Older Adult Abuse and Neglect Response Flow Chart for Community Health Workers

ABUSE INDICATORS

Physical: (Assault, sexual assault, physical restraint, coercion) bruises, welts, swelling, lacerations, punctures, fractures, restricted movement, repeated falls, internal injuries, burns, venereal disease, genital infections, vaginal/anal bleeding.

Neglect/Self Neglect: malnourishment, emaciated, dehydrated, confused, inappropriate clothing, squalor, under/over medicated, absence of required hearing, visual and mobility aids, skin sores, malodorous, no follow through on medical services, abandonment.

Psychological: agitation, fearlessness (especially in presence of caregiver), low self-esteem, sleep disturbance, withdrawal, deference to caregiver.

Financial: unpaid bills, change in living conditions, no money/food/clothes, absence of aides and services, refusal to spend money without agreement of caregiver, sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives, abrupt changes in will/accounts, forged signature, sudden debt accrual.

SAFETY:

Be aware of Your Safety as well as the safety of the Older Adult.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Don’t disclose the identity of the person who made the report. Collect information about the situation discreetly and keep it confidential.

POLICE REPORTS:

Work with your local police agency when you suspect crimes have been committed against older adults that are unable to seek support and assistance on their own.

EMERGENCY IDENTIFICATION:

Call 911 or your local emergency response number in emergencies to preserve the older adults life, to prevent serious physical or mental harm, or to protect assets from significant damage or loss.