

How to Use this Guide

The goal of this guide is to encourage and facilitate the development and growth of elder abuse case review Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs). In this guide, you will find information about MDT structures and functions, along with common issues with which a team will need to grapple in developing a case review MDT. There is no one way to create or maintain a MDT. Therefore, this guide offers a variety of ideas, sample materials, resources and tools intended to guide the development and sustainability of an MDT.

Any community can start an MDT. The form and function of your MDT will depend on the community in which it is developed. It may at times be frustrating as you face obstacles in your community. This guide can assist you in anticipating and planning for challenges and applying the knowledge and experiences of other MDTs to the development of your team.

Currently, the elder abuse MDT approach has received little empirical evaluation,ⁱ although there are exceptions.ⁱⁱ However, there are no published studies that provide clear direction on how to create and maintain high-functioning MDTs in any discipline,ⁱⁱⁱ although work in this direction is burgeoning.^{iv} Therefore, this guide draws heavily upon MDTs in other disciplines (child abuse,^v education, business, medicine).

This is a living document designed to be updated with new information, research, and Toolkit items as they become available. When new material is added, we intend to notify our colleagues of changes, as best we can, through email blasts. Check back to our webpage often to view and download the latest materials. You may also sign up to be on our MDT TAC distribution list, by emailing Talitha Guinn-Shaver, MDT Technical Advisor at talitha.j.guinn-shaver@usdoj.gov.

Endnotes

ⁱ Nerenberg, L. (2008). *Elder abuse prevention: Emerging trends and promising strategies*. New York, NY: Spring. Springer Publishing Company.

ⁱⁱ Gassoumis, Z. D., Navarro, A. E., & Wilber, K. H. (2015). Protecting victims of elder financial exploitation: The role of an elder abuse forensic center in referring victims for conservatorship. *Aging & mental Mental Health, 19*(9), 790-798.; doi:10.1080/13607863.2014.962011; Navarro, A. E., Gassoumis, Z. D., & Wilber, K. H. (2013). Holding abusers accountable: An elder abuse forensic center increases criminal prosecution of financial exploitation. *The Gerontologist, 53*(2), 303-312. doi:10.1093/geront/gns075; Navarro, A.E., Wilber, K.H., Yonashiro, J., & Homeier, D.C. (2010). Do we really need another meeting? Lessons from the Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center. *The Gerontologist, 50*(5), 702-.;711. doi:10.1093/geront/gnq018; Rizzo, V. M., Burnes, D., & Chalfy, A. (201320132015). A systematic evaluation of a multidisciplinary social work–lawyer elder mistreatment intervention model. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, DOI*DOI27(1), 1-18. doi:10.1080/08946566.2013.792104; Wiglesworth, A., Mosqueda, L., Burnight, K., Younglove, T., & Jeske, D. (2006). Findings from an elder abuse forensic center. *The Gerontologist, 46*(2), 277-283. doi:10.1093/geront/46.2.277

ⁱⁱⁱ Lemieux-Charles, L., & McGuire, W. L. (2006). What do we know about health care team effectiveness? A review of the literature. *Medical Care Research and Review, 63*(3), 263-300. doi:[10.1177/1077558706287003](https://doi.org/10.1177/1077558706287003)

^{iv} Kutash, K., Acri, M., Pollock, M., Armusewicz, K., Olin, S. S., & Hoagwood, K. E. (2014). Quality indicators for multidisciplinary team functioning in community-based children’s mental health services. *Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research, 41*(1), 55-68. doi:10.1007/s10488-013-0508-2

^v Department of Justice cited CACs as the number one recommendation for improving services to child victims (U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (1998). *New DirectorsDirectionsdirections from the field: Victims’ rights and services for the 21st century*. Washington, DC: US Department of Justice. (pp. 394-395). Retrieved from

https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc_archives/directions/pdf/txt/direct.pdf; Graham, K., Norrie, C., Stevens, M., Moriarty, J., Manthorpe, J., & Hussein, S. (2014). Models of adult safeguarding in England: A review of the literature. *Journal of Social Work, 16*(1), 22-46.

doi:10.1177/1468017314556205; CACs have a two-pronged approach to child victimization that includes a focus on both the criminal justice and a therapeutic response. Other innovations include co-location of MDT members and mobile Children's Advocacy Centers that go out into the community.)