

JUNE 2009

The Adult Services **Newsletter**



David Paterson, Governor ~ Gladys Carrión, Esq., Commissioner

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FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Gladys Carrión, Esq.

Shine a Spotlight on the Tragic Problem of Elder Abuse

June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. There is no better time for us to join with others across this country and, indeed, around the world as we strengthen our efforts to raise public awareness about elder abuse.

Elder abuse encompasses many types of harm and can occur in community or institutional settings. Victims may be rich, middle class or poor, and may include persons from virtually any cultural or racial category. Elder abuse includes physical, psychological, and sexual abuse; neglect by a caregiver; and financial exploitation.

With the current financial crisis and the severe strains that are resulting for many individuals and families, we must guard against any rise in the rate of mistreatment inflicted upon the vulnerable elderly, particularly in the area of financial exploitation cases.

In New York State, complaints about abuse, neglect and exploitation of vulnerable adults, including the elderly, are reported to and investigated by the Protective Services for Adults (PSA) units of local social services districts, which are supervised by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

Since 1997, the number of PSA cases has increased by 35 percent to 33,833. More than half of the victims of these incidents were 60 years of age or older. However, studies indicate that elder abuse cases are vastly underreported.

Elderly victims of abuse may be in poor health, isolated from others, and unwilling to acknowledge that they are victims. They may also be fearful of their abusers, and may feel that they have no option other than to stay in the abusive situation. Some elderly victims also may believe it is better to remain in their current situations rather than to disrupt their homes and family relationships. Others may feel shame and embarrassment. Some victims may be fearful that as a result of a complaint, they may be found to be incapable of living on their own and forced to go to a nursing home. The victims may seek to preserve harmony and "purchase" peace in their families by permitting some level of exploitation or abuse to continue.

OCFS provides a wide range of training to PSA workers on how to investigate allegations of abuse and neglect, financial exploitation, and related topics. We sponsor the annual Adult Abuse Training Institute, which includes sessions on crimes against the elderly and the role of law enforcement, district attorneys and the courts; elderly domestic violence victims; and the special needs of particular elderly populations, such as Native American tribes, and the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender elders.

Residents of New York State need to know that they can and should report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation to Protective Services for Adults units at their local social services districts when they see warning signs that their elderly friends, neighbors or relatives may need help to protect themselves from harm and there's no one else available to help. They can make an anonymous call if they wish. In addition, the law provides civil immunity for those making a good faith report of suspected abuse to PSA, the State Office for the Aging, or law enforcement agencies.

Let's use the upcoming World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15 as an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the tragic and under-reported problem of elder abuse, and to continue our efforts to protect victims and prevent further abuse.



From The Director

Alan Lawitz

The New Power of Attorney Reform Law: What Does It Mean for PSA Units?



We all know that an important part of a PSA caseworker's responsibilities includes investigation of referrals of alleged financial exploitation of vulnerable adults. The number of these types of cases has been increasing across the state in recent years. It is probably safe to say that the current mortgage/credit/financial crisis and rising unemployment has made it even more likely that attempts to prey on the funds and assets of vulnerable adults will further increase.

Many of these cases involve the use or misuse of a power of attorney (POA) given by the client to a relative or friend. Often our clients lack the ability to handle their funds in a responsible way, due to impairments. As a result, they are easily manipulated and victimized by unscrupulous persons acting as their agents. These persons may isolate the victims and trick them into believing that they are the only ones looking out for their best interests, while in reality many are intent on exploiting and looting the assets.

PSA workers and county attorneys who investigate financial exploitation and who seek to obtain the power of attorney document and related financial records often encounter resistance and downright refusal from the agent. The difficulty in obtaining these documents can serve as a real impediment to a proper investigation.

The new Power of Attorney Reform Law, enacted by Chapter 644 of the Laws of 2008, with an effective date of September 1, 2009, pursuant to Chapter 4 of the Laws of 2009, contains some significant provisions that recognize the essential role of PSA in conducting investigations of financial exploitation of vulnerable persons in the community, and that strengthen the tools available to PSA and other entities to protect our clients from exploitation.

