

ELDER ABUSE AND OLDER ADULTS PROTECTIVE SERVICES/CONSUMER ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY
ACTION TO COMBAT ABUSE

TESTIMONY GIVEN BY: CAROLYN TENAGLIA, CHAIR SCHUYLKILL ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION ALLIANCE,
GEORGENE FEDORISKA, CO-CHAIR SCHUYLKILL ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION ALLIANCE

Since 2004, Schuylkill County has been blessed to have a multi-disciplinary group of dedicated professionals who have been meeting and discussing the need to better identify and respond to crimes of elder abuse. We were assisted in attaining this goal in Schuylkill County by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging and by their collaborative agreement with the Institute of Protective Services at Temple University. This technical assistance and collaboration continues to this day through the efforts of the Department of Aging Secretary Brian Duke, his staff, and Dr. Ron Costen of the Institute of Protective Services. Our task force eventually became the Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance. In 2007, SEAPA was recognized by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging for our "unique and creative program that meets the needs of older Americans and serves as a model for Area Agencies on Aging". We believe our task force to be unique in several ways. We focus on prosecution; we focus on community education; we focus on training of community partners who have significant contact with our older adults. Incorporated and categorized as a 501c-3, non-profit entity, we are always looking toward the future so that our organization can grow, be self-sustaining and become a fixture in our community. Since our inception, we have developed brochures, established a website, hosted a legislative dialogue and trained numerous police, financial professionals, clergy, and health care providers. We are planning trainings for coroners, district magistrates, and funeral directors. Our growth and success would not have been possible without the diverse community representation of our group. We are proud to have clergy, attorneys, law enforcement, Area Agency on Aging staff, long-term care ombudsmen, local long-term care providers; elected officials and local businessmen as members of our task force.

Our experience has taught us that stemming the tide of elder abuse requires community education and awareness. As a result, we sponsor "Silver Ribbon Month" each May. This event has evolved to a county-wide display of silver ribbons, a public relations "blitz" and some much needed fund-raising for our group. We have been fortunate to develop partnerships with local press and volunteer organizations that support our efforts to keep this difficult topic in front of the public eye. We are now in the process of establishing a memorial to victims of elder abuse so that no one will ever forget that people suffered unnecessarily. Just this past year, SEAPA purchased 125 personal amplification devices and distributed these units to all police departments, emergency rooms, ambulance companies and victim advocates so that elders in crises can provide much needed information clearly and with dignity – to those who can help them. This is just one example of SEAPA's unique approach to making Schuylkill safer for our elders.

Recently, SEAPA was informed that we will be receiving a small bequest from the estate of a victim of elder abuse. We are excited and making some preliminary plans to establish a permanent office and even – perhaps – a part-time staff person. At present, we are all volunteers who juggle our "day jobs" and our dedication to this noble cause.

SEAPA membership continues to be a resource to those local entities that are charged and entrusted with the investigation and prosecution of Elder Abuse cases. As a result of these community

partnerships, we have seen several successful and high profile prosecutions SEAPA has also served as a resource for the Long Term Care Ombudsman during an emergency closure of a local problematic personal care home,

This partnership and networking has helped us to identify unmet needs and we respectfully request your consideration of the following recommendations:

1. Elder Abuse task forces are becoming more prevalent across the Commonwealth. We would recommend that some mechanism be developed to allow for all Area Agency on Aging task forces to network, to meet; to learn from each other; to "pool" resources perhaps.
2. Many of our most troubling cases involved the misuse of Powers of Attorney. Currently, there is no legal requirement for the principal to be informed of their right to rescind the document or how to report suspicions of financial exploitation. We would strongly recommend that mandatory language be added to the documents informing the principal of that empowering information and requiring signature of acknowledgement
3. Finally, we suggest a review of the Older Adult Protective Services Act, with specific emphasis on mandated reporting of elder abuse. There are many entities that have substantial contact with seniors – medically and financially – and, currently, they are under no obligation to report suspected elder abuse. Penalties should be considered for failing to report.
 - Creation of a statewide registry of substantiated perpetrators of elder abuse. This resource would help identify abusers moving from county-to-county. This would allow protective service and law enforcement professionals to quickly conduct a "search" in a database when someone is suspected of elder abuse. In addition, we respectfully suggest that information on perpetrators be maintained beyond the current limit of three years.
 - Creation of additional resources/entities that would have the authority to take emergency custody of an older adult at risk in order for the Area Agency on Aging personnel to secure a safe environment for the older adult until court intervention can be accessed. Presently the process of securing an emergency court order can sometimes be cumbersome especially after hours, and in rural areas, thus delaying immediate assistance to the older adult at risk

