



Coordinated Community Response to Elder Abuse

Golden Circle, Red Deer
&
Community Partnerships, Alberta Seniors

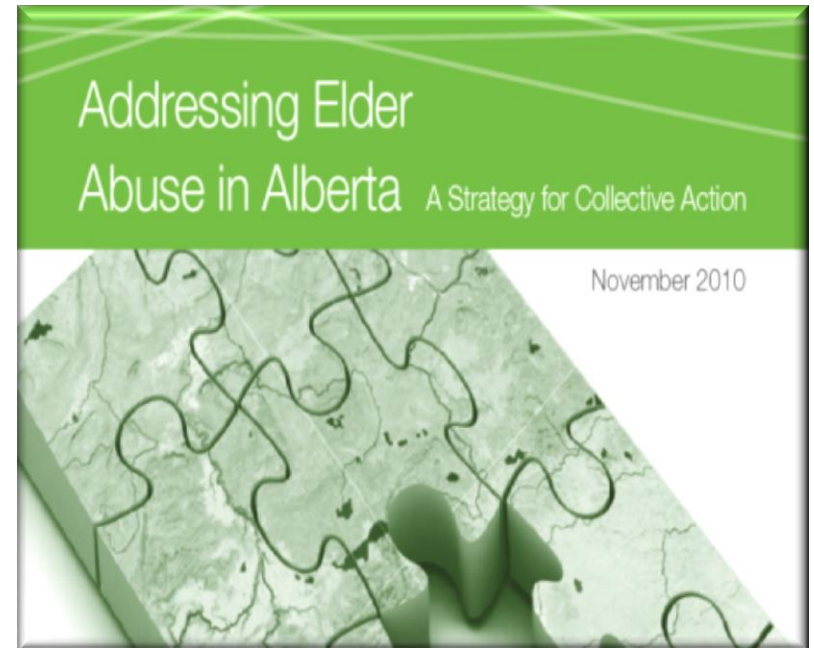
October 1, 2014

Alberta's Elder Abuse Strategy

Provides an overall context for how government will work with all sectors to prevent and address elder abuse

Priority initiative for the Minister of Seniors

Four Key Goals



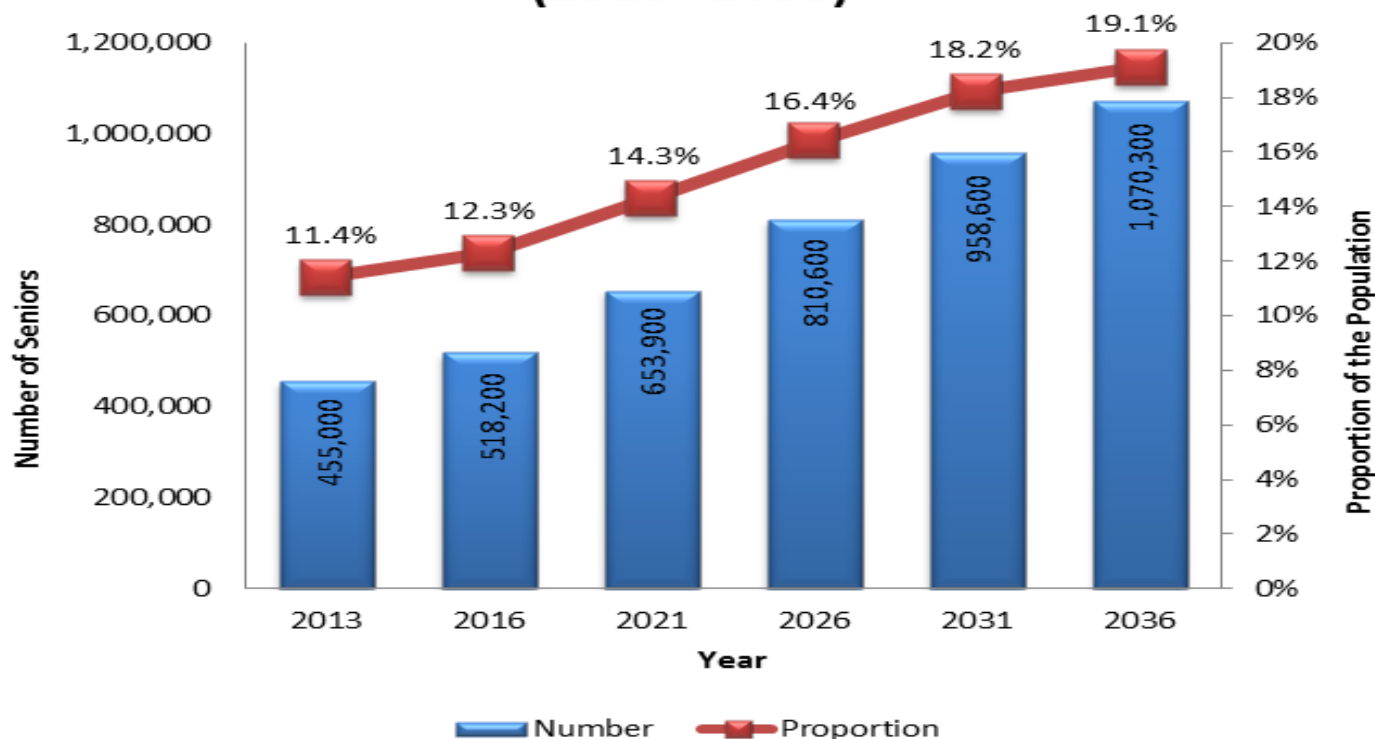
“Alberta seniors are free from abuse and neglect.”