There will now be clear statutory language saying that:

- the agent must submit to PSA and other investigating entities, within 15 days of request, copies of the POA document and records of transactions by the agent under the POA;
- PSA, among others, has a right to initiate a special proceeding to compel the agent to produce these records, and to seek court review of other issues relating to the actions of the agent, or the enforcement of the POA document; and
- there is provision for liability of the agent if the agent fails to comply with an order compelling production, or if the agent is otherwise found to have failed to act within his or her fiduciary duty

In addition, there will now be clear language in statute recognizing that a bank or other financial institution does not have to honor a POA if the bank or someone else has made a referral to PSA for investigation of alleged financial exploitation. This language will serve to encourage banks and others to make such referrals to PSA.

All this means we need to be more ready than ever to conduct PSA financial exploitation investigations, and to provide training to banks and other financial institutions about the indicators of financial exploitation, the role of PSA, and how to report alleged financial exploitation to PSA and law enforcement. We also need to provide similar training to law enforcement as necessary and to strengthen collaboration on a local level.

OCFS is revising its Financial Exploitation training curriculum to incorporate the significant provisions of the new POA law. This training covers: *indicators of financial exploitation, risk factors of victims and abusers, steps to take in a financial exploitation case, laws pertaining to financial exploitation, powers of attorney, identify theft, scams and frauds, working with law enforcement and district attorney's offices, and discussion of various fact patterns.* This training will soon be available and we will publicize the training dates and locations once they are scheduled.

The new law creates a new statutory short form of POA that also:

- includes language intended to educate the principal (i. e., the person giving the power to the agent) about just how sweeping are the powers granted, and to guide the choices about whether to authorize gifting and property transfers;
- authorizes the principal to designate a monitor whose role is to help oversee the activities of the agent, and who is entitled to see the POA document and the records of transactions of the agent made on behalf of the principal;
- includes a caution to the agent that the agent has a fiduciary duty of trust and loyalty to the principal; that the agent must always act in the best interest of the principal; that the agent must avoid conflicts of interest; that the agent must upon request submit copies of the POA document and related records of transactions taken by the agent to PSA, any monitor named, as well as other government entities investigating financial exploitation.

This new law will be helpful in providing a better understanding to prospective principals and their advisors of the rights of principals, potential dangers of abusive agents, and how to avoid some of these dangers through creation of new mechanisms for increased oversight of agents. It provides some helpful tools to PSA in addressing financial exploitation cases. We at OCFS want to provide as much assistance as possible to PSA units in implementing this new authority. Please let us know how this new law works for you.

A HOARDER NO MORE

Linda Stock, Caseworker

Protective Services for Adults, Cortland County DSS

Mr. S, an 80-year-old, was opened as a PSA case in June - 2006, based on a report by a neighbor that he had smelled smoke coming from Mr. S's apartment, went to check it out, and there was a fire on his stove. He saw evidence of extreme hoarding, and that Mr. S was eating garbage that was all over his apartment. The fire department was called to put out the fire, and the neighbor called Protective Services for Adults. A caseworker worked with him for two years, trying to convince him to allow the cleaning of his apartment, the weeding out of his belongings, and compliance with medical recommendations. During that time it was discovered that Mr. S had uncontrolled diabetes, and ulcerated legs that would not heal. All Mr. S would allow the caseworker to do is to view his ulcerated legs. He would not allow any further involvement by the caseworker. He would not allow supportive services such as aide service or a visiting nurse. He was having frequent hospitalizations for various problems. Contacting the landlord did not help, as the landlord refused to threaten eviction. Mr. S was paying on time each month, so it was a steady source of income to the landlord.