In conclusion, we want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to dialogue with you on this grave and important topic. Our county has a significant number of elders – 24% of Schuylkill County residents are over the age of 60. Although we are proud of the progress we've made, we know there is much more work yet to be done. We would be happy to continue to work with you and we welcome any questions that you may have.

Ombudsman: The investigation and resolution of complaints made by or on behalf of residents of nursing homes and licenses personal care homes. Complaints may relate to any activity, which adversely affects the health, safety, or welfare of a resident.

Protective Services: Preventive and supportive services provided to individuals who because of mental and/or physical disabilities are unable to carry out the activities of daily living; manage their own resources; or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

Volunteer Services: Volunteers provide assistance to in-home elderly and individuals in hospitals and nursing homes.

For more information, contact the Office of Senior Services and ask for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

The Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services is partially funded through the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

Georgene Fedoriska, MSW
Executive Director

Schuylkill County

Office of Senior Services

*110 East Laurel Boulevard
Pottsville, PA 17901*

*Telephone:
(570) 622-3103
(570) 874-4040
1-800-832-3313*

The Schuylkill County Commissioners are:



Frank J. Staudenmeier, Chairman

George F. Halcovage, Jr.

Gary J. Hess

Mission Statement

The Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services is a public social service agency which involves itself with all issues concerning persons aged 60 and older who are residents of Schuylkill County.

The Agency proactively carries out, under the guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Aging, a wide range of functions related to advocacy, planning, coordination, inter-agency linkages, information sharing, brokering, monitoring, service provision, and evaluation. These activities are designed to promote the development and enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community based geriatric social service systems in/or serving Schuylkill County.

The Agency promotes a continuum of care designed to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities as long as possible. Special consideration is given to older persons who are the most vulnerable, including those at risk of physical harm, those in danger of losing their independence and those with greatest social, economic, and health needs.

Continuum of Care

Congregate Dining & Center Services:

Mahanoy City	773-0738
Pottsville	628-3513
Schuylkill Haven	385-5611
Shenandoah	462-1965
Tremont	695-3500

Assistance with PACE and Rent/Tax Rebate applications are also available.

Transportation: Contact Schuylkill Transportation System at 429-2701 or 1-800-832-3322 or register at nearest congregare dining center.

Employment: Employment services assist individuals in gaining or retaining paid employment. Services are available to persons aged 55 and older who meet established income guidelines.

Contact the Senior Employment Program at 622-5253 for more information.

In-Home Assistance

Assessment: Comprehensive collection of information concerning the individual needs of the older person and development of a plan of care to safely maintain the individual in the least restrictive setting.

Care Management: Caseworkers ensure the effective and coordinated delivery of service to individual clients and their families through the implementation of a plan of care, coordination and follow-up of service delivery, and on-going case recording. These activities are carried out on behalf of clients determined to have complex problems requiring coordination by Care Management staff.

Assistance that clients may be eligible for include: aide services, nutrition services, adult daily living centers, skilled services such as R.N. and L.P.N., chore services, and assistance to caregivers.

Other Services

Placement: Assistance with placement of eligible individuals into a nursing home or personal care home.

Schuykill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance

What is SEAPA?

The Schuykill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance (previously the Schuykill County Elder Abuse Task Force) is a 501(c)3 non-profit corporate entity comprised of a group of people with an interest in protecting the seniors of Schuykill County from crimes of elder abuse. The Alliance is active in promoting awareness of elder abuse, teaching the public and elder services providers about elder abuse and ensuring that crimes against the elderly are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Schuykill County | Office of Senior Services

If you know or suspect that an elderly person is being harmed, call us. We can help!

**Call toll free
1-800-832-3313
570-622-3103
570-874-4040**

Embracing and Empowering Seniors



We are all partners against the crimes of elder abuse, mistreatment and neglect.