Four Key Goals



Alberta's Aging Population

**Population Projection for Alberta:
Predicted Number and Proportion of Seniors
(2013 - 2036)**



The Unique Nature of Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is any action or inaction by self or others that jeopardizes the health or well-being of any older adult and is divided into six categories:

- Emotional
- Financial
- Physical
- Sexual
- Medication
- Neglect



The Unique Nature of Elder Abuse

- Elder abuse is a pattern of behaviour
- Elder abuse is about power and control
- Conflict is a natural part of life
- Population is aging
- Understanding aging
- Diverse communities – cues and beliefs
- Common definition – common understanding
- Knowledge of rights, resources, legislation

Elder Abuse Is Complex



Communities Are Where Differences Are Made

- Abused people turn to those closest to them
- They may not have access to service providers or services
- Community members often know which families need help
- Communities recognize and understand cultural values, traditions and practices
- Violence is a barrier to strong communities
- Residents and leaders have the willingness and capacity to develop skills needed to provide prevention and intervention
- People working together can accomplish miracles

*Never doubt that a small group of
thoughtful, committed citizens can
change the world; indeed, it's the only
thing that ever has.*

Margaret Mead

Coordinated Community Response

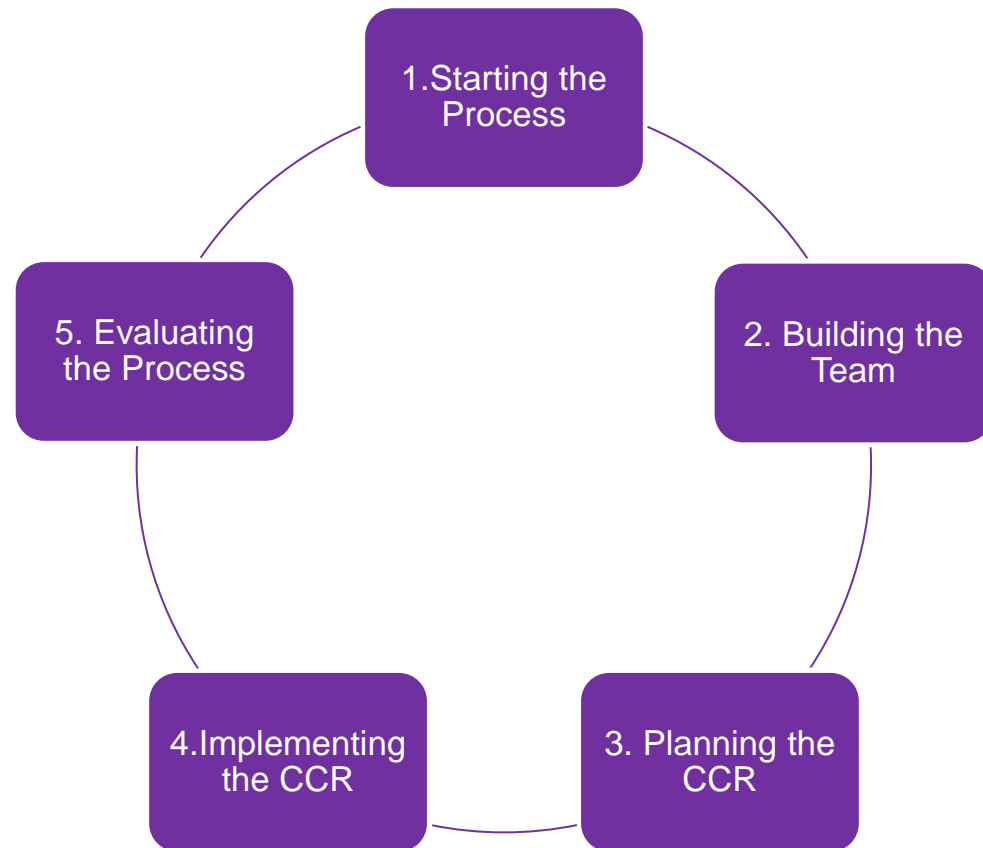
Definition

- A coordinated community response model involves community and government organizations working together to achieve common goals through established systems based on best practices
- It includes coordination of supports and services so there is an increased capacity to respond to elder abuse

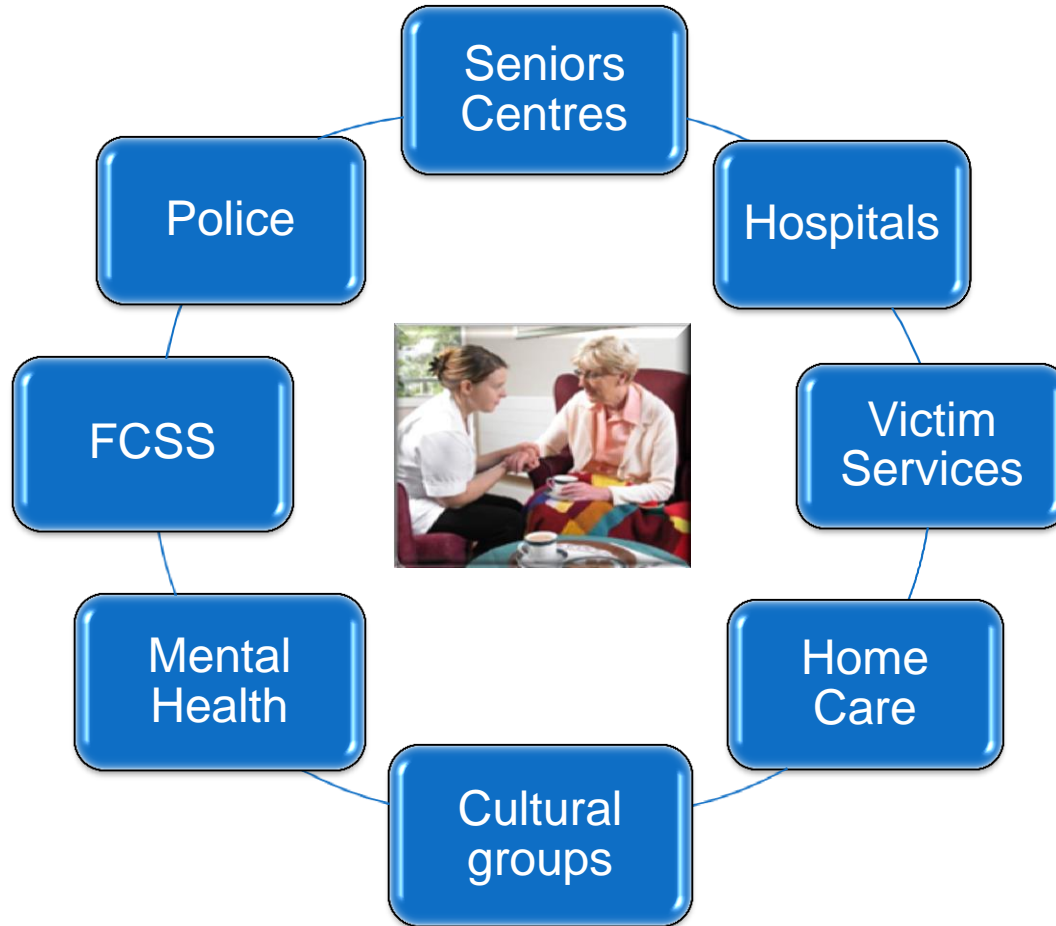
Building a Strong Foundation



Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Planning Model



Key Stakeholders and Community Organizations



Coordinated Community

Roles: Response Outcomes:



