

LEX QUOD ORDO

ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER | SUMMER 2011 VOLUME II ISSUE I

WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF VOLUME II OF LEX QUOD ORDO (LAW AND ORDER), THE ASSOCIATION OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS' (APA) QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY PROSECUTION. AS THE NEW DIRECTOR OF APA'S COMMUNITY PROSECUTION AND VIOLENT CRIME DIVISION, I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE MANY EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS AND ADVANCES TAKING PLACE IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY PROSECUTION.

STARTING THIS PAST MONTH, APA HAS BEGUN HOSTING A SERIES OF REGIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION SUMMITS NATIONWIDE. WE BELIEVE THESE REGIONAL SUMMITS WILL ALLOW YOU AS PROSECUTORS, TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN BETTER PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY PROSECUTORS IN YOUR REGION AND TO BEGIN TO DEVELOP MORE COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL CRIME PREVENTION STRATEGIES. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING TO FINALIZE HOSTING SITES FOR THE REGIONS SELECTED. IF YOUR JURISDICTION IS INTERESTED IN HOSTING OR IN ATTENDING ONE OF THESE ONE-DAY SUMMITS PLEASE CONTACT GENA GONZALES AT GENA.GONZALES@APAINC.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

THIS SPRING, APA, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. DOJ'S BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE (BJA), THROUGH ITS INNOVATIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE, HAS ALSO BEGUN HOSTING A SERIES OF MEETINGS OF MULTI-DISCIPLINARY CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPERTS TO HELP IDENTIFY AND VET INNOVA-

TIVE COST-EFFICIENT PROGRAMS THAT MAINTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY WHILE REDUCING CRIME AND PRISON/JAIL POPULATIONS. THROUGH THESE SESSIONS, THE ASSEMBLED ADVISORY GROUP



IS WORKING TO DETERMINE WHICH INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ON A NATIONAL LEVEL FOR REPLICATION. WITH THE INFORMATION CAPTURED FROM THESE DISCUSSIONS, APA AND ITS NATIONAL PARTNERS ARE CURRENTLY DEVELOPING THE INNOVATIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUMMIT TO TAKE PLACE THIS SEPTEMBER 28TH-30TH AT THE PALMER HOUSE HILTON IN CHICAGO, IL.

SEPTEMBER'S INNOVATIONS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUMMIT WILL FOCUS ON INNOVATIVE PRACTICES BRINGING ABOUT SYSTEMATIC REFORM WHILE CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES. AS LEADING EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNITY PROSECUTION, I INTEND TO WORK WITH YOU AND YOUR OFFICES TO INCORPORATE YOUR IDEAS INTO OUR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE VITAL OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES FOR PROSECUTORS AND OTHER ALLIED CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERS IN HIGHLIGHTING THOSE PRACTICES WHICH ARE MAKING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM MORE EFFICIENT, AND CREATING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COLLABORATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE INNOVATIVE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SUMMIT, OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT WWW.APAINC.ORG.

ON MAY 6TH, APA, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE PUBLIC WELFARE FOUNDATION, HOSTED A ROUNDTABLE OF

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LEADING INNOVATIVE PROSECUTORS AS A PART OF THIS YEAR'S INNOVATIVE PROSECUTORIAL PRACTICES-PERSONNEL & POLICY GUIDE PROJECT. THE MEETING WAS HELD TO DISCUSS GAPS AND CHALLENGES IN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, IDENTIFY POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION OR SYSTEMIC CHANGE AND ULTIMATELY, WILL RESULT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROSECUTORIAL PERSONNEL AND POLICY GUIDEBOOK. THIS GUIDEBOOK WILL BE A ONE OF A KIND RESOURCE COMPILED TO ASSIST ELECTED OR CHIEF PROSECUTORS IN IDENTIFYING THOSE INITIATIVES WHICH CAN BRING ABOUT ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE OR SYSTEMATIC REFORM.

IN OTHER EXCITING NEWS, WE HOPE YOU WERE ABLE TO ATTEND APA'S FIRST COMMUNITY PROSECUTION WEBINAR "COMMUNITY PROSECUTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY: AN INTELLIGENCE LED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SAFETY" ON MAY 26TH. THIS WEBINAR OFFERED AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY PROSECUTION PHILOSOPHY AND FEATURED ROCKLAND COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY THOMAS ZUGIBE. THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GUIDED PARTICIPANTS THROUGH AN EXPLANATION OF HIS INTELLIGENCE LED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY SAFETY—"INTELLIGENCE LED APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH COMMUNITY POLICING, COMMUNITY PROSECUTION AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (IL3CP). IF YOU WERE UNABLE TO ATTEND THIS WEBINAR AND WOULD LIKE TO ACCESS THE MATERIAL PRESENTED, PLEASE CONTACT WEBINARS@APAINC.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION. ALL MEMBERS OF APA MAY ACCESS WEBINAR MATERIALS THROUGH THE SECURE MEMBERSHIP SITE. APA'S "FINAL FRIDAYS" WEBINAR SERIES WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND THE NEXT COMMUNITY PROSECUTION WEBINAR, "INTERSECTION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE," WILL TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 26TH. FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION, PLEASE SEE THE "UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS" SECTION ON PAGE 10 OR VISIT WWW.APAINC.ORG.

