HOW ELDER/ADULT ABUSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS BENEFIT APS PROFESSIONALS AND IMPROVE VICTIM SERVICES

LORI A. STIEGEL, J.D.
American Bar Association Commission on Law & Aging,
Washington DC

JASON BURNETT, PH.D.
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
USDOJ OFFICE FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME-FUNDED PROJECT

Purposes:

1. Update and expand the initial EAFRT capacity-building work of ABA COLA Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams: A Replication Manual (2005)
https://www.americanbar.org/groups/law_aging/resources/elder_abuse.html

2. Evaluate the impact of EAFRTs on victim services

This project is supported by cooperative agreement number 2007-VF-GX-K140, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
EAFRT PURPOSE

• Examine deaths of individuals that may be caused by or related to elder/adult abuse for the purpose of identifying system gaps and improving victim services.

• Some EAFRTs also help assess whether case merits criminal prosecution.
Two hallmarks enable open and safe discussion of system gaps:

- avoiding “blame and shame”
- maintaining the confidentiality of team discussions and documents
EAFRT HALLMARKS

Team characteristics and practices vary on:

- Authorizing legislation
- Mission
- Leadership and membership
- Types of cases reviewed
- Policies and procedures for case reviews
- What records are made of discussions
- What data are collected
- What reports and recommendations are issued and to whom
EAFRT OUTCOMES

Changes in laws, policies, practices, programs, or protocols to improve delivery of victim services?

- Short-term
- Intermediate
- Long-term
EAFRT EVALUABILITY ASSESSMENT

Criteria:

• Clearly discernable & measurable action
• Clearly discernable process for executing action
• Clearly discernable & measurable impact/outcome
• Ability to determine that action preceded outcome
• Process allows plausible link between action & outcome
• EAFRT has met at least six times
EAFRT RECOMMENDATIONS

• Outcome findings and evaluability assessment will inform project recommendations on EAFRT characteristics, data collection, and processes for linking team purposes, actions, and impact/outcomes

• Reason #1: To facilitate future rigorous evaluation of EAFRT effectiveness

• Reason #2: To inform OVC on opportunities to improve EAFRT efforts nationally
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Lori Stiegel
lori.stiegel@americanbar.org
202-662-8692
www.americanbar.org/aging