Coordinated Community Response

- What we learned from service providers
- Role of the Government of Alberta



Grant Programs



- **Taking Action Against Elder Abuse Coordinated Community Response Grant Program – Alberta Seniors**
 - Up to \$150,000 over 3 years (maximum of \$75,000 per year)
 - Develop or enhance Coordinated Community Response models
- **Family and Community Safety Program – Alberta Human Services**
 - Grassroots prevention efforts that address issues such as child abuse, family violence, sexual assault and bullying
 - From \$35,000 to \$500,000 for up to three years
- **Victims of Crime Fund – Alberta Justice and Solicitor General**
 - Provide programs or services that benefit victims of crime during the involvement with criminal justice process

Coordinated Community Strategies

- We all need to work together at all levels
- Need to consider what plans and strategies exist
- Four reasons:
 - Front-line cooperation
 - Community and area interagency cooperation to identify service gaps
 - Community and area interagency cooperation to respond to social issues
 - Regional cooperation

Current Coordinated Community Responses

- Four main goals of community-based programs that are intertwined
 1. Raising awareness of the problem of elder abuse
 2. Connecting community residents to services
 3. Building networks of leaders within the community
 4. Making services and organizations accountable to community needs
- There is a connection to the 4 goals identified in the elder abuse strategy

Current Coordinated Community Responses

- Different types of communities require different approaches/strategies (different service availability)
- Action plans must be adapted to the community needs
- Current community responses:
 - Edmonton, Calgary, Central Alberta, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Camrose, Rimby, St. Albert, Athabasca/Westlock/Barrhead, Tri-community (Stony Plain/Spruce Grove/Parkland County, Strathcona County and Fort McMurray).

Central Alberta Coordinated Community Response

- What we learned from others?
- Starting a Central Alberta Process
- Building the Team
 - Identified key stakeholders
 - Gathered stakeholders

Central Alberta Coordinated Community Response

- Community Conversations
- What principles will guide us?
- What are our shared values?



Central Alberta Coordinated Community Response

- What are the most important aspects of a partnership?
- What is important to include in a partnership agreement?
- What are some tips to maintain a healthy partnership?



Central Alberta Coordinated Community Response

- What is our target group?
- Definition of elder abuse
- What challenges will we face?



Central Alberta/Red Deer Elder Abuse Response

First Point of Contact

Victim, Family Member, Bank, Organization*, Concerned Citizen

911

Need immediate response.
Victim at risk of physical harm or concern for safety.
For police or E.M.S.

RCMP

Lodge complaint of potential abuse.
Criminal activity

Civil

1. Office of the Public Guardian
2. Office of the Public Trustee – Explanation and questions about personal directives
3. Protection of Persons in care: Hospital, Lodge, Group Home, Retirement Home, LTC.

Information and Referral

1-877-454-2580
Golden Circle
H.E.A.R. Program

FCSS

1. Client needing support to find emergency housing.
2. Develop self-care plan.
3. Client being supported in non criminal process

Golden Circle Outreach

1. Client needing support to find emergency housing.
2. Develop self-care plan.
3. Client being supported in non criminal process

Individual communities need to identify their own stakeholders who will support clients.

*To contact an organization you need consent from the individual or the individual calls on their own.

Family Violence Information Line – 310-1818

Helping Elder Abuse Reduction (HEAR) Program

- Resource will be available
 - Immediate Danger
 - Forms of abuse include:
 - Definition
 - Indicators
 - Suggestions of strategies
 - Local Resources



Central Alberta Coordinated Community Response

- Implementation steps
 - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
 - Sent out to stakeholders
- The Generations Project - education
- Evaluation

Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network

AEAAN is:

- A province-wide network of professionals
- Represented by communities across Alberta
- Promoting the well-being of older adults
- Working to increasing community awareness
- Developing resources to address elder abuse
- Strengthening the right to safety, respect and dignity

Website: www.albertaelderabuse.ca

Alberta Resources

- Family Violence Info Line 310-1818
- Call 911 if in immediate danger
- Police – local number
- Protection for Persons in Care
 - 1-888-357-9339 (toll-free)
- Alberta Seniors
 - www.seniors.alberta.ca
- Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network
 - www.albertaelderabuse.ca



Information on: Coordinated Community Response

For more information on Coordinated Community Response

Email – elderabuseinfo@gov.ab.ca

For print resources:

Website: www.seniors.alberta.ca

To speak with someone call:

Lori Therrien @ 780-643-6110 or

Susan McIntosh @ 780-644-8464

Questions?