Schuykill
Elder Abuse
Prevention
Alliance
Inc.

www.schuykillelderabuse.com

Elder Abuse is:

Physical Abuse

Pushing, hitting, rough handling, restricting movement, unwanted sexual advances, bruising.

Emotional Abuse

Intimidation, humiliation, threats, insults, harassment, isolation, rejection, bullying, belittling.

Self-Neglect

Behaviors that threaten an elder's health or safety.

Neglect

Refusal or failure by those responsible to provide food, shelter, healthcare or protection for a vulnerable elder; abandonment.

Financial or Material Exploitation

Illegally taking, misusing or concealing funds, property or assets of an elder. Intentionally misleading or preying upon an older person.

It Happens Here... It Happens Every Day...

It may be signaled by:

Witnessing intimidation such as screaming, bullying, threatening.

Unexplained injuries

Bruises, pain from touching, burns, scratches.

Changes in usual behaviors and patterns

Reluctance to talk, isolation, hesitation, fear, anxiety, unexplained refusal of medical treatment.

Discrepancies between known assets & life-style

Altered wills and trusts, unusual withdrawals, gifts given, checks expected and not received.

It's Not OK... It Hurts Us All

If it looks and feels wrong... it probably is. Take Action!

REPORT YOUR SUSPICIONS of

mistreatment of elders who live in the community or in a residential setting to the Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services at **1-800-832-3313**.

Your CONFIDENTIAL report

will be assessed immediately and professionals will determine a course of action.

You may never well save someone's future because you cared enough to reach out... ..elp!

Schuylkill
**Elder Abuse
Prevention**
Alliance



NOBODY KNOWS
what goes on
and closed doors.

It looks very pretty on the outside, but the effects
of violence on the inside are devastating....

He loves me. Sure, he hurts you, but he doesn't
have it on his mind. He tends to have a
He promises it will never happen again,

These do more damage than good for
every day. Terrorized at home, they're even
worried about what their leaving would do to the
the family, to their lives.

They don't know about fear. Every day we deal
with women who have been threatened or battered
partners.

It takes tremendous courage to survive an abusive
relationship. We work with women to help them use
the resources they already have to build a better future for
themselves and their children.

Someone you know, is a victim of domestic
violence. Get help before it is too late.

*SWIC's mission is to provide
comprehensive services to survivors
of domestic violence and their families,
and conduct public information
and educational activities, and foster
policy and systems change in order to
prevent personal and institutional
violence against women.*

What you can do...

- In the event of an emergency, call
911 for police assistance.
- Call our hotline at 1.800.282.0634
or 570.622.6220 if you or someone
you know is being abused.
- If someone discloses to you that
they have been abused, let them
know that they are not responsible
for the abuse and that they do not
deserve such treatment. Encourage
them to seek help
- Read and learn about domestic
violence.
- Volunteer your time with SWIC or
support the agency with a financial
contribution by calling 570.622.3991.

24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week

All Services are Free, Confidential,

and Provided to All Victims

Regardless of Gender

Hotline:

1.800.282.0634

or 570.622.6220

Office: 570.622.3991

www.s-wic.org

Do you know someone in an abusive relationship?



*If you know
more than 3 women,
you do.*



FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Services include:

- 24-hour **Hotline;**
- **Information** and Referral;
- Accompaniment to **Courts & Hospitals;**
- Emergency Shelter;
- Individual and **Group Supportive Crisis Counseling;**
- **Children's Programming;**
- Safety **Planning;**
- **Limited Transportation** and Food Assistance;
- Advocacy on **Behalf of Victims with Other Community Systems;**
- **Transitional Housing;**
- **Civil Legal Representation.**

Twenty-four hours a day, our professional staff and trained volunteers assist in crisis situations. We provide for victims' immediate safety and help with accessing medical attention and finding legal assistance. Our shelter facility has become home to countless women and children seeking refuge from the dangers in their personal lives. In shelter, our staff will introduce residents to a broad range of available services which help them establish safe, independent living.

Trained staff are available to provide supportive crisis counseling to both shelter and non-shelter clients. The program provides supportive counseling to children of violent homes, to help address their own special needs. Importantly, SWIC also advocates on behalf of victims with other community agencies and systems to improve their response to victims.