In late summer 2008, the case was transferred to me. I worked initially on developing a good rapport with Mr. S. I found that he responded well to being treated with respect and friendliness, so that was my initial approach. I offered to assist him by taking him to the doctor. He agreed to allow that. At this point, he was not allowing me into his apartment yet. I could see and smell that it was horrible. I could see only a narrow path to walk through. I did take him to the doctor, and found that his blood sugar was off the charts; it was higher than 400. The doctor expressed concern, and was asking that we become his guardian and force a placement in a residential facility.

Mr. S had developed a dislike and distrust of the doctor because she had expressed this to him. Mr. S was very resistant to that; he felt that his previous caseworker just wanted to put him in a nursing home. His mother had died in a nursing home, so he was fearful that he would be put in one to die also. I agreed to work with the doctor, explaining that Mr. S really wanted to remain at home, so I would try to get things cleaned up at home if possible so services could be put in place, and if I could not accomplish that, I would have to focus on placement as a goal. She understood, and was appreciative of my coming with Mr. S to the appointments, and making sure he had his medications.

As he started allowing me into his apartment, I discovered that Mr. S was not taking the medications, although he claimed he was. His apartment was in such chaos, that it seemed he had no idea what he was and wasn't doing. He had a path from the door to his chair where he slept, and from his chair to the bathroom. I spent a month or so just working on gaining Mr. S's trust, encouraging him to talk to me, to share his feelings and experiences. I saw many engaging qualities in Mr. S, and showed appreciation for his points of view, his humor, his warmth. We developed a good relationship. He allowed me (reluctantly) to take him to visit a local adult care facility, and the visit went well, but he said he loved his apartment, he had lived there for over 10 years, and that was home to him. He said that if the time were to come when he felt he could not live alone, he would by necessity go to a facility, but he was just not ready for that. Thus, I told him I would support his remaining in his apartment if he would agree to have it cleaned out, and then to accept home services. He agreed reluctantly.

I arranged to meet the landlord at the apartment, and took my director with me. Working collaboratively, we got Mr. S to agree to allow three vendors to come in to give us estimates to have the apartment cleared out and cleaned. We found a vendor who would do it reasonably, and paid him with Title XX funds to come in and clean. It took him one full day, and two half-days, with the help of his wife. Mr. S was in a panic state many times during those days, seeing his beloved magazines, newspapers, books and garbage removed. We did get through it, though, and when all was finished, he looked at his apartment with pride, and said, "I will never let it get like it was again, I want it to stay just like this." He then allowed me to arrange for a public health nurse to come in to visit him, and allowed me to put in a consumer-directed personal care assistant, who in fact was his neighbor who had agreed to apply to work for him. The nurse saw a need, and opened him up for ongoing nursing services, for medication management and treating of his leg ulcers as needed, since this is an ongoing problem for him. He has grown to like and trust the nurse, and enjoys her visits.

Now, seven months after my first meeting Mr. S, his PSA case is closed. He has a clean, neat apartment and clean clothes; he is eating properly, taking his medications, and keeping all medical appointments; and his CDPAP aide is doing a wonderful job of keeping him on track, as are his nurse and doctor. I continue to be the caseworker for his CDPAP case. He is happy with and proud of his improved situation, and in fact is able to enjoy some of the things in his apartment that previously were under so much garbage that he couldn't find them, such as his keyboard and his drum set. He enjoys his life, and is happy.

Editor's Note: This is a great example of how patient, engaged casework has really made a positive difference in the life of a PSA client. Thank you, Linda, and thanks also to Tim Lockwood, Director of Services for Cortland County DSS, for sharing this with us.

The first letter of the client's last name has been changed to protect his confidentiality.

INTERVIEW WITH GAVIN KASPER, Case Supervisor, PSA,



Paula Vielkind and Alan Lawitz sat down recently with Gavin for the following discussion.

Q. Gavin, where are you from? Have you always lived in Western New York?

A. I actually grew up near Woodstock, in a little village called Boiceville. I was born in Connecticut, and we moved to the Catskills when I was about 4.