LASTLY, WE WOULD AGAIN LIKE TO THANK AND RECOGNIZE THE PROSECUTORS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER. THE ELDER ABUSE PROGRAMS IN THE DENVER DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE EKG PROGRAM IN INDIANAPOLIS AND CHICAGO TRULY REPRESENT "SMART" AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS THAT GO BEYOND PROSECUTING CRIMINALS TO MEETING CITIZEN NEEDS. AS ALWAYS, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REACH OUT TO US AT OUR WEBSITE WWW.APAINC.ORG, CONNECT WITH US ON OUR FACEBOOK FAN PAGE AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME AT ROBERT.HOOD@APAINC.ORG IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, HAVE QUESTIONS, OR SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ISSUES, TRAININGS AND PUBLICATIONS.

-ROBERT HOOD, APA
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY PROSECUTION & VIOLENT CRIME
DIVISION



APA CO-CHAIRMAN AND FULTON COUNTY (ATLANTA) DISTRICT ATTORNEY PAUL HOWARD SPEAKS DURING APA AND PUBLIC WELFARE INSTITUTE'S INNOVATIVE PROSECUTOR ROUNDTABLE ON MAY 6TH.

2011 REGIONAL COMMUNITY PROSECUTION CONFERENCES DEBUT IN CHICAGO

BY ROBERT HOOD

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys helped support and facilitate a regional community prosecution conference in Chicago on May 19-20, the first of a planned series of such conferences to be held around the country this year. This 1 ½ day conference, hosted by the community prosecution unit of the office of Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, included staff of that office's North Side Community Justice Center along with their law enforcement and community partners and representatives from the community prosecution units of the Marion County (Indianapolis, IN) Prosecutor's Office, the Wayne County (Detroit, MI) Prosecutor's Office, and the Milwaukee County (Milwaukee, WI) District Attorney's Office. We hope this regional conference, and others to follow, will result in stronger regional collaboration among these community prosecution units in the future.

During the first day of the conference, attendees heard from a broad series of presenters highlighting the work of community prosecutors out of the North Side Criminal Justice Center. Under the leadership of State's Attorney Alvarez, the Cook County office has reinitiated community prosecution in three such centers after the entire community prosecution program in Chicago was eliminated by former State's Attorney Richard Devine due to budget cuts. A fourth center is planned to open later this year.

Attendees had a great opportunity to compare and contrast their various approaches to public safety problems during the daylong session. Two highlights included a welcome and remarks by State's Attorney Alvarez and an opportunity to see a Police District Steering Committee Meeting in action, as a modified version was built right into the first day's agenda. The steering committee is comprised of police, community prosecutors, court advocacy members and other community stakeholders. These meetings are held to coordinate crime prevention efforts and cases handled by the community prosecution unit.

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Above: APA Vice President/COO Steven Jansen with Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez at APA's regional community prosecution conference in Chicago.

During Friday morning session, attendees heard from James Gonzales, the Chief of the Special Operation Division of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, who described some of their recent initiatives in Detroit. The rest of the morning was spent exploring regional opportunities for problem solving and shared learning, improving regional communication, and building regional evaluation resources. The evaluation discussion was aided by the participation of Dr. Mallory O'Brien, Director of the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission who also attended the conference. In these discussions, attendees confirmed their interest in trying to regularize communication within the region, including periodic face to face meetings, supplementing that with more frequent email communications or telephonic and web conferencing.

Attendees also endorsed the idea of a regional breakout session at our 2012 national community prosecution conference, where regional offices

could again network and share information as a region while attending the national conference. Everyone left the discussion with the feeling that there was a lot to be gained by improving regional communication and information sharing.

APA will continue to work with various jurisdictions as we help plan, facilitate, and report on these regional conferences later this year. We would like to express our thanks to State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, her First Assistant Shauna Boliker, and particularly Joy Rapella, and the rest of their staff for hosting and organizing this conference and helping to make our visit to Chicago an enjoyable and productive one. We would also like to thank Michele Waymire, of Marion County, Jeffrey Altenberg and Jacob Corr of Milwaukee, and Jim Gonzales of Wayne County for bringing members of their teams to participate at the conference.



