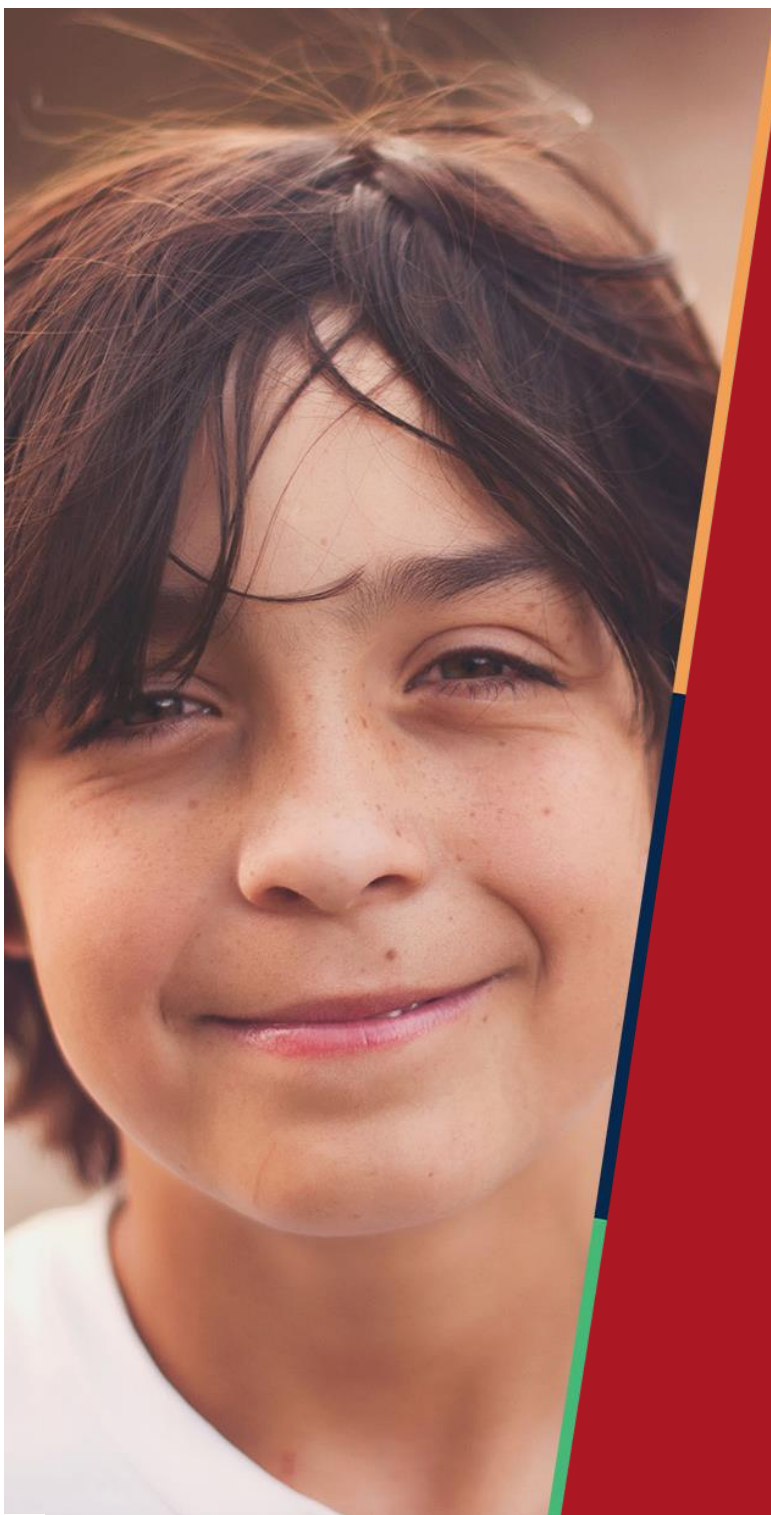




The Georgia Collaborative ASO

How to Educate Individuals on Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

