Office on Violence Against Women Abuse in Later Life Program

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As a Result of This Training, Participants Will Be Better Able to:

- Define intimate partner violence in later life
- Recognize that a significant portion of elder abuse cases involve female victims with spouses as perpetrators
- Describe power and control tactics in abuse in later life

Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life

- Physical, sexual, emotional, economic, and/or psychological abuse, neglect or stalking against an older victim by a former or current intimate partner
- Victim is 50 years of age or older
Abuse in Later Life Education Series for Advocates: Intimate Partner Violence in Later Life

Module 3

Elder Abuse Perpetrators

Studies have consistently shown that a significant portion of elder abuse cases involve female victims with spouses as perpetrators.

Lane et al., (2013).

Relationships Where IPV Occurs

- Long-term relationships
- New relationships
- Late onset abuse
Abuse in Later Life Power & Control Wheel

Abuse in Later Life Wheel Components
Tactic: Targets Vulnerabilities & Neglects

- Takes or moves walker, wheelchair, hearing aids, glasses
- Takes advantage of confusion

Tactic: Threatens

- Threats to kill or harm
- Threats to commit suicide
- Threats to leave
- Threats to institutionalize
Tactic: Exploits Financially

- Long standing financial abuse
- Not allowing victim to have any money
- Keeping victim in the dark about family assets

Tactic: Uses Privilege

- Treats victim like a servant
- Makes all major decisions
- Manipulates ageist assumptions
**Tactic: Isolates**

- Controls what victim does, whom they see, and where they go
- Limits time with friends and family
- Denies access to phone and computer

**Tactic: Uses Family Members**

- Magnifying family disagreements
- Denying access to adult children and grandchildren
- Misleads family members about extent and nature of illnesses/conditions
Tactic: Ridicules Personal & Cultural Values

- Ridiculing religious, personal and cultural values
- Use victims religious or personal belief and values to keep victim trapped in relationship

Tactic: Denies Access to Spiritual Traditions/Events

- Prevents victim from attending important spiritual, cultural, or religious events
- Prevents victim from practicing important spiritual, cultural, or religious traditions
Emotional and Psychological Abuse

- Emotional Abuse
  - Name calling
  - Verbal attacks and abuse
  - Yelling

- Psychological Abuse
  - Crazy-making behavior to make victim doubt own judgement or thinking
  - Withholds affection

Lois

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
Tactics Used Against Lois

- Physical abuse: kicked, pushed, knocked to the ground, blackened eyes, pushed down stairs
- Threatens: threatened with guns
- Using family members: threatened to kill daughter

Sam

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life
Tactics Used Against Sam

- Physical abuse: punching and stabbing
- Isolation: alienating Sam from his family and friends
- Threats: threatened with knives
- Emotional: verbal abuse
- Psychological: using his beliefs and values to keep Sam in the relationship

Summary

- IPV in later life can occur in new or long-term relationships
- Many elder abuse cases involve abuse by an intimate partner
- Power & control tactics are often used against older victims
Special Appreciation

To Lois and Sam, for the courage to tell your story so others may benefit.

Thank You

- Special thanks to Terra Nova Films for the ongoing working partnership with NCALL and the beautiful video production
- www.terranova.org
Staying Connected to NCALL and Other Advocates

- Sign up for our enewsletter: [http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262](http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262)
- Join our listserv for advocates serving older survivors: ncall@ncall.us
- Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ncall.us](http://www.facebook.com/ncall.us)
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