Stop Abuse of Elders (SAFE) is a comprehensive approach to elder abuse in the Baltimore Jewish community and beyond. SAFE, in partnership with a long-term care nursing center and geriatric hospital and Maryland Legal Aid, provides voluntary, temporary safe shelter to elders who are experiencing abuse, and prevention, intervention, collaboration and advocacy activities to reduce the incidence and impact of elder abuse.

**Vision**

We envision an aware and responsive community where all older adults are empowered to live with security and self-determination.

**WHAT IS SAFE: STOP ABUSE OF ELDERS?**

**Intervention**
- Danger and lethality assessment
- Safety planning
- Crisis case coordination
- Victim advocacy: Protection Orders and Peace Orders
- Shelter: long-term care and assisted living facilities: community-based dayhouse
- Supportive counseling and mental health referrals
- Civil legal representation
- Individual, family and professional consultation

**Prevention**
- Community Outreach: Education: senior apartments and centers, synagogues, churches, community events and conferences
- Local, State and National Professional: Training: senior serving professionals, Departments of Aging, nursing homes, ombudsmen, first responders, police, state attorney's office, health departments, victim advocates

**Collaboration**
- Coordinated Community Response (CCR): law enforcement, prosecutors, aging services
- Adult Protective Services, victim services
- Community partners: Long-term care nursing center and geriatric hospital, Maryland Legal Aid, community mental health clinic, hospitals, first responders, aging services, (LGBTQ) agencies, crisis response centers, home health care companies, ombudsmen, pro bono and low bono and bono attorneys

**Advocacy**
- Participate in research by academics interested in gerontology
- Legislation

**WHAT IS THE SAFE SHELTER MODEL?**

Emergency, voluntary and temporary, up to 90 days.
- Bed(s) in a long-term care facility for medically-ill victims
- Bed(s) in an assisted living facility
- A community-based, one-person, fully-equipped studio apartment

**WHO HAVE WE HELPED SINCE 2013?**

- 300+ clients
- 3,215 people received direct training
- 7,346 people contacted at community events and public venues
- 600,000+ people reached via print, online, broadcast

**HOW DOES SAFE COLLABORATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES?**

SAFE convenes senior-serving professionals and agencies.
- Partnership with Baltimore City Police - NW District, to receive domestic incident reports daily by fax
- Partnership with senior living apartment community management to train staff and residents
- Partnership with trauma-trained therapists to provide pro-bono and low-bono counseling
- Planning and training partner to the Maryland Department of Human Resources for its Lifespan Respite Care Project

**SYSTEMS CHANGE | To Promote Elder Justice**

Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women Grant, with technical assistance from National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

- Partnership with Baltimore City State's Attorney's Office, Baltimore City Police Department, Baltimore City Health Department, public agencies, APS and nonprofits
- A Collaborative Community Response team (CCR) to address elder abuse in Baltimore City, includes monthly CCR meetings and community-wide training
- Systems change in Baltimore City, aligning diverse programs to recognize and respond to elder abuse, addressing systemic gaps in prevention and response
- Citywide needs assessment to ascertain and then enhance or create top identified services to keep victims safe
- Advocate or Care Manager to work with victim to plan next steps
- Affordable Legal Services, e.g., a restraining order or changing a power of attorney
- 24-hour Helpline to provide information and support
- Shelter and Transitional Housing to help older adults in danger or who have been harmed

**Statewide Coordinating Council for Elder Abuse**

Office for Victims of Crime grant, through the State of Maryland Office of Crime Control & Prevention

- Senior service and elder abuse providers in Maryland sharing best practices
- Website of resources and services dedicated to elder abuse
- Statewide Day of Learning, including ethics workshop with nationally-recognized elder abuse experts. CEUs awarded

**Faith-Based Expertise**

SAFE works closely with the Orthodox Jewish community.
- Historic authority to grant a Jewish divorce resides with the husband, impacting civil representation and advocacy
- Following strict dietary restrictions, impacting shelter needs
- к сожалению, число людей, занятых в этих сферах, неизвестно.
- Rabbis in daily activities and emergency situations, impacting care
- Shabbat observance, impacting safety planning

**5 TAKEAWAYS**

1. Many abused older adults will reject solutions and interventions proposed to them.
2. Ethical contradictions abound. It is difficult to recognize and respect older adult's autonomy while attempting to provide protection.
3. A person's life-long experience with trauma, e.g., in childhood or the military, may have gone untreated. It may affect one's ability to seek help for elder abuse.
4. We are uncomfortable talking to elders about sexual abuse. We need to recognize it and teach older adults about it.
5. There are gaps in research knowledge about elder abuse. We need to learn more and create a comprehensive community response.

**Hallmark of Elder Abuse**

A single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.

**Member of the SPRING Alliance**

A regional network of elder abuse shelter programs that share resources, technical assistance, standards of excellence and support.

**find us:** SAFE: Stop Abuse of Elders www.chabanbaltimore.org/elderabuse | (410) 234-0030 | Director: Jackie L. Schroeder, LCSW-C jschroeder@chabanbaltimore.org

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