Left: Attendees at a discussion session during APA's regional community prosecution conference in Chicago.

ELDER ABUSE: STRENGTHENING VICTIM OUTCOMES THROUGH PROSECUTORIAL LEADERSHIP

BY MITCHELL R. MORRISSEY

DENVER DISTRICT ATTORNEY-SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Elder mistreatment and financial exploitation require an array of prosecutorial resources to bring about a resolution. Typically, an end is put to the abuse either through prosecution or through interventions that “stop the bleeding”, as in the case of fraud or theft. While prosecution and victim assistance can stop further victimization, potentially gain restitution and keep victims informed of their rights, it takes the expertise of a multifaceted team of professionals to improve the overall well-being of older victims. Prosecutors are well positioned to provide leadership in pulling together a multitude of community resources to facilitate the best possible outcomes for older crime victims. This is where the prosecutor can grow from a champion of quality justice, to a champion of quality of life. Across the country, Multi Disciplinary Teams (MDT’s) are working in collaboration with prosecutors to fill in the gaps where resolution through the criminal justice system is not enough. In Denver, a dynamic interchange is taking place among district attorneys, city prosecutors, allied professionals, and community members to identify the most efficacious means of restoring quality of life to older victims of abuse and exploitation.

It is estimated that for each case of elder abuse reported, approximately five cases go unreported.

Extreme reluctance on the part of victims to report, ambiguity in laws surrounding the criminalization of elder abuse, and concerns regarding the ability of victims to participate in the prosecution of their offender further complicate the solutions that can be sought through the criminal justice system. That being said, as chief law enforcement officials, city and district attorneys yield significant political clout. They have the ability to generate the human capital and financial resources necessary to build a base of support to better serve older crime victims and they have standing in the community to facilitate effective solutions. Prosecutors, more so than perhaps any other criminal justice professional, understand the impact of trauma. The teams they have built to address victims’ needs, such as in the areas of domestic violence and sexual assault, are ideal models that can be used to form elder multidisciplinary teams.

One example of such a model is the Denver Victim Services Network (VSN). Established in 1997 through the Denver District Attorney’s Office, the VSN brings together a core group of victim service agencies, including first responders, to create a seamless service network for crime victims.

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DenverDA

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Using the moniker of “no wrong door”, crime victims are better able to access services and receive more comprehensive care. Another comparable model is the Denver Domestic Violence Triage Team. Consisting of representatives from law enforcement, the Denver DA’s Office, City Attorney’s Office, and community-based agencies, team members review every individual case for risk assessment, offender containment strategies, safety planning and coordination of victim services. Sexual Abuse Response Teams, or SART’s, operate in a similar fashion in other areas of the country. All are examples of models that can be used to form the nucleus of an elder abuse multidisciplinary team.

In 2010, the Denver City Attorney’s Office established one of the first elder abuse Coordinated Community Response Teams (CCRT) to specifically address the gap in services to older victims. They plan to become an organized multidisciplinary team that covers the greater Denver community. Funded with an Office on Violence against Women (OVW) grant and drawing on the resources of other specialized teams such as VSN agency partners, the CCRT includes social workers, housing providers, police, victim advocates, Adult Protective Services (APS), clergy, medical, social service and legal professionals.

Assisted by the Denver DA’s Office and other judicial districts, CCRT is closing service gaps by mapping existing community resources and expertise, calculating the magnitude and scope of elder abuse

within the Denver Community, sharing what has been learned through psychosocial and other assessments, and continuously identifying formal and informal support networks.

The work of CCRT is enhanced by elder abuse prevention education and awareness programs operating out of the Denver District Attorney’s Office, such as the CASE Partnership Program -Communities Against Senior Exploitation. With a focus on preventing elder financial abuse and exploitation, CASE provides seminars throughout the Denver community, primarily through ministries, senior centers, businesses, and through other venues that reach traditionally isolated and underserved older adults. The program’s success has led to its replication in over 35 District Attorney Offices around the country. Today, CASE is an active player in elder fraud prevention and distributes monthly fraud alerts to over 500,000 individuals. [Continued on page 7]



Mitch Morrissey
Denver District Attorney

Another Denver DA program operating in conjunction with CCRT are the Community Cafés run by volunteer DA advocates. Through a series of four- to- six week ‘coffees’ that are held in neighborhoods where elders are particularly underserved, professionals from the Denver DA’s Office train participants on how to spot and report elder abuse and financial exploitation. They are taught strategies that help to deter those who deliberately target older people, and they gain an understanding of the state statutes that are in place to uphold their rights and dignity as they age. Prior to the conclusion of the café, participants are guided through the process of developing individualized documents, such as power of attorney and advanced medical directives. The idea of the Café is to create an environment where older adults feel safe to ask questions and share their concerns. Through structured facilitation, they exchange ideas and devise solution-based strategies that are not likely to be found through more formal, and perhaps more intimidating support systems.

