

HONOR OUR ELDERS

Josh Ringland
Department of Social Work
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Community Need Statement

Older adults are a growing population in the United States and many elders suffer from physical, sexual, mental, isolation and financial abuse without any obvious signs. Through the research and evaluation of a growing number of elder abuse cases, Humboldt County's Civil Grand Jury issued a report, Silver Tsunami Warning, explaining the concerns of elder abuse. Through this community project, my community partner, Adult Protective Services and I will bring mindfulness of elder abuse through promoting World Elder Abuse Awareness Month, advocate prevention of elder abuse, and educate how to report elder abuse through a visual campaign of banners advertised throughout Humboldt County.

Theoretical Issues

- Theories on Elder Abuse:
- Theories on Self-neglect:
- Agism.
- Behavioral Learning Theory.
- Historical Trauma.: In context with Native American Communities.
- Evidence-based practices.

Acknowledgements

- Liora Levenbach, Supervisor 2, Adult Protective Services
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)



Credibility Statement

As a helping professional who assists older adults, I see first hand some hardships and barriers that affect the quality of life and ability to access resources. I choose to bracket this experience by being aware of ageism and honoring an individual's autonomy by following their lead on how I can assist. I also am aware that I am not an older adult and therefore cannot completely understand the benefits and difficulties associated with that time of life.

Method

- Analyzing survey data for banner placement.
- Analyzing 2020 U.S. Census data on elder population growth in rural settings.
- Analyzing 2020 U.S. Census data on elder abuse rates in rural communities.
- Collaborating with Native American Tribes to better understand the deficits of elder abuse in tribal communities and help educate how to report it.
- Collaborating with multiple branches of DHHS for financing.
- Collaborating with DHHS media for banner construction.

Deliverable

- Identifying a community issue
- Applying the need for community participation.
- Educating the community about Elder Abuse Awareness Month.
- Educating the community about APS.
- Creating a banner to bring awareness of elder abuse.
- Hanging up the banner in Arcata over the plaza.
- Following policy with Humboldt Grand Jury.

References

Halphen, J. H. MD., Burnett, J. PHD. (2014). Elder Abuse and Neglect: Appearances Can be Deceptive. Psychiatric Times. <http://www.psychiatristimes.com>

Humboldt Grand Jury. (2022). Silver Tsunami Warning. <https://humboldt.gov/documentcenter/view/110022>

Humboldt County Census. (2020). <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/humboldtcountycalifornia>