Q. Where did you go to school and what did you study?

A. I went to the University at Buffalo. I studied social sciences, as an undergrad. I also focused on Legal Studies, with a number of Poli Sci courses. I was thinking of applying to law school. In the interim, I was working for Catholic Charities in a youth program I had a few cases that made me feel that I wanted to stay in social services. I went back to school and got a graduate degree in social sciences. I was at Catholic Charities after college for 3½ years. Then I moved on to a mental health residential program.

Paula: Great background

A. I then went into a developmental disabilities residential program, and then to the local crisis outreach program and ran a homeless program.

Alan: This is a terrific range of experience

Q. How long have you worked for Erie County?

A. It will be six years in June.

Q. When you started at Erie County 6½ years ago, did you start as a caseworker or as a supervisor?

A. I started as a supervisor. I did come in from the outside, but I was not a political appointee.

Q. What drew you to the field?

A. I've always had a passion for helping other people, and that was really confirmed when I was a caseworker. When I was there it was reinforced. As I moved along my career, I found that I not only wanted to help other people, but I also had an interest in helping people learn how to help other people.

Q. So Adult Services seemed a great fit for you.

A. This is really my ideal job. I never thought I would have my current position 15 years ago. Now my challenge is...what's next?

Q. That segues right into my next question: why don't you describe the way Protective Services is delivered in Erie County, because it is not the same as elsewhere?

A. It is truly unique in New York, although it is similar to how it is in some other states. The Area Office for the Aging has the Protective Services for Adults unit attached to it. They are employees of Senior Services and they deliver the protective services for those age 60 and over. There is another office in Social Services that provides protective and preventive services for those age 18-59. For the seniors, the preventive piece is really a part of the information and assistance services. It truly brings in a greater expertise in the field. We have a very disproportionately older population in Buffalo. There has been a 75% increase of those age 85 and older between 1990 and 2008. Yes, we are seeing the boomers age, but we are seeing more people in their seventies and above. We're seeing an increase in the older "older" population, and the Western New York region has a disproportionately higher older population.

Q. In several other counties, and for the state as a whole we see a split in the PSA client population of about 60% age 60 and older and about 40% between the ages of 18-59. What does it look like in Erie?

A. For the Protective cases, it is about 70% age 60 and older. We are not seeing a lot of younger clients. We can classify them as preventive for financial management.

Q. What is Erie's greatest strength?

A. It is the commitment of the staff. The PSA staff, both Senior Services and Social Services, do a knock-out job, for what they have to do. I wouldn't have the energy or the commitment to do what they do, day in and day out. I couldn't do what they do. So I think the greatest asset is the staff.

Q. What does the domestic violence incidence look like for your clients; is it stable or rising?

A. It is stable. We really do not get that many abuse cases. It is more neglect and financial exploitation.

Q. Finally, is there anything you want to mention that we haven't asked you, or anything else you wanted to say?

A. There are a lot of cases in which PSA caseworkers have had a significant impact on people's lives. It is often a matter of life and death. We may get used to it, but anytime you can keep someone away from harm, it's great. The caseworkers do a fantastic job.

Q. How many of the PSA clients receive some type of Financial management services?

A. Most of the cases in both units involve some type of financial management, especially rep payee, and many have additional service needs.

Erie County Senior Services and DSS.

Q. For how long have you been the supervisor of both of the PSA units in Erie County? Is this a work in progress?

A. It is going into the third year now. My administrative oversight of both units is done by an MOU between Senior Services and the DSS. Yes, it is a work in progress. Senior Services is smaller and easier to manage, while Social Services is mammoth, thus more difficult to manage. We need to keep taking baby steps to get both units to move in alignment.

Q. How often do you provide training?

A. We do it quite frequently, to a variety of populations, focusing primarily on elder abuse or protective services. We have a Council on Elder Abuse in our county. We try to have a cadre of persons who can provide presentations. We have trained more than 4,000 seniors. We've gone to senior centers, apartment complexes. We've gone into the schools, health care providers. We've done train the trainer presentations. We have one or two larger conferences every year.

