



Centering Elder Abuse Interventions on Wellbeing:

*Person-Centered Approaches in
Multidisciplinary Teams*

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What is elder abuse?



- Abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an older person by someone in a relationship of trust.
- Types of abuse
- 10% prevalence in the United States



What are multidisciplinary teams (MDTs)?



- Responses to abuse: social service, legal, medical, criminal justice
- Team approach allows coordinated intervention and service provision
- Members include protective services, law enforcement, prosecutors, civil law, medical professionals, victim advocates, aging services

What are multidisciplinary teams?



- Purpose: help siloed service systems collaborate
- Priorities
 - Safety and protection, followed by self-determination
 - Older adult's "wishes" are not a priority, but are mentioned in case discussions
 - Plans may be changed if they oppose older adult priorities

Challenges and Assumptions

- Assumption: breaking down siloes will result in improved outcomes
- Defining success in MDTs is unclear
- Older adults are not usually included in MDT discussions



What is person-centered care?

- The American Geriatrics Society
 - Care where “individuals’ **values and preferences** are elicited and once expressed, guide all aspects of their health care, supporting their realistic health and life goals.”
 - Includes elements supportive to this approach and challenges within the predominant service paradigm
- The Adult Protective Services Ethical Guidelines
 - “services that considers an adult’s **needs, goals, preferences, cultural traditions, family situation, and values**. Services and supports are delivered from the perspective of the individual receiving care, and, when appropriate, his or her family.”

What do older adults want?



What do older adults want?



Life
purpose

Hope, for
self and
loved ones

Advice from
peers with
similar
experiences

To be
heard and
believed

Non-
judgmental
confidant

Maintain
autonomy and
relationships

Avoid facility
placement

Person-centered approaches in MDTs



Defining person-centered practices in MDTs



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Elements of person-centered MDTs



VALUES – foundational principles



MECHANISMS – concrete activities



CONSIDERATIONS – help us more clearly understand the situation

VALUES of person-centeredness

- Respect
- Collaboration
- Broadmindedness
- Dignity
- Empathy
- Self-determination
- Trust
- Transparency
- Privacy



MECHANISMS of person-centeredness

- Communication
- Relationships
- Services for the person harming
- Criminal Justice
- Elder-directed
- Restorative Justice
- Offering options



CONSIDERATIONS of person-centeredness

- Older adult preferences and goals
- Changing preferences and circumstances
- Intersectionality and Identity
- Individual definitions
- Impact of trauma
- Balance with safety
- Equity





Older Adults' Voices



THANK YOU!

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