



Lifespan's Elder Abuse Prevention Certificate Course

In partnership with the Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center at the University of Rochester

Lifespan's Elder Abuse Prevention Certificate Course, in partnership with the University of Rochester, is a foundational course on multiple aspects of elder abuse and what impacts elder abuse victims and how you as a professional can support them in a trauma informed way.

Goals

1. Deepen your understanding of elder abuse.
2. Promote your ability to work competently with older adults who have experienced any form of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
3. Integrate themes of trauma-informed care, equity, and justice throughout the course with mindfulness about the unique circumstances of every person affected by elder abuse (such as intersection of ageism, racism, sexism, classism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, etc.).

Course Catalog

Session1: Introduction to Elder Abuse

Overview

A foundational class in elder abuse and the five types of elder abuse & mistreatment before diving deeper into other aspects of elder abuse.

Instructors: Tracey Siebert-Konopko, LMSW, and Stephanie Good, MSW, Lifespan.

Objectives:

1. Define elder abuse and briefly explore the five types.
2. Describe the variety of elder abuse victims and characteristics of those who perpetrate elder abuse.
3. Understand how common elder abuse is and how you can detect it.

Session 2: Types of Elder Abuse Panel

Overview

This session dives deeper into the five types of elder abuse with a panel of professionals who interact with elder abuse survivors. Panel includes Brad Hasenauer, a forensic accountant who

works alongside Adult Protective Services to explore and detect financial abuse, Lindsey Crusan-Muse, director of St. Peter's Crime Victims Services, and Thomas Caprio, M.D., who specializes in geriatric medicine, hospice, and palliative care at University of Rochester Medicine.

Objectives:

1. Gain an understanding of professionals who support elder abuse survivors.
2. Understand the needs of survivors of elder abuse.
3. Discuss your experiences with a variety of professionals who impact the lives of elder abuse survivors.

Session 3: Trauma-informed Responses to Abuse

Overview

A discussion of concrete examples and solution-focused questions that can be useful when an older adult discloses abuse.

Instructor: Stephanie Good, MSW, Lifespan.

Objectives:

1. Learn trauma-informed responses when someone discloses abuse.
2. Discuss service interventions and non-service interventions you can offer victims of elder abuse.
3. Basics of solution focused and motivational interviewing skills with older adults.

Session 4: Ageism: A Driving Force of Elder Abuse and Mistreatment

Overview

A discussion about ageist stereotypes, facts vs myths of aging, barriers faced by older adults and how barriers impact engagement and adherence to services/support. Learn how ageism sets the stage for abuse to occur and thrive.

Instructor: Tracey Siebert-Konopko, LMSW, Lifespan.

Objectives:

1. Understand what ageism is and how extensive it is.
2. Confront our own age-based biases and develop a deeper understanding of where those come from.
3. Discover how ageism sets the stage for abuse to occur and thrive.

Session 5: Safety Planning

Overview

A discussion about safety planning options for the different types of abuse. This course will look through the special lens of what older adults and family can do to increase protection.

Instructor: Lisa Nolan, Director of Prevention Education, Willow Domestic Violence Center, Rochester, NY.

Objectives:

1. Learn trauma-informed responses when discussing safety planning needs/options.
2. Discuss multiple ways to offer a safety plan with an elder abuse victim.
3. Safety plans for victims who are fleeing from the alleged abuser or choosing to stay in contact.

Session 6: Legal/Civil Options**Overview**

A discussion of the civil rights of elder abuse victims and when one can reach out to an elder law attorney. This course will discuss how the civil legal system can be utilized as both a preventive tool, as well as a remedy to abuse.

Instructor: Miles Zatkowsky, Esq. Dutcher & Zatkowsky, Rochester Elder Law

Objectives:

1. Learn about common fiduciary and planning tools that can help older adults maintain control over their futures.
2. Understand how to best choose an attorney and the importance of selecting one who understands the needs of people as they age.
3. Discover how to engage the civil legal system to remedy the effects of elder abuse.

Session 7: Underserved Populations of Elder Abuse Survivors Panel**Overview**

This session will provide professionals with knowledge and theories about underserved populations and how to best work with diverse populations of older adults.

Instructors: Moderator - Rebecca Bradley, Action for Older Persons, Endicott, NY. Panelists: Susan Frawley, Center for Elder Law & Justice, Buffalo, NY; Raquel Serrano, Ibero American Action League, Rochester, NY; TBD

Objectives:

1. Learn about how systemic racism has affected different generations of people.
2. Understand why underserved populations may be less likely to engage with existing services and what you can do to start increasing equity and justice in your own agency.
3. Discuss the impact of intersectionality on survivors of elder abuse.

Session 8: Elder Abuse Policy**Overview**

We all know that action and policy work together to influence how or society functions. Learn about the national and statewide policies that directly affect older adults and survivors of elder abuse and mistreatment.

Instructor: Robert Blancato, National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition.

Objectives:

1. Understand how national and statewide policies impact services and rights of elder abuse survivors.

2. Learn about the Elder Justice Act and federal initiatives and funding sources related to Adult Protective Services and elder abuse programs.
3. Understand the role of personal and agency advocacy for policies and legislation that benefits older adults at risk of mistreatment.

Session 9: Scams and Identity Theft

Overview

A discussion of how scams and identity theft affect older victims. Attendees will learn about common scams and what preventive steps can be taken to reduce the risk. Additionally, attendees will learn about methods to stop the abuse, engage with the criminal legal system when appropriate, and about potential compensation options in New York State.

Instructors: Daniel Lyon and Justin McCabe, Lifespan.

Objectives:

1. Learn about the different types of scams.
2. Discuss multiple systems that support victims and understand their power and limitations.
3. Learn tips for preventing scams and identity theft.

Session 10: General Interventions

Overview:

Now that we know what elder abuse looks like, we can talk about what we can do to alleviate the effects of elder abuse. Join the Division Leader of the Upstate Elder Abuse Center as she explores what case managers can do with survivors of elder abuse and how to connect to further resources for ongoing support and help.

Instructor: Kelly Zunner-Daniels, LMSW, Division Leader for the Upstate Elder Abuse Center at Lifespan.

Objectives:

1. Learn about immediate actions that can provide relief to survivors of elder abuse.
2. Understand your role and options when someone discloses abuse to you.
3. Understand the role of Adult Protective Services and how best to access their services.

All certificate courses are eligible for Continuing Education credits for licensed social workers in New York State. They may also be eligible for CE credits for licensed professionals in other states depending on individual state credentialing requirements.

Lifespan of Greater Rochester is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers # SW-0089.