Q. Have you been able to do any training with banks on financial exploitation issues? It seems that with the new Power of Attorney reform legislation there will be more call for PSA to provide such training.

A. The Council on Elder Abuse is starting to connect with Consumer Credit Councils; they are going to do financial exploitation training. We are also doing two workshops on this topic with the Network on Aging at its annual conference. I've got to give credit to the banks in Erie County (**No pun intended? Editor**) We have a fantastic relationship with the banks. If we suspect something, or if the bank suspects something, and the referrals go back and forth, they are willing to help us out, in terms of discovering the information that we need, if they are certain there is exploitation. They'll send copies of the checks and statements right over to us. We rarely get resistance. There is also a Financial Crimes Task Force, facilitated by the Secret Service, that includes us, Customs, local law enforcement and others, that addresses scams and frauds and financial exploitation issues.

Q. What do you consider your greatest challenge?

A. As you know, the resources are always a stretch. A couple of years ago, Erie County had a financial crisis of its own. Shortly before that we were able to implement technology, and build in efficiencies, including working on building ASAP. I think one of the biggest challenges is trying to be creative, and building in case management. The caseloads are not going away. The cases are a lot more complicated. They require a lot more time. We don't seem to be getting relief in terms of turning these cases over. The numbers keep going up and up and up. We don't expect that to change, especially with the rise of the aging population. We have to be creative in how we use the resources that we have.

Q. Have you been successful in trying to collaborate with other agencies to serve clients?

A. Yes, I think we have. It is always a challenge to develop these relationships. It takes being involved, and out there. Our involvement in these coalitions has been helpful. For PSA we have these three criteria. Sometimes people will say that we are not doing enough with these cases, but we have a slew of cases that we are working really hard. We have these three criteria for a reason, and that protects people's rights. Occasionally we have a situation where a police officer won't want to have a report or won't want to do a 9.41 [power of police to take into custody and remove a person who appears to be mentally ill and likely to harm self or others for evaluation] or 9.45 [power of police to take such a person into custody and to transport to a hospital for evaluation at request of director of community services]. It will take a lot of persuasion or negotiation with the agency. A lot of people don't realize that we just can't remove somebody. That is where training can help a lot. We work with the unified court system to do training for law enforcement. The police are starting to get it.

Q. Do you have many clients who are young adults aging out of foster care?

A. In Erie County we have not experienced a flood of such clients. Occasionally there is a client who is turning 22. But not many young adults.

Q. What are you seeing in terms of clients who are homeless?

A. We see not just people who are on the street, but also persons who are living in doubled-up conditions, in sub-standard housing, with domestic violence issues, and there are a lot of families with children who are homeless or living in poor conditions. There are a lot of individuals with mental health issues, and mental health services are generally a voluntary service. There are persons with mental health issues who are older and being evicted; we are seeing more of these people. We are trying to work with the landlords to get services, home health aides, brought in to stabilize things.

Q. How many caseworkers do you have in Erie County for PSA?

A. Twenty-eight. Two in Senior Services are strictly for intake.

Q. Are PSA staff involved in New York Connects in Erie County?

A. A separate unit, Information Assistance, works on New York Connects. If there is a PSA question, they walk it over to us, though.

Thanks, Gavin

AFTER-HOURS COVERAGE SURVEY

Paula Vielkind,
OCFS Bureau of Adult Services



There have been a couple of “PSA Blog” questions regarding how districts handle and respond to after-hours coverage, and many districts responded to the questions. As you might have guessed, how “on call” is handled varies throughout the state! Forty-three districts responded to the following question:

Do any counties have an “on call” system and, if so, who is on call?

The predominant response from most districts (18) is that CPS is the primary on-call unit for after-hours response, since they’re required to provide 24/7 coverage (**see below**). In some counties (11), there is “DSS on-call” coverage, including but not limited to CPS; those workers, including many PSA staff, are trained to handle any/all emergencies.

Many of the responding counties added that the CPS on-call worker also covers homeless situations, HEAP or utility/fuel emergencies and usually contacts the PSA Supervisor if there is an issue regarding an adult. But no referral is documented in ASAP until the next business day.

