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August 14, 2020

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COLLATERAL DAMAGE:
Elder Abuse and the Opioid Epidemic in Rural Virginia

Presented by Southwest Virginia Legal Aid in collaboration with Southwest Virginia Elder Justice Task Force

Sponsored by Virginia Law Foundation, Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse, and Anthem Healthkeeper’s Plus
TRAINING AGENDA

10:00 am - 11:15 am
Welcome & Introductions
Joseph R. Carico, Esq., Executive Director, Southwest Virginia Legal Aid

Setting the Stage for Abuse: Impacts of the Opioid Epidemic on Older Adults
Dr. Pamela Teaster, Director, Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology
No one group is immune from the opioid epidemic, but frequently forgotten are older adults. This presentation draws upon the sparse scientific and popular literature to explore the effects of opioids on the lives of older adults and their families. While opioids and related prescription/non-prescription drugs frequently are the treatment of choice for chronic health problems/pain, misuse can lead to a life of addiction for individuals in their “golden years,” fraught with emotional distress, diminished relationships, criminal activity, and even, premature death. A more hidden pathway in which opioids infiltrate older adult’s lives is through the addiction of family members who rely on them for money, childcare, food, and shelter. These older adults may be directly or inadvertently stripped of their resources and quality of life as a result of the struggles of those around them.

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm
Grandparents and Other Non-Parent Kinship Families: Legal Rights
Gerard Wallace, Esq., Program Director, New York State Kinship Navigator
The number of grandparent and relative caregivers raising children is increasing each year, and our understanding of how to support these caregivers continues to evolve. Legal services can play an important role in connecting non-parent caregivers to support and providing legal assistance. Issues include: what is the caregiver’s authority regarding schooling, medical care, access to documents; what are the “rights” of caregivers in third party custody and guardianship actions, in access to foster care, when “diverting” from foster care, etc. This Legal Basics training will provide law and aging network professionals with an overview of legal issues surrounding non-parent caregivers, including tools and initiatives to support families.
3:00 pm - 4:15 pm

**Virginia’s Family First Initiative: Prioritizing Prevention Services and Family-Based Placements**

Tiffany Gardner, Family First Project Manager, VA Department of Social Services
Lauren Weidner, Family First Change Management Specialist, VA Department of Social Services
Nancy Boyd, Kinship Navigator, Dickenson County Department of Social Services
Amanda Romans, Kinship Navigator, Smyth County Department of Social Services

Participants will learn about Virginia’s Family First Initiative, including the role of the Kinship Navigator program and resources available to assist grandfamilies and other non-parent families across the Commonwealth. Of the six programs established statewide, two serve Southwest Virginia. Each program serves a multi-county area. In part two of this session, participants will have the opportunity to learn firsthand from regional navigators what services are available, who is eligible, and how to access assistance for these vulnerable families.

**Closing Remarks**

Janet Brennend, Ombudsman, New River Valley Agency on Aging, Southwest Virginia Elder Justice Task Force
Daveena Sexton, Director of Advancement, Southwest Virginia Legal Aid

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**REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO ATTEND TRAINING**

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors the Virginia Law Foundation, the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (VCPEA), and Anthem Healthkeeper’s Plus, there is no charge to attend this training, but you MUST REGISTER to be admitted to the sessions.

To register, visit

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6u0FbFhdRwazNRDi8lb13g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6u0FbFhdRwazNRDi8lb13g)
CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS
Continuing education credits are being sought for attorneys, magistrates, clerks, and guardians ad litem, as are PIC-3 credits for law enforcement professionals. It may also count toward continuing education hours for APS workers, subject to supervisor’s approval.

TRAINING MATERIALS
Registered participants will receive instructions by e-mail on where and how to access materials online prior to the conference.

Questions about the training??? Call (276) 783-8300, ext. 2009 or ext. 2012.

SPEAKER BIOS

Nancy Boyd
Nancy Boyd serves as Kinship Navigator for the Dickenson County program which, in addition to Dickenson, serves the counties of Lee, Scott, Wise, Russell, Tazewell, Buchanan and the city of Norton.

Nancy has a BSN from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing and worked in Community Health Services in City of Richmond, Chesterfield, New Kent, and Charles City, Hanover in a variety of programs with families and children of all ages. She also served as Assistant Director at Beth Shalom Nursing Home and opened the Home Health Unit at Retreat Hospital providing hospice care to the tri-city area.

Before her retirement in 2013, she served as the Coordinator of The Healthy Families program in Chesterfield for eight years. After retirement she moved back to her hometown in Dickenson County.
In 2019 she began work at Dickenson County Social Services in the Kinship Navigator program. This is an especially good
fit for her since she herself is a kinship caregiver who has cared for her grandson for the past ten years and can easily identify with this population.

**Tiffany Gardner**
Tiffany Gardner has served as the Project Manager for Family First since December 2019. She received her bachelor’s degree in Social Work from Christopher Newport University and her Master in Business Administration from Averett University. Tiffany has worked for the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) since October 2013, she has served in the capacity as the Quality Assurance and Accountability Supervisor and most recently Change Management Consultant for COMPASS. Prior to advancing her career to VDSS she worked as a Foster Care Social Worker and Payment Accuracy Social Worker for a local department of social services. Tiffany has over 15 years of child welfare experience advocating for children and families in the Commonwealth.

