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
- To be heard and believed
- Avoid facility placement
- Hope, for self and loved ones
- Non-judgmental confidant
- Advice from peers with similar experiences
- Maintain autonomy and relationships
Person-centered approaches in MDTs
Defining person-centered practices in MDTs

- Consensus Convening: May 2023
- National Questionnaire: September – October 2023
- National Symposium: March 2024
Consensus Convening, May 22-3, 2023
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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