In addition, we maintain an office at the Schuylkill County Court House, the Victim Advocate's Office. This office provides a safe haven within the courthouse to victims awaiting hearings, as well as caring staff available to accompany them through the often difficult and complicated court process. The staff at this office also regularly assists victims seeking Protection from Abuse Orders.

violence while working to confront the societal issues which contribute to the problem. We believe that all people are entitled to live free of the fear and pain caused by emotional and physical abuse. We realize that women and children are most vulnerable to domestic violence but the agency provides services to all victims regardless of gender.

You are encouraged to join SWIC's efforts to assist victims while working to end domestic violence by completing the form now and returning it to:

Schuylkill Women in Crisis
P.O. Box 96
Pottsville, PA 17901

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

____ I would like to offer a financial gift of \$_____ to SWIC.
(To make a donation using Visa or Mastercard,
please call the office or visit the web site www.s-wic.org)

____ I would like more information about the agency.

____ I would like information about becoming a volunteer.

____ I would like to learn how I can participate in the
"Leave a Legacy"™ campaign, including SWIC as a
beneficiary in my estate planning.

Hotline: 1.800.282.0634 or 570.622.6220

Office: 570.622.3991

Fax: 570.628.1836

www.s-wic.org

To inquire about how to make a gift, please contact
the Executive Director at 570.622.3991.

A copy of this official registration and financial information may
be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free:
1.800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

adult occurring over time, including physical and sexual
abuse, as well as emotional attacks and destruction of
property/pets committed by a: spouse; ex-spouse; blood
relative; household member; or sexual or intimate partner.

Domestic violence typically escalates.

Incidents become more frequent and severe over time.
Acts of domestic violence, which include physical abuse
and the threat of physical abuse, are considered a crime and
carry both state and federal penalties.

No one is immune to this problem.

*Domestic abuse happens to people
of every age, race, religion,
income, education, profession,
and sexual orientation.*

Schuylkill Women in Crisis (SWIC) is a private, non-profit
organization founded in 1983 by residents of Schuylkill
County, Pennsylvania, who were concerned by the problem
of domestic violence in their community and the lack of
services available to assist victims of this crime.

SWIC offers a range of services to address the many
needs of victims of domestic violence and their families.

SWIC also provides community education/prevention
activities in efforts to deter this crime.

Representatives from the agency are available to provide
presentation to business, religious, and civic
groups, as well as specialized trainings for professionals.

SWIC recognizes that domestic violence is a community
problem and can only effectively be addressed by a
community-wide response. For this reason, we work
gently to encourage others in the community to
become involved in ending family violence.



**ELDER ABUSE IS A CRIME . . .
PUNISHABLE BY LAW . . .**

To CONFIDENTIALLY Report Elder Abuse
Contact:

Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services
110 East Laurel Boulevard
Pottsville, PA 17901

570-622-3103 570-874-4040
1-800-832-3313
24 hours a day/7 days a week

What is Elder Abuse?

ABUSE

- Physical-injury or pain, **confinement**, withholding of food and care
- Emotional-verbal **abuse** or **intimidation**, isolation
- **Sexual**-rape or sexual harassment

NEGLECT

- Self-neglect-failure to **provide for** oneself, causing a physical **threat** to one's health
- Caregiver **neglect**- failure to provide **care and services, causing** a serious threat **to physical** or mental health

EXPLOITATION

- Taking away someone's financial resources by threat, deceit, or force

ABANDONMENT

- * Desertion of an older adult by a caregiver

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SIGNS OF ABUSE?

Older person may:

- have bruises, broken bones, **abrasions** to both arms, wrists or anywhere the victim may have been restrained
- have poor hygiene
- appear malnourished, dehydrated
- have glasses or dentures missing, he over **or** under medicated, be confused, anxious, withdrawn, timid, depressed
- be seldom or **never** seen

Older person's family or caregiver may:

- neglect to provide **medication** or proper medical **care**
- fail **to** keep the older person properly dressed and clean
- display violent or excessive anger
- be verbally abusive
- have a history of personal problems
- give conflicting stories **about** what is happening to the older person

Signs **of a** potential financial **exploitation**:

- sudden bank **account** closing or withdrawals
- abrupt change in older person's will
- elder **lives** in poverty or without proper care in spite of adequate financial resources
- strangers accompanying older person **to the** bank
- caregiver displays sudden, new-found wealth
- sudden transfer of property

Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance, Inc. (SEAPA)
www.schuylkillelderabuse.com

Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance, Inc. (SEAPA)

Is available for trainings or presentations to your membership

We would gladly help your organization better understand the issues of elder abuse – how to recognize it, how to report it, resources available to respond to it.

