

It's Time for a New SOG Cohort of Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Teams

How does elder abuse show up in your community?

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected how that abuse happens or how local professionals respond to it?

A new opportunity to address these concerns is opening up September 9th. The intent of the [North Carolina Elder Protection Network](#) is to connect, inform, and support our public professionals who are working together to find ways to prevent and respond to abuse of older adults.

Thanks to support from the [NC Policy Collaboratory](#), we are expanding this work into ten more counties. Building upon the success of the 2019 workshop in which seven county teams (Buncombe, Guilford, Hyde, Iredell, Johnston, Mecklenburg, and Robeson) participated, applications for the 2020 cohort will open September 9th.

The scope of the effort will broaden beyond the challenges inherent in forming and sustaining multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) to include new obstacles generated by the pandemic. All workshops and follow-up support will be provided online.

How to begin?

If your county already has an MDT, reach out to the other members of your team to discuss whether participating in the workshop series would be helpful. If your county does not yet have an MDT, start reaching out to other key professionals, including social services, law enforcement, the Clerk of Superior Court, health care providers, and others who may be interested in collaborating in this way.

Next, register for the first workshop, “Getting Started with an Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team”

We provide an overview of how MDTs can be helpful in elder abuse cases. Next, we highlight some of the unique challenges facing MDTs in North Carolina, including confidentiality laws. Finally, we describe the series of MDT workshops that we will be offering in the fall and describe the application process.

Funding from the NC Policy Collaboratory enables us to make this program free and open to all who are interested in attending. It will be recorded and made available on-demand, with a link from the Elder Protection Network website.

To register for the program on September 9th at 9:30 AM, click [here](#).

Then what?

After at least three members of your county's MDT have participated in the first workshop (either live or recorded), your team can apply to be a part of the fall MDT cohort. The application requirements and form are available [here](#) (the application will go live on September 9th). In short, your team must include certain core members (social services, clerk of court, law enforcement) and must commit to participating in the additional workshops.

Up to 10 teams will be invited to join the 2020 MDT cohort and to participate in three additional workshops scheduled for October 14, November 5, and December 18. They will also have the opportunity to invite an SOG facilitator to participate in a team meeting to work on one or more issues of particular interest in your county and receive additional legal support from SOG faculty.

Questions?

If you have questions about the first workshop, the application process, or the 2020 MDT Cohort, please contact Meredith Smith or Aimee Wall.

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