

NAIC Meeting Minutes: Feb 2, 2022

Attendance: John Rowntree, Kristy Besada, Meta Vornehm, Rachel Lakin (BEAS), Judie Bryant, James Jensen, Jon Spira-Savett, Jocelyn (Nashua Senior Center), Mick Grzonka, Rich Bensinger, Denise Pliska (BEAS), Bobbie Knickerbocker, Anna Molettieri, Mike Apfelberg, Greg Baker, Tanya Stormo Rasmussen, Kathy Boss, Karl Hester, Caro Barschow, Kim Hester, Matt Hodgkiss, Maida Sengupta (former BEAS worker), Laurie Toupin, Meg Hamm

Kathy Boss introduced herself as the new Priest in Charge at CGS. [rector@cgsnashua.org](mailto:rector@cgsnashua.org). 603-498-2834.

Breakout rooms: how does your organization approach issues of adult abuse or neglect?

Speakers: Rachel Lakin and Denise Pliska from Bureau of Elderly and Adult Supports, Adult Protective Services.

Presentation: Adult protective services has a legal way for helping at-risk adults without them coming forward independently. This happens through "making reports." APS responds to reports by meeting with adults at their homes and helping them with services to allow them to remain independently in their homes for as long as possible. The NH statute includes "self neglect," which comprises  $\frac{2}{3}$  of each year's reports, many of whom are over 60 years of age. The agency gets roughly 10,000 calls per year. About 3500 get investigated b/c they meet the threshold for investigation.

All residents of NH who suspect that a vulnerable adult is abused or neglected are mandated reporters. Reporting can be anonymous, but it's preferred that the reporter can be "in the loop" so that follow up questions can be asked, etc. APS attempts to maintain the confidentiality of the reporter. Some investigations cross into the criminal realm...involving local PD and attorney general's office. In those cases the identity of the reporter must be revealed. Reporters in good faith are immune from liability for having reported.

A vulnerable adult is someone who, due to a physical, emotional, psychological condition, cannot independently manage the activities necessary for daily living. (Finances, hygiene, medical appointments, safety) Anyone over the age of 18 who is struggling to care for themselves, if they don't have a designated caregiver to do things for them or the caregiver isn't functioning in their capacity.

BEAS can get medical information, bank records, and other information to conduct investigations.

Reporting categories:

- Self-neglect (highest reporting category) - diminished capacity, cognitive decline, physical health issues. Home environments may be deteriorating. Need help with meals, shopping, hygiene, and mobility. Financial scam victims. People who are hoarding with or without squalor but with a safety hazard. Individuals who need mental health support.
- Exploitation- financial, medication theft (opioids, particularly), undue influence (signing car/house over to someone). Listing someone as a dependent on taxes (without consent). Usually by someone the person knows, trusts and loves. Not always malicious but casual situations that get out of control, such as using the person's money to buy the caregiver's groceries.
- Physical Abuse - use of force. Injury is not required for a finding of physical abuse.
- Emotional Abuse - misuse of power or authority. i.e. using power of attorney to threaten the person with moving to a nursing home or cutting off contact with loved ones.
- Sexual Abuse - contact of a sexual nature without the informed consent of the vulnerable adult. Spans from unwanted sexual remarks, touching, kissing, showing porn, up to rape/assault. Criteria: can the person give consent. If there's a power differential, the answer is often "no."
- Neglect - similar to self-neglect, but there has to be a designated caregiver who is not functioning in their capacity.

APS has been stretched thin since 2020 due to the fact that they are a small unit and the pandemic complicates investigations. To get a faster response to a report, APS encourages filling out a report form and emailing or faxing to APS. This is much faster than the phone. They are hoping for an online reporting system. (They will send this form to NAIC for us to distribute.)

APS cannot force a person to accept services. They do try to persuade. Sometimes folks decline services and then call back later and ask for them.

APS has also sent a tip sheet on what kinds of questions to ask if one cannot visit in person but can call to check on a vulnerable adult.

NAIC Reports and Announcements:

Jocelyn from Nashua Senior Center - They need volunteers aged over 50 in the thrift store

Meta's Treasurer report: bank balances: Main \$3,220.87, Crop Walk \$2,868.91, Choir \$1,151.75

Jon Spira Savett:

- Monday clergy support meeting is still meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- Housing Justice continues to meet around upcoming legislation in Nashua.
- Thanks for amazing MLK event led by First Baptist Church.

- Possible Interfaith Choir Covid exposure occurred preparing for MLK event, and contact tracing was done.
- Please use this group to educate one another about events and faith traditions. Be in touch directly if you have ideas for collaborative work, ideas, etc.

Mike Apfelberg: United Way has scheduled "Over the Edge" rappelling fundraiser for non-profit agencies. Please have interested agencies contact Mike in the next week or two.

Greg Baker: CGS will be scheduling a vaccine clinic. Announcement will be upcoming.