Simply contact SEAPA by calling:

**Carolyn Tenaglia, Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (570)
874-1951**

**Eileen Barlow, Long Term Care Ombudsman Program (570)
628-3931, ext. 3304**

**Georgene Fedoriska, Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services
(570)622-3103**

**Dolly Malec, Schuylkill County District Attorney's Office (570)
628-1359**

Help us make Schuylkill safer for our seniors.

www.schuylkillelderabuse.com

ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Schuylkill County's seniors are valued members of society and it is our collective responsibility to ensure they live safely and with dignity; and

WHEREAS, abuse of the older people of our society is a tragedy inflicted on our seniors, and ever-increasing problem in today's society that crosses all socio-economic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, combating abuse of our elder population will help improve the quality of life for all seniors across this County and will allow seniors to continue to live as independently as possible and contribute to the life and vibrancy of Schuylkill County; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse is grossly under-reported because the elderly who are abused find it very difficult to tell anyone and are usually ashamed and sometimes afraid; and

WHEREAS, Schuylkill County's seniors are guaranteed that they will be treated with respect and dignity to enable them to continue to serve as leaders, mentors, volunteers and important and active members of this community; and

WHEREAS, we are all responsible for building safer communities for Schuylkill County's seniors; and

WHEREAS, the well-being of Schuylkill County seniors is in the best interest of all and further adds to the wellbeing of Schuylkill County communities.

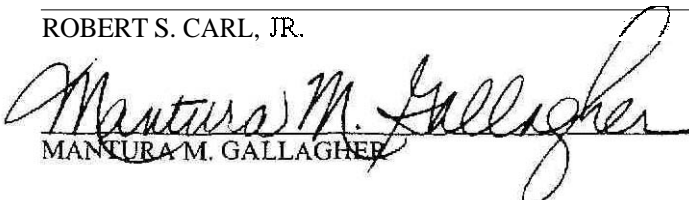
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Board of Schuylkill County Commissioners do hereby proclaim the week of May 20-26, 2007 as "**ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK**" and encourage all our municipalities to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of Schuylkill County Seniors.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS THIS 17th DAY OF MAY 2007.

BOARD OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY CUMMISSIONERS


FRANK J. STAUDENMEIER, CHAIRMAN

ROBERT S. CARL, JR.


MANTURA M. GALLAGHER



Silver ribbon campaign raises money, awareness of elder abuse

BY DUSTIN PANGONIS (STAFF WRITER DPANGONIS@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM)

Published: April 1,

ARTICLE TOOLS

FONT SIZE: [A] [A] [A]

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Despite Schuylkill County's high proportion of senior citizens, Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance member Carolyn Tenaglia said many people aren't aware of the extent of local elder abuse crimes.

"It's a very uncomfortable subject. People really don't like to discuss it, and people are reluctant to report it," Tenaglia said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

To spread awareness of elder abuse issues in the county, the alliance is holding its fourth annual Silver Ribbon Week from May 16 to 22.

Tenaglia, a regional ombudsman coordinator for MidPenn Legal Services said the alliance is distributing two kinds of silver ribbons.

First are small lapel ribbons, which are available for free and can be worn as part of a person's outfit. Second are large tied silver ribbons, about a foot wide, which cost \$7 and are meant to be hung on the exteriors of buildings. The money will defray the cost of purchasing the ribbons, and the excess will go toward alliance funds.

"Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance - the key word is obviously prevention," Tenaglia said. "We want to try to be proactive, versus reactive, and one of the ways to try to prevent is through education and outreach to the community."

According to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.1 percent of Schuylkill County's population was 65 years old or older, above the state rate of 15.3 percent and the national rate of 12.8 percent. For the alliance's purposes, Tenaglia said elder abuse is typically considered to affect people 60 years old or older.

