

National First Nations ReAct Elder Abuse & Neglect

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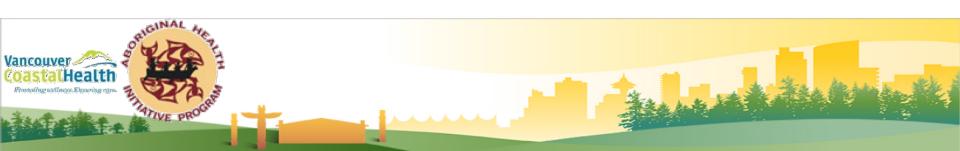
Introductions

- Who you are?
- Where you come from, which First Nations community?
- What is it you are hoping to learn in this session?



ReAct – Act on Adult Abuse & Neglect

- Originally developed by Vancouver
 Coastal Health as a manual for staff in response to the Adult Guardianship
 Act (BC legislation)
- All resources are available on <u>www.vchreact.ca</u> to be downloaded



The Adult Guardianship Act gives
Designated Agencies enhanced
powers to intervene in
emergencies and to investigate
situations in which vulnerable
adults are living at risk.



National First Nations ReAct Manual & Tools:

- The NFNR Manual and Tools were developed
 - to help individuals to respond to situations of abuse and neglect of older adults and vulnerable people.
 - in a shared agreement with FNIHB who distributed manuals and tools to all health centers



Intro Chief Robert Joseph

Video clip

http://www.vchreact.ca/natio nal_manual.htm



Facts

- Victims of childhood abuse are often abused later in life
- Aboriginal people are 3 times more likely to experience violence than non-Aboriginal people
- The incidence of abuse and neglect increase with age, disability and dependence



Types of Abuse of Older and Vulnerable Adults

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Neglect
- Self-Neglect



Definitions

- Vulnerable Adult those 19 and over, who are physically and/or mentally disabled, frail elderly, previous victims of crime or those who are susceptible to harm
- Designated Responder an employee of a Designated Agency who has the responsibility and training to inquire into reports under the Adult Guardianship

Definitions

Designated Agency - The 5 Regional Health Authorities and the Community Living Assoc. BC are responsible for receiving reports and inquiring into situations of abuse, neglect and selfneglect of adults, who are not able to seek support or assistance on their own.



Regional Health Authority Designated Responders

- VIHA Matthew Scott
- IHA Linda Myers
- FHA Leanne Lange
- NHA Louise Holland
- VCH Amanda Brown



NFNR - Tools

Resources and Tools are available to customize for your community.

Available online at <u>www.vchreact.ca</u>

- Pamphlets
- First Nations Manual
- Brochures
- Flow Chart
- Videos with Native actors



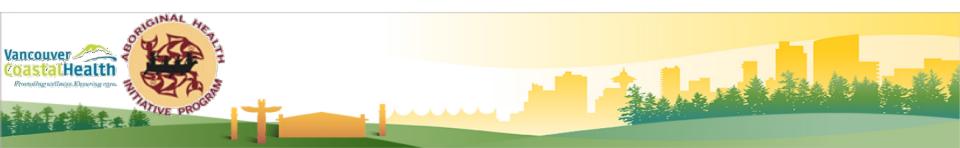
VIDEO – With Love and Respect





Community Response Networks (CRN)

- Are a way of coordinating people from different agencies who are usually involved with preventing or responding to abused or neglected older adults and/or vulnerable people
- There is a BC CRN Society with chapters around the province



Guardianship Act (2000)

Emergency provisions may be <u>used</u>
 even without an adult's agreement,
 when it is necessary to act
 immediately in order to save the
 adult's life, prevent serious
 physical/mental harm, or protect the
 adult's assets from loss or damage.



An **emergency intervention** must be **short term** and deal with the emergency situation only.

Emergency provisions may include:

- Gaining access
- Providing emergency health care
- Removing an adult from an unsafe environment
- Protecting assets by informing the PGT
- Protecting the adult from harm using any other measure necessary



Court Orders Including:

- Warrant to enter to conduct an interview
- Access order
- Interim restraining order
- Support and assistance order



What to do?

- Involve the adult as much as possible
- Determine if the adult is able to seek support/assistance on their own
- Involve others (police, PGT) when making the decision to use emergency provisions.
- Ensure the adult has support and assistance and is in a safe environment
- Refer to the designated responder in your area and community resources



Community Resources • Community health Centre staff

- Community Resources Network Contacts
- Band Health clinic or Social Development Office
- Band council members
- Aboriginal Patient Navigator
- Victim services
- Public Guardian & Trustee
- Community workers, Social Workers, Elder's Workers, A&D, Family support
- Health staff/unit, Care Aides
- Police



Safety

- Safety of staff and the vulnerable adults are of paramount concern.
- All employees and managers should be aware of resources available and have safety procedures in place



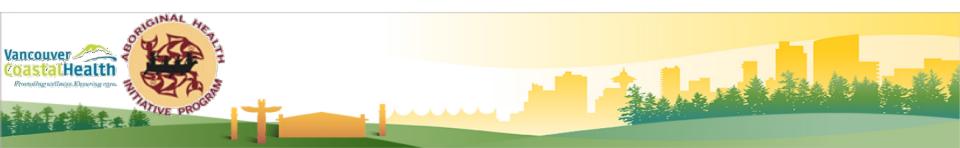
Privacy and Confidentiality

- important issues, especially in small communities where vulnerable adults may be experiencing abuse from family members who have positions of power in the community,
- or the workers may have relationships with the people involved.
- Also important that the confidentiality of the person who reported the abuse be upheld



Working with the police and justice system

 When there is a police investigation or when a crime has been committed, there needs to be a good working relationship between the criminal justice system, care-givers, and health care providers so that the needs of the older vulnerable adult are not lost.



QUIZ

