longer knew what she was doing. During this time my wife rarely got to talk with her. When she did talk to her she told her Don (fictitious name) was taking care of her. She still trusted him at this time. Most of the time Don talked to my wife when she phoned Mary's home and told her everything was okay. Then she disappeared and my wife could not locate her. A period of time passed during which my wife kept trying to locate Mary with no success. Finally Mary called my wife from a rest home. During this period, while Mary was under the influence of the drug and thought she was dying, Don had her sign papers giving him financial and medical power of attorney. Also a will was drawn up leaving him everything. She signed a quick deed to her condominium that she owns outright. He had during this time taken her to a few hospitals and urgent care facilities and finally deposited her in a rest home. On the day she arrived she told the administrator of the rest home what had happened and the administrator helped Mary contact Clark County Social Services. Clark County contacted Metro's Abuse and Neglect Division. Mary then got in contact with my wife and the fun began.

We found out the fellow had rented out her condo, moved most of her possessions to his or his girl friend's home, given monetary gifts to his daughter, girl friend, and former wife, put his name on her bank account, threw away most of her documents and some personal possessions, etc., etc., etc. The social worker contacted Don and started trying to resolve the mess. Don hired a lawyer (he is on his third one now.) and a meeting was called. Mary asked my wife and I to attend this meeting. The social worker and a metro representative also attended. Don did not show up, but instead sent his lawyer. This lawyer was visibly shaken when he realized Metro was involved and we never heard from him again.

Nothing happened for a couple of months. My wife was finally asked by the social worker to assist Mary in getting a new bank account for her pension and Social Security payments (which Don was still spending).

My wife, Mary, and I went to the bank and a new account was opened. Social Security was contacted and arrangements were made to deposit future payments into the new account. Since it was too late to implement this for the next payment the old account was frozen instead of closed so that no one could touch any money in it without permission from bank personnel and with a proper password. All money in the old account was transferred to the new account. The bank representative also looked into the new account Don had open stupidly in the same bank. Red flags went up since it was apparent that Don, using his power of attorney, had transferred \$50,000 from Mary's account to his account. The bank's fraud department was contacted and, based on what they told the branch, this money was transferred into Mary's new account. There actually was only \$49,500 – he had already spent \$500. He had previously stolen and spent more than \$30,000, but at least as of now she has \$49,500 back.

I started contacting Don to see about getting what possessions were left in the condo and his apartment. He cooperated at first, but suddenly his attitude changed and I was told I could move nothing and to contact his lawyer. This lawyer was as hard to get a hold of as the previous ones. and is as devious.

This case is still on-going and Mary does want to prosecute and put the guy in jail, but everyone concerned wants to use the obvious thefts to try to coerce Don to give everything back and avoid a court trial. He obviously thought Mary was going to die (in fact he once suggested that he could take her to a state where assisted dying is legal – Oregon is one) and she had no one that she could turn to. This was his biggest mistake since my wife is very persistent. As I said Don is on his third lawyer and each one seems phonier than the other. They say they want to resolve the case, but do nothing. Mary now also has a lawyer who is trying to talk to Don's lawyer with little success. So Mary has asked Metro to present the case to the D.A. More about this later as things develop.

Senior Citizens Protective Services

The Clark County Social Service Senior Citizens Protective Service Program (SCPS) provides no-cost crisis and emergency social work services to persons 60 years of age or older in Clark County reported to be victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation or isolation. An investigation is initiated within three working days (within 24 hours in emergency situations) for all cases brought to the attention of the SCPS Program.

A report or referral containing an allegation of danger to a senior arising from unfavorable conditions creates a presumption of need for services of the SCPS Program, as in the case of any senior who is

- Reported to be a victim of abuse, neglect , exploitation or isolation.
- Living in conditions which present a health or safety hazard.
- Not obtaining or utilizing needed medical or psychiatric care.
- Unable to perform activities of daily living in his/her own home.

• Without responsible others who are available, willing and able to assist with the above.

Primary benefits of the SCPS program include the following:

- Preventative services to alleviate tense situations and resolve potential problems.
- Supportive services to give the senior encouragement and assistance in order to be self-sufficient.
- Crisis counseling to seniors and significant others.

For more information about the Senior Citizens Protective Service Program, please contact the program office at Clark County Social Service at 455-8672, Monday thru Friday, 7 AM to 4 PM

From the Editor

This issue is devoted to elder abuse and exploitation – something that is widespread in Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada, and the Nation. Fortunately there are many agencies working on the problem,. Unfortunately they are overloaded with cases and a lot of the time it is hard to prove a crime has been committed even though it appears obvious to you.

As you all know lots of things happened last year in the state and the valley and NSC will be commenting on them all as the year progresses. I am sure there will be more bombshells this year as investigations continue.

I hope what has been happening results in many reforms and changes in the way the city, county and state do business.

One thing that couldn't hurt is in with the new and out with the old (politicians that is).



Next Meeting

Thursday, February 12, 2004
10:00 a.m. at the >>>>>>>>



After the meeting why don't you eat and play, and stay all day?



Featured speaker will be:

Thomas Mitchell, Editor, Las Vegas Review Journal

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Today In History— January 8, 1870

With an abundance of silver from the booming Comstock Lode, it was determined that Carson City would make an ideal location for a U.S. Mint, one of seven buildings serving as mints in the U.S. over the last 200 years. The mint at Carson City was a physical manifestation of the success of the Comstock Lode since it showed Federal recognition of the value of the mines located in the "hinterlands" of Nevada. Although the Carson City Mint was established by Congress in 1863, the Civil War delayed its construction. Ground-breaking ceremonies took place on July 18, 1866. The Mint opened in December 1869, with Abraham Curry, founder of Carson City, as the first superintendent. Beginning on **January 8, 1870**, eight coin denominations bearing the mint mark "CC" were produced until June 1, 1893. More than \$49,000,000 of gold and silver was coined here. Coin collectors are very familiar with the desirable "CC" marks on gold coins such as Double Eagles (\$20), Gold Eagles (\$10) and Half Eagles (\$5). Of course, silver dollars, half dollars, quarters, 20-cent pieces and dimes were also minted from metal mined on the Comstock.

The Carson City Mint was designed by Alfred Mullett, newly-appointed supervising architect for the U.S. Treasury Department. Most of the original building remains intact, and all materials for the Mint are native to Nevada. The sandstone was quarried at the State Prison, the brick was manufactured at the Adams Brick Works in Genoa (operated by John Quincy Adams' grandsons) and the interior wainscoting was milled from Tahoe sugar pine. The Carson City U.S. Mint's formal mint status was withdrawn in 1899, due to the drastic decline in mining on the Comstock. Afterward it served as an assay office. The Mint was remodeled to serve as the Nevada State Museum in 1941. Today the Mint's Press No. 1 resides at the museum.

Edited story from National Park Service



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.



**We're on the web at
www.nevadaseniors.com
Check it out**



Carson City Mint