There are a couple of exceptions, though. Some of the larger districts contract with an after-hour Emergency Services organization to handle all after-hours issues and a couple of districts employ an “after-hours” staff who handle emergencies and attempt to make home visits to PSA clients who’ve been unavailable or inaccessible during standard daytime work hours. There are also districts (4) where law enforcement / sheriff’s offices have names and home telephone numbers for either PSA staff or supervisors (or both!) and don’t hesitate to use them to get assistance for someone after the DSS offices have closed for the day.

Three districts reported that PSA specifically is “on-call” (not as a backup to CPS or as part of agency-wide coverage): Dutchess, for Information and Referral ONLY; Monroe, on a voluntary basis to cover approximately 10 hours each Saturday, Sunday or holiday; and Saratoga, to handle homeless or transportation issues but NOT to take PSA referrals.

Isn’t this interesting? PSA is NOT required to provide 24/7 coverage, but we’ve learned that nearly 40 districts have a way for PSA to be contacted “after-hours” to provide advice and intervention. Since we didn’t hear from all districts, that number may not truly reflect all the work being done by PSA staff and supervisors after the office closes for the day!

Counsel’s Additions

18 NYCRR 457.1(d)(2) requires a prompt response and investigation of PSA referrals. This has been interpreted by 96 ADM-18 to require that “districts must commence an investigation as soon as possible, but not later than 24 hours, after receipt of a PSA referral when it is determined that a life threatening situation exists. It is the district’s responsibility to determine whether a life threatening situation exists at the time a referral is made. If district staff cannot determine whether a life threatening situation exists at time of referral, the situation must be treated as life threatening and immediate action must be taken.”

93 ADM 23 discusses these issues more fully, such as when a referral is considered received. This ADM states that “designated staff must be available to receive PSA referrals throughout the normal business day.” It is silent as to what happens during non-business hours.

Child Protective Services (CPS) regulations at 18 NYCRR 432.2(b)(2) require 24/7 coverage of CPS referrals.

FOCUS ON FAMILY-TYPE HOMES FOR ADULTS

***Deborah Greenfield,
Bureau of Adult Services***

Orange County Family Type Home Model

Currently our bureau is working on scheduling a video conference on the Orange County Family-Type Home (FTH) Model. This will be conducted in a meeting format in which Orange County staff will discuss how they developed their program to encompass more than 30 homes over the past few years. They will describe how they link their providers to the overall community and encourage operators to meet local needs by accepting SSI residents as well as private pay, or providing emergency placements for PSA. Orange County's FTH program is also diversifying to meet local needs by developing homes geared to young adults aging out of foster care, or to victims of domestic violence. Their use of the program has been very creative. They will explain how the FTH program can support PSA in your district in terms of both long-term housing and care needs and temporary/emergency housing. (We hope to be able to schedule the conference to be accessible at each of the OCFS regional offices to permit as many districts to participate as possible without incurring major travel expenses, but stay tuned for further details.)

Dementia Care

Speaking of diversification, recently some FTH operators have approached us about specializing in dementia care. Some residents with early stage dementia can be cared for appropriately in the FTH setting. However, operators are responsible for making sure that these residents meet the admission / retention criteria stated in regulations (18 NYCRR Part 489; see especially sections 489.7 and 489.8). The determination of whether the operator can safely care for such resident shall be based upon receipt and consideration of a medical evaluation (OCFS-3122) or an approved local equivalent from the resident's physician that states that the resident is appropriate for care in the FTH. Operators must also be sensitive to supervision needs, residents who wander or have "sundowning behaviors" that may be difficult to deal with in this setting. Wandering cannot be resolved by locking residents in the house. Not only is it a violation of resident rights, but it also poses serious fire safety concerns.