Tenaglia said there have been 320 total complaints of alleged abuse since the beginning of the fiscal year or July 1, 2007, according to figures from the Office of Senior Services. Tenaglia said that reports are up, although it's hard to say if more crimes are being committed or more people are coming forward.

The kinds of elder abuse also vary greatly, Tenaglia said. Of those 320 cases, for example, 82 were physical abuse, 79 were caregiver neglect, and 61 were financial exploitation. New types of abuses are also starting to be reported, such as a dozen cases of medication theft.

Tenaglia said one challenge the alliance faces is getting people to report suspected elder abuse.

"(People think) 'I don't want to stick my nose in somebody's business. What if I'm wrong? What if there's nothing going on,'" Tenaglia said.

Tenaglia said all reports of elder abuse are kept confidential.

Abused elders themselves are also reluctant to reach out for help, Tenaglia said. Some just don't know help exists. Other vulnerable because they might depend on the people who are abusing them for important services.

"(Seniors think) 'If I make them angry at me, or I alienate them, I won't get my medications. I won't get my rides,'" Tenaglia said.

Because there is still a stigma attached to elder abuse, Tenaglia said the alliance hopes its silver ribbon campaign can help protect elders just by giving elder abuse issues a higher profile.

"People who may be potential targets are empowered to protect themselves better," Tenaglia said. "People who might be thinking, 'This is a good way to get a couple of bucks' might think, 'I shouldn't, because they're watching out.'"

Anyone interested in ordering ribbons can email request to seaparibbons@yahoo.com. Requests will be taken through the end of April.

SEAPA, Inc. (SchuylkillElder Abuse Prevention Alliance)

in honor of Make A Difference Day, **SEAPA**, Inc. completed a project that will benefit all **seniors** in Schuylkill **County**.

Through an anonymous donation, **SEAPA** is purchasing approximately **200** Personal Amplification Devices. These battery-operated **devices** are portable and are used to help anyone who is hearing impaired communicate with others.

SEAPA will distributed these devices—FREE - to all county police departments, state police barracks, hospital emergency **rooms**, Advanced Life Support (**ALS**) services, the **Schuylkill County** Office of Senior Services Protective Services Unit, The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, District Attorney Office, Victim Advocate and **Victim** Witness Coordinator.

The reason is that these responders often encounter elders who may have been victimized or traumatized. Obtaining detailed **information** is "key" to helping the victims. One of the most common obstacles to that information exchange is a hearing impairment. These free, portable, battery-operated devices will help our first responders and victim protection professionals provide services more efficiently to those they are working with. Unfortunately, hearing-impaired elders often become frustrated with interviews or making necessary reports because of the communication impediment. **It is** hoped that the distribution of these devices **will** remove that obstacle.

Once the devices are distributed, any first-responder or victim protection professional who encounters someone **with** a hearing impairment will **have an** easy-to-usedevice to help them better communicate with the person they are trying to serve.

SEAPA is committed to a safer Schuylkill for our Seniors. This group is comprised of a volunteer board of Directors. It is a non-profit organization that focuses on community education of elders and service providers to help identify and report elder abuse. **SEAPA** also assists with the prosecution of elder abuse by looking for ways to develop resources and networking for our local district attorney office. Finally, **SEAPA** looks to educate seniors so that they are aware of their rights and resources available to them. Informed and empowered elders are safer **elders**.

SEAPA is sponsored a distribution event of the **P.A.D.S.'s** on Friday, October **21, 2011**. The event was held from **11:00 – 1:00** in the Schuylkill County Courthouse. Refreshments were served and we provided demonstrations of the **P.A.D.s** to those attending.

Currently, **SEAPA** members are delivering devices to those agencies that were unable to attend the event on Oct. **21**.

We look **forward** to partnering with the **recipients** so that they learn about **SEAPA** and these **P.A.D.s** -so that the project **will** have a successful and meaningful impact.

Elder Abuse task force distributes hearing device

BY THOMAS LESKIN (STAFF WRITER TLESKIN@REPUBLICANHERALD.COM)

Published: October 3,

ARTICLE TOOLS

FONT SIZE: [A][A][A]

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thomas leskin/staff photo Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance member Carolyn Tenaglia demonstrates how to use a SuperEar 4000 amplification device that could be used by law enforcement and emergency personnel in situations involving the elderly.