**Amanda Romans**
Amanda Romans serves as Kinship Navigator for the Smyth County (VA) Department of Social Services. Her service area includes not only Smyth County, but also Bland, Carroll, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Pulaski, Washington, and Wythe Counties, as well as the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Radford. Amanda is a graduate of Old Dominion University with over 15 years of experience working with families in crisis. She began her career in homeless services and supportive housing. Prior to beginning her work with Kinship families, Amanda served as a CPS investigator in Smyth County.

**Pamela B. Teaster, Ph.D.**
Pamela Teaster is a professor of human development and family science at Virginia Tech and director of the Virginia Tech Center for Gerontology. Teaster has a long history of serving the public interest in ensuring that older Americans receive protection from exploitation and abuse by those in positions of power or trust. Her ongoing research focuses on the mistreatment of elders and vulnerable adults, public and private guardianship, end-of-life issues and decision-making, ethical treatment and human rights issues of vulnerable adults, and public affairs and policy. She is the co-author or co-editor of four books and more than a hundred peer-reviewed articles, reports, and book chapters.
In addition to her scholarship, Teaster is on the editorial board of the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect. She is a fellow of both the Gerontological Society of America and the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education. She is an active board member and former president of the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. She also serves as secretary on the Board of Trustees for the Center for Guardianship Certification and secretary general of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Before joining the Virginia Tech faculty, Teaster served as director of the Center for Gerontology and chair of the Department of Gerontology at the University of Kentucky, where she also served as director of the Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional Geriatric Education Center, director of doctoral studies, and associate dean for research at the College of Public Health. She founded the Kentucky Guardianship Association and was its first president. She also founded the Kentucky Justice Center for Elders and Vulnerable Adults.

**Gerard Wallace, Esq.**

Gerard Wallace, Esq., is the founding director (2006) of the NYS Kinship Navigator and is public service professor at the University of Albany School of Social Welfare. In 1997, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from Albany Law School, where he authored a Government Law Center policy report on kinship laws in New York State. From 1999 to 2005, he was director of Hunter Colleges' Grandparent Caregiver Law Center. From 2005 to 2010 he was also the project consultant for the AARP-NY Kincare Project. He is co-chair of the NYS KinCare Coalition, a member of the Child Welfare League of America’s Policy Commission, and past director of the National Committee of Grandparents for Children's Rights.

Mr. Wallace has written extensively on kinship care policy and practice. In 1999, he authored an amicus curiae brief in the United States Supreme Court grandparent visitation case that was featured in the Congressional Digest's Supreme Court Debate. He has published in the New York State Elder Law Attorney quarterly, Grand magazine, New England’s “Common Ground”, the Journal of Gerontological Social Work, West Law's Elder Adviser, the Washington Post's op-ed page, the Child Welfare League of America Journal, and the Journal on Family Social Work. He has focused attention on kinship families who are engaged by child welfare departments but who do not become foster parents, i.e. diversion, on the need for supports for the “other child welfare system” of kinship families, and on the rights of these families.
He is principal advocate for enactment of over a dozen laws in New York State related to kinship issues, as well as numerous regulatory and policy changes, and since 2016, he has provided the first drafts to the U. S. Senate and House of the text for proclamations of September as Kinship Care Month. In 2017, he was producer for the documentary film, “The Face of Kinship Care.”

Mr. Wallace is the recipient of the 2009 Generations United’s “National Kinship Advocate Award” and the 2010 Brookdale Foundation “Janet Sainer Award” for outstanding service and dedication to Kincare families, among numerous others.

Since 1998, he has presented continuing legal education trainings on kinship law, has presented at conferences, commissions, and local forums, and has advised on the drafting of both federal and state legislation related to kinship care.

**Lauren Weidner**

Lauren Weidner joined the Family First Team in January of this year and serves as the Change Management Specialist. She has over 12 years experience in the child welfare system. Her experience includes working in both the private and public settings, working with youth in foster care, training families who would like to foster, working with adult adoptees and has served on several community work groups. Lauren received both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Social Work from Virginia Commonwealth University and is excited to participate in macro level social work assisting with the implementation of Family First.
Southwest Virginia Elder Justice Task Force

Special thanks to the following Task Force members - and their agencies or organizations - who worked to produce the 2020 annual training.

Southwest Virginia Legal Aid:
Joey Carico, Daveena Sexton (Chair), Sarah Angles,
Daronda Combs, Susan Kennedy, Susan Richardson, Max Morris, Aimee Corbett, Kim Bolinskey

AGENCY PARTNERS
Mountain Empire Older Citizens (MEOC):
Michael Wampler, Debbie Collier, Angela Peters,
Marsha Craiger

New River Valley Area Agency on Aging:
Tina King, Janet Brennend
Janet also serves as a liaison to the Elder Justice Task Force
of the New River Valley, on which she also serves.

Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens (AASC):
Regina Sayers, Sherry Cook

District Three Governmental Cooperative:
Chris Stone
Chris also serves as a liaison to the Washington County and
City of Bristol CCRT/SART Elder Abuse Subcommittee, on
which she also serves.

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services:
Carol McCray, Western Region

Virginia Department of Social Services:
Jessica Roberts, Wise County

Giles County Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office:
Debra Sifford

Wise County Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office:
Chuck Slemp, Jessica Hood, Sandi Brewer

Christiansburg Police Department:
Nathan Delp

Tazewell County Sheriff’s Office:
Pat Belcher

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Healthcare:
Misty Lee, Anthem HealthKeeper’s Plus
Heather Compton, Heritage Hall

Financial Services:
Dan Counts, New Peoples Bank