In adult care facilities / assisted living licensed by the state Department of Health, recently enacted law requires that a facility housing five or more residents have a special certification as a Special Needs Assisted Living Residence. This category of care has additional regulations in place designed to address the health and safety needs of persons with dementia residing in a congregate setting. While that model may not translate easily into the FTH program consisting of four or fewer residents, we are looking at ways of addressing these issues within the context of this program. Your comments/concerns/suggestions would be very much appreciated!

Miscellaneous Brief Reminders

1. Operators cannot have joint bank accounts with their residents, or otherwise co-mingle their assets with those of the residents. This is illegal, and could subject the operator to both criminal and civil penalties.
2. Operators who have residents receiving SSI cannot demand, require or contract for payment of any part of the Personal Needs Allowance in satisfaction of the basic rate charged for services and supplies. Again, this is illegal and could subject the operator to criminal and civil penalties.
3. Operators cannot serve as agents to residents under a Power of Attorney. It is a conflict of interest.
4. If an individual residing in the FTH requires the operator to manage their medications or their money, or to provide supervision or personal care services to them, that individual cannot be considered a "boarder," but must be considered a resident.



CATTARAUGUS COUNTY: WEANING OFF THE PAYEE TRAIN

***Peggy Locicero, Case Supervisor,
PSA, Cattaraugus County DSS***

In Cattaraugus County, we provide financial management services to nearly 240 individuals.

The Social Security Administration has named our Commissioner Representative Payee for these people, and only seven of them are PSA clients.

Since the five PSA staff are responsible for these clients as well as their PSA caseloads, we have been trying to reduce the number of individuals who require a Representative Payee.

First, we try to select a candidate for this program who seems likely to succeed because of his or her history of managing the weekly allowances s/he has already been given. If the client is willing to try to manage more of his/her money, we increase the weekly allowance by an amount that would cover a monthly bill (e.g., telephone or cable), choosing one that would not jeopardize that person's "life or limb" if not paid.

If that change in responsibility goes well, Cattaraugus County will bump up the weekly allowance again to include enough money to pay for a utility bill. Again, if that "trial" goes well, then another bill becomes the client's responsibility. If things don't go well, we slow down or back up a bit.

As you can imagine, this process takes several months, not weeks. But we have had some success so far and we'll keep on trying. This is pretty basic, I know, but Cattaraugus County has so many payee cases that our walls are bursting!



!! REMINDER !!

**Nominations for Certificates of Recognition
for Excellence in Providing Protective Services for
Adults, must be received in the OCFS Bureau of Adult
Services by June 19, 2009, to the attention of:**

**Alan Lawitz, Director, Bureau of Adult Services
NYS Office of Children & Family Services
52 Washington Street
Room 333, North Building
Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144**



PROTECTIVE SERVICES FOR ADULTS TRAININGS
(Check STARS for Further Details as to Specific Dates and Locations)

New Worker Institute

NYC – Sept. or Oct., location to be determined (tbd)

Fundamentals of PSA Supervision

NYC – dates, location tbd

Adult Abuse Training Institute

September 16-17, 2009, Albany Marriott

Advanced PSA Supervision

Syracuse – dates, location tbd

LEGAL TRAININGS



Article 81 Guardianship – AATI Pre-intensive training, Sept. 15, 2009

Financial Exploitation - two offerings, Monroe County, June 18 and Niagara County, June 10.

Guardianship for Young Adults Aging Out of Foster Care - one offering, Columbia and Greene Counties, dates tbd

SPECIAL TOPICS

Aging with Chronic Mental Illness - one offering, Cortland, June 16, 2009
Trainer: Mary Anne Corasaniti

Hoarding - one offering, NYC,
Trainer: Patrice Lamariana, dates tbd

Elder Abuse - one offering, date/trainer tbd

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder- one offering, upstate, 3rd qtr.

Representative Payee Teleconference - September 9, 2009





SAVE THE DATE



September 16-17, 2009



**The 16th Annual
Adult Abuse Training Institute**

*“Strengthening Alliances: Realizing
Solutions Within Our Reach”*

**Albany Marriott Hotel
and Conference Center**