In an effort to help law enforcement and emergency personnel more successfully help hearing-impaired individuals, the Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance will be distributing personal amplification devices for Make A Difference Day.

According to SEAPA member Carolyn Tenaglia, the organization is purchasing about 200 SuperEar 4000 amplification devices thanks to an anonymous donation. The devices cost about \$40 each, and Tenaglia said SEAPA was originally going to raise the money until the donation surfaced.

The portable battery-operated devices, manufactured by Sonic Technology, will be distributed free to all county police departments, state police barracks, hospital emergency rooms, Advanced Life Support services, the Schuylkill County Office of Senior Services Protective Services Unit, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, district attorney's office, victim advocate and victim witness coordinator.

"We saw these because they're used in nursing homes by staff to conduct assessments," Tenaglia said. "These came up as a way to help communicate with their residents."

Tenaglia said the device consists of a headset which the elderly person wears and a small handheld microphone. While the device can be used by anyone who is hearing impaired, the reason SEAPA distributed them is that responders often encounter elders who may have been victimized or traumatized.

"They are easily kept in a police car, easy to use, don't take up a lot of space and you simply replace the small battery when you need too," Tenaglia said. "We try to educate the community about elder abuse, try to help law enforcement so they can more successfully prosecute people who are committing the crime of elder abuse."

She said obtaining detailed information is key to helping victims, but one of the most common obstacles to that information exchange is a hearing impairment.

Tenaglia said services will be able to be provided more efficiently since hearing-impaired elders often become frustrated with interviews or making necessary reports because of the communication impediment.

SEAPA is planning a distribution event that will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 21, during which local police departments and other invited

recipients can pick up the devices. Refreshments will be served and demonstrations of the devices will be conducted for those attending.

From: Paul T Kennedy [<mailto:paul@apsllcpa.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 8:23 PM
To: Malec, Dolores (Detective, Schuylkill County District Attorney's Office)
Subject: A Success Story

Hi Dolly!

I wanted to share a success story with you. Recently, we got to utilize our listening device for the first time in the field!

On Saturday, January 28th, shortly after 12 Noon, many of the providers from St. Clair Veterans Memorial Ambulance were at the APS station attending the Emergency Response to Multi Properties Class. During the class, St. Clair EMS was *dispatched* to a call in their response area, and shortly after, APS QRS 8 responded to assist St. Clair EMS with lifting so their other providers could stay in class.

Upon arriving on scene, we reported to the St. Clair EMS crew, who was also being assisted by St. Clair Fire Department. Shortly after entering the residence, I could hear the patients' primary care givers yelling in the back room where the patient was. Upon my questioning, a family member informed me that the patient was hard of hearing. I knew at this point what was needed.

I returned to the rig and then re-entered the house with the case holding the listening device with quite the smile on my face. After a brief explanation to the EMS Crew Chief, he approached the patient and placed the headphones on her. He then proceeded, in a normal speaking voice, to ask the patient if she was in pain, to which she paused, grinned from ear to ear and exclaimed "I CAN HEAR YOU!!!!!!" Every provider in the house paused, smiled, and continued on with assisting the patient.

In short, the gift of the device from the Taskforce has made a positive impact in the community we serve. From all of us at Anthracite Protective Services, we thank you and the Taskforce for considering us to receive one of these wonderful tools.

Stay Safe,

Paul T. Kennedy, EMT-B
Deputy Chief

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Agenda

Opening Remarks
Bill Wydra, President

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation - Kelly Malone

Introduction of New Members &
Members here for the first time
Meet in a Minute

Introduction of Sponsor
Schuylkill Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance, Inc.

Introduction of Program
Bill Wydra, President

Dean Bertsch
B to B Seminars

Remarks
Bob Carl, Schuylkill Chamber Executive Director

Adjournment
Bill Wydra, President



**There's something brewing
besides the
coffee at the breakfast meeting.**

Be sure to drop your business card in the bowl
at the staff table. There will be a drawing for a
free breakfast meeting.



February 8, 2012

7:45 a.m.

The Inn of Orwigsburg

Sponsored by:

**SCHUYLKILL ELDER ABUSE
PREVENTION ALLIANCE, INC.**



**Maintaining a
Positive Work
Environment**

presented by

**Dean Bertsch
B to B Seminars**