

Elder Abuse

By Gene Hoyt MD

Elder abuse is not a new phenomenon. As our population ages the number of elder abuse cases also increase. It is estimated that nearly 80% of abuse, neglect, and exploitation cases are never reported. The elder victim may be physically or mentally incapacitated and have no way to report what is being done to them. Our society, as a whole, knows abuse and neglect happen but frequently does not recognize what is occurring. There are no quick signs of elder abuse. Advanced age, chronic illness, vision defects and hearing deficits may deprive a victim of the opportunity to complain to an observer. In a world that values youth and vitality advanced age devalues both life and quality of life of an aged person. Elder abuse affects men and women across all socioeconomic groups, cultures, religions, races, and ethnicities.

Most of us consider nursing home abuse to be the major culprit. It isn't! Although nursing home abuse cases receive abundant media attention these sometimes horrible cases are a very small part of abuse cases. Remember, most older people continue to live at home. Family caregivers or paid home caregivers are most responsible for elder abuse across both Oklahoma and the nation.

Frequently, abuse cases arise out of the stressed inter-personal relationships, the caregiver may be overwhelmed with the responsibilities of caring for an elder. Particularly if the elders care needs are constantly increasing. Other stressors may also be present; old family jealousies and feelings of abandonment may be present. Caregivers may have their own contributing problems including alcohol or drugs. Caregivers may also feel under paid for the work that they do. To me the word "abuse" means a physical act such as kicking or pushing. The elder may be tied to a chair or bed. Many new physical restraint regulations, both state and federal have affected nursing home care, but not home care. Abuse need not be physical, scathing verbal attacks or time outs with silent treatments may be also abusive. Not only are these abuses physical, they are also intentional. Passive neglect may evolve into active neglect. A person in a dirty diaper for a short time may be passively neglected. Intentional/Active neglect abuse leaves the person in a dirty diaper in a dirty bed for days on end.

After the big storms and before holidays many unscrupulous hucksters pray on incapacitated people – "you need a new roof, pay me now, I'll get you fixed up"- If you are a responsible caregiver, this scenario should never happen to your client or loved one. You must be attentive to an individual. Social needs must also be addressed. Social contacts gener-

ally are enjoyed by incapacitated people, but there must be special care to avoid non scrupulous people who may have a hand out to a financially incompetent person. People, especially family members, or other longtime contacts may want "private" contacts with an incapacitated elder. Private contacts may lead to physical abuse or exploitation. Oftentimes observers see what goes on in a home as "a personal matter or family affair" and do not want to get involved. "I don't have time for this it will get me into trouble if I report something". Your report may be a life saver!

Physical and mental injuries as well as exploitation injuries may be brought into court as either a civil case or a criminal matter. Civil cases may result in damage compensation to the abuse victim. Criminal cases are brought by the District Attorney, but actual lawsuits are rare. The elderly victim may never tell the story of abuse, or may not even know what happened.

Oklahoma law, the statutes, provide for "Protective Services" for vulnerable adults (people who have mental or physical impairments) when they cannot meet the essential requirements for care. The law applies to all adults, anyone over 18, who may need medical care, social services, protection from physical mistreatment and other safety and health concerns. The statute recognizes caregivers may be family members or others who assume the duty of caring for another. The statute broadly defines abuse, exploitation and neglect.

The Oklahoma Statute does not describe criminal conduct while defining abuse, exploitation and neglect. The statute includes criminal provisions against people who know of or should know of abuse and make no report to competent authorities, meaning the Police or the Department of Human Services. The statute also provides "Immunity" to people who make responsible good faith reports to authorities.

Any adult may report abuse. Certain special caregivers have legal duties to report abuse. Physicians, first responders such as police, fire, and ambulance personal are among listed entities.

This article is not authoritative. It simply serves to identify a real problem that exists in Oklahoma and hopefully open eyes to what happens in our communities. Abuse is a complex issue. It can affect children as well as adults. The DHS has the statutory authority to investigate and intervene if necessary in both child and adult cases. Don't allow abuse to continue in any environment. Be proactive! Report abuse to the proper authorities!

Eugene M. Hoyt, M.D.



(From left) Berdina George, Manuel Jordan, Chief Curator and Director of Collections at the Musical Instrument Museum and Committee Member Stella Nullake at the Museum in Phoenix, Arizona (Photo courtesy of Stella Nullake)

Sac and Fox Tribal Member's Regalia on Display at National Museum

Committee Member Stella Nullake and Berdina George attended the 20th Biennial National Indian Council on Aging Conference at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown, Phoenix, AZ September 3-6, 2014.

Their Nephew, Sac and Fox Tribal Member, Juakin Hamilton contacted his good friend Manuel Jordan who is the Chief Curator and Director of Collections at the Musical Instrument Museum and acquired them and five Pawnee Elder's access to the museum.

Juaquin's Full Straight Dance Regalia is and has been on display at the museum since April 2012. He is a world

champion in his southern straight dance category and has won many titles and dance contests.

Juaquin and his wife Dyanni live in Shawnee, OK with their two children Kealan and Abria.

Juaquin's wife Dyanni, is a Navajo artist, and has won many juried art competitions throughout the US with her bead work and quill work. Her art work has been in shows, such as Santa Fe Indian Art Market, Cherokee Art Market in Tulsa, Gene Autry Art Market in Los Angeles, Heard Indian Market in Phoenix, and the American Indian Museum in Washington DC.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Spaghetti Corn Green Salad Cake	2 Liver & Onions Green Beans Scalloped Pots. Pears	3 Polish Sausage/ Sauerkraut Peas Peaches
6 Steak Fingers Cream Corn Oven Fries Pineapple	7 Chili Dog Pork & Beans Cottage Cheese Pears	8 Chicken & Rice Mixed Vegetable Cracker Jello w/fruit	9 Tuna Sandwich Beets Chips Applesauce	10 Sausage/Biscuit Hash Brown Egg Juice
13 Hamburger Fresh Veggies Baked Chips Mand Oranges	14 Pork & Hominy Fry Bread Green Salad Peaches	15 Meatloaf Green Beans Mashed Pots. Tropical Fruit	16 Sweet & Sour Chicken White Rice Egg Roll Graham Cracker	17 Chili Crackers Pea Salad RK Treat
20 Baked Fish Okra Cole Slaw Fruit Cocktail	21 Oven Chicken Scalloped Pots Green Beans Peaches	22 White Beans/Ham Yellow Squash Cornbread Pears	23 Tater Tot Cass. Green Salad Pineapple	24 Waffle Bacon Egg Juice
27 Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Carrots Vanilla Pudding	28 Baked Ham Wild Rice Spinach Pears	29 Beef Stew Crackers Cake	30 Chicken Salad Sandwich Green Salad Chips Tropical Fruit	31 Ghoulis Goulash Green Beans Cornbread Cookie

OCTOBER 2014
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		1 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	2 ELDERS ONLY SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	3 ELDERS ONLY SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30
6 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	7 ELDERS ONLY SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	8 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	9 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	10 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30
13 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	14 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	15 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30 SHIPMENT	16 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	17 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 LITTLEAXE 10:00-12:00 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30
20 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	21 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	22 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	23 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	24 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 PERKINS 10:00-2:00 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30
27 LATE NIGHT WAREHOUSE 8:30-6:00 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30	28 LATE NIGHT SHAWNEE 12:00-6:00 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	29 SHAWNEE 8:30-2:30 WAREHOUSE 8:30-2:30	30 CLOSED FOR INVENTORY	31 CLOSED FOR INVENTORY