Once established, multidisciplinary teams have the capacity to address critical issues, such as balancing

case planning with the victim’s right to self-determination. In this sense, by maintaining a victim-centered focus, multidisciplinary teams can educate elders and the community at large on elder rights, and on strategies that help older adults combat undue influence by family members and others.

Finally, in collaboration with prosecutors, an effective multidisciplinary team can be an appropriate venue through which its members advocate for change and stay on top of emerging issues. As a testimonial to the work of its members, the Denver CCRT mission statement asserts: “Together we pool our information, resources, expertise and power to respond to elder abuse in a way that provides safety and compassion for victims, as well as accountability for offenders.”



REFERENCES:

For more information on all of the Denver District Attorney’s Office’s special programs, visit: <http://www.denverda.org/>

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COMMUNITY CORNER

EKG: THE MIGRATION AND EVOLUTION OF A GREAT IDEA BY ROBERT HOOD

One of the strongest attributes of community prosecution is the willingness of our community prosecution colleagues from around the country to share information about effective programs and their willingness to replicate initiatives that prove to be effective elsewhere. Almost since the emergence of community prosecution, such “stealing” from each other has been an appreciated and shared value. Even failed initiatives have formed the basis of stronger future efforts.

A recent example of the migration and evolution of an idea arose during discussions held at the recent Chicago Regional Community Prosecution Conference. While there, attendees at the conference heard about the Chicago and Indianapolis Educating Kids About Guns (EKG) programs. EKG was originally based on a program developed by the King County Prosecutor’s Office in Seattle Washington in 2001, where it was called Choices, Options, and Consequences (OCC). Such programs work to prevent youth gun violence by educating students about the legal, medical, and emotional consequences of youth gun possession and related gun violence, as well as encouraging young people to consider options and choices available to them in situations involving guns.

The original program resulted from a partnership among the Seattle Public School District, the Seattle Police Department, the King County Prosecutor’s Office and the Washington State Medical Association.

From OCC, Gun-Violence Information For Teens (GIFT) program was developed and used in Sacramento, CA. Marion County adapted the program renaming it EKG.

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Thanks to grant funding from Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) and the creative/technical talents of the Agency For Instructional Technology (AIT), the Indianapolis team made some technological updates and EKG evolved into the program that it is today. It is a partnership between the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, the Wishard Hospital Trauma Center, the Indiana Department of Education and other agencies within Marion County.

EKG is a two-hour, interactive classroom presentation by an EKG Team consisting of a prosecuting attorney, a fire department/medical professional and a police officer. Through videos, photographs, slides, case scenarios, personal stories, and small group discussion, the team educates the students about the medical and legal consequences of gun possession and related violence. The curriculum encourages young people to consider the options available to them in situations involving guns. The presentation is designed to challenge the kids to think and talk about real issues that they face every day including peer pressure, snitching and anger control. In 2010, Chicago also adopted the program, and is in the process of rolling out a tweaked version of the Indianapolis model.

Perhaps the greatest argument for continuing a vibrant program of national and regional based community prosecution conferences, the CP list-serve, and APA's technical assistance network, is that such activities help to inform, motivate, and inspire others in the field to take a good idea, make it their own, and improve on it. By encouraging such activities, we can help state and local government to maintain their historic status as important learning laboratories for innovation and change.

To learn more about EKG and to obtain procedures and materials for replicating the EKG program in your own jurisdiction, please contact APA:
info@apainc.org

"COMMUNITY CORNER" HIGHLIGHTS PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO CONNECT PROSECUTORS' OFFICES WITH THEIR COMMUNITIES AND ENHANCES COMMUNITY RELATIONS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE FEATURED IN FUTURE ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT GENA GONZALES AT GENA.GONZALES@APAINC.ORG.

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MISSION

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENES OF PROSECUTORS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO CREATE SAFER COMMUNITIES.

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UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

APA's Innovations in Criminal Justice Summit is taking place **SEPTEMBER 28-30TH** at the **PALMER HOUSE HILTON** in Chicago, IL.



For a Save the Date flyer and upcoming registration information, please check www.APAInc.org.

APA "Final Fridays" Webinar Series announcing a ***NEW*** Community Prosecution Webinar

Date: **AUGUST 26TH, 2011**

Topic: **Intersection of Mental Health & Criminal Justice**
Presenter: **TBD**

For registration information and other news about upcoming APA webinars please visit www.APAInc.org.

INTERESTED IN FUTURE NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS OR WANT TO HELP HIGHLIGHT AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM? PLEASE CONTACT GENA GONZALES AT GENA.GONZALES@APAINC.ORG.
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