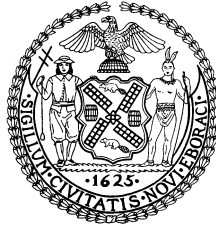


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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Health, Seniors, and Social Services Committee
Lenox Hill Hospital, Michael Bruno Presentation Room
130 East 77th Street
Thursday, January 24, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Minutes

CB8M Members Present: Alexandra Harrington, David Liston, Peter Patch, Barbara Rudder

Excused Absences: Lorraine Johnson, Peggy Price, Lynne Strong-Shinozaki

1. How to Combat Elder Abuse Crimes

Catherine Christian, Elder Abuse Unit Chief for the Manhattan District Attorney, gave a presentation about how her unit identifies and combats crimes against victims sixty and older. In Manhattan, the Elder Abuse Unit deals with any crime against a senior, such as financial, sexual abuse, psychological, grand larceny, because such crimes against a senior can have more serious implications than those against younger victims.

Ms. Christian described different types of common scams, such as the “Your grandchild needs money”, the “You won the lottery”, and the “IRS panic call”. Seniors from all economic groups are affected, including lower-income elders whose social security or benefit income are sometimes stolen through various forms of fraud. Credit card “skimmers” are machines that unlawfully obtain credit and debit card numbers and then drain the account.

Many scams that target the elderly involving manipulating the emotions of the victims, playing on their fears and their desire to help others, often by means of telephone calls placed to the victims, in which the scammers convince their victims to provide credit card or bank information over the phone. The D.A.’s office works to convict the scam, but it is very difficult because often neither the phone calls nor the money can be traced.

Many financial crimes are committed by family members or trusted associates. If a senior relinquishes his/her right to a Power of Attorney, they give rights to manage and have access to finances. Banks are becoming aware of unusual transactions. It is suggested that you limit the maximum sums that can be withdrawn from the bank each day.

Anyone who interacts with seniors, such as doormen or neighbors, may report any suspicious activity, but only certain professionals such as police and hospital workers are required to do so.

2. Elder Abuse 101

Peg Horan, LMSW, Senior Program Coordinator and Ayana Mortley, Workshop Training Coordinator NYC Elder Abuse Center at Weill Cornell Medicine presented an overview of the causes, signs, and different forms of, elder abuse. The presentation started with a video depicting an example of emotional abuse by a family member. Emotional, physical and financial abusers are often family members, and rarely prosecuted as such crimes are seldom reported. Dr. Mark Lax a renowned researcher in elder abuse says most cases are preventable.

NY City and State has increased funding for elder abuse, including supporting the Elder Abuse Center Helpline. Leslie Mantrone, the Helpline Specialist, discussed how the Helpline works. She explained that abuse can be a single or repeated act or a lack of an act that happens when there is trust in a relationship, or targeted towards a person because of their age. It is much less likely the abuse stems from an aide. One in 23 cases come into the attention of law enforcement for physical or psychological abuse, and 1 in 45 for financial exploitation are reported. Someone who has been abused has a three times greater chance of dying prematurely. Research shows that when someone gets involved with, the abuse comes forward. If concerned, one should call the Helpline, assured that the conversation is confidential.

Barbara Rudder, Alexandra Harrington, David Liston – **Co-Chairs**