Kim Grace and Marianne McAllister

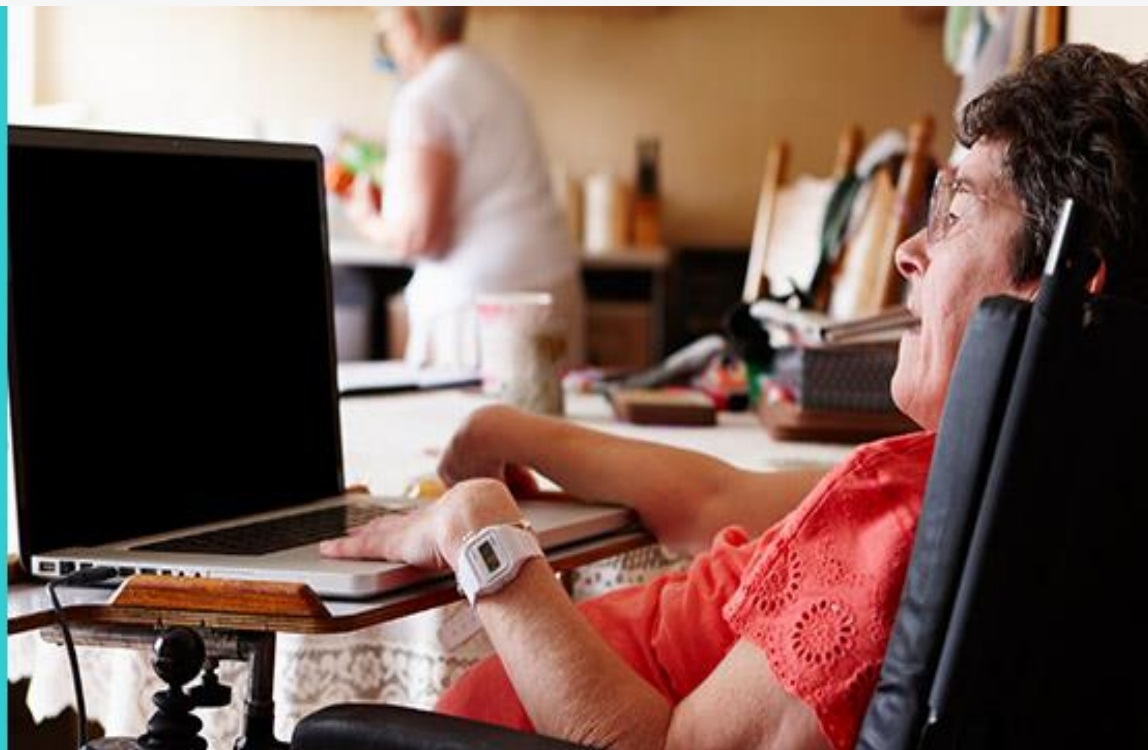


Objective:
**Learn more about
abuse, neglect and
exploitation as well as
techniques to educate
individuals on this
topic.**

Abuse - Neglect - Exploitation

The 8th Amendment protects all citizens from cruel and unusual punishment. All people have the right to be free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

**ABUSE AND
NEGLECT OF
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITY IS
UNACCEPTABLE**



Abuse Statistics

63%

**Experienced
Abuse**

27%

**Experienced
Sexual
Violence**

30%

**Abused
Family
Member**

Risk Factors for Abuse

- Increased dependency on others for long-term care
- The individual's perception of being powerless
- Abusers potential belief that abuse or neglect may not be discovered due to the victim's disability
- Many victims fear they will not be believed or lose their services if they tell someone
- Adequate education on appropriate and inappropriate physical and sexual behavior
- Increased social isolation and small social network can lead to an increased risk of exploitation

Forms Of Abuse

- **Physical Abuse:** Non-accidental inappropriate contact resulting in harm or the use of force with an individual that causes physical pain or injury.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Any unwanted sexual activity where the person perpetuating sexual abuse may make threats, use force, or take advantage of an individual who does not have the ability for numerous reasons to clearly consent to sexual activity.
- **Mental of Emotional Abuse:** Behavior that is demeaning, intimidating, and threatening. It creates emotional pain and distress which can result in difficult behaviors.

Forms of Abuse

- **Neglect** - Failure to provide care, supervision, or services that are necessary to the health and wellbeing of an individual.
- **Financial exploitation** - When anyone misuses, mishandles, exploits the property, possessions, or assets of an individual.
- **Disability Specific Abuse** - This abuse can include physical, emotional, neglect, or financial exploitation. Disability specific abuse can occur due to a disability healthcare service or other disability service relationship.
(Nosek, Foley, Hughes & Holland 2001)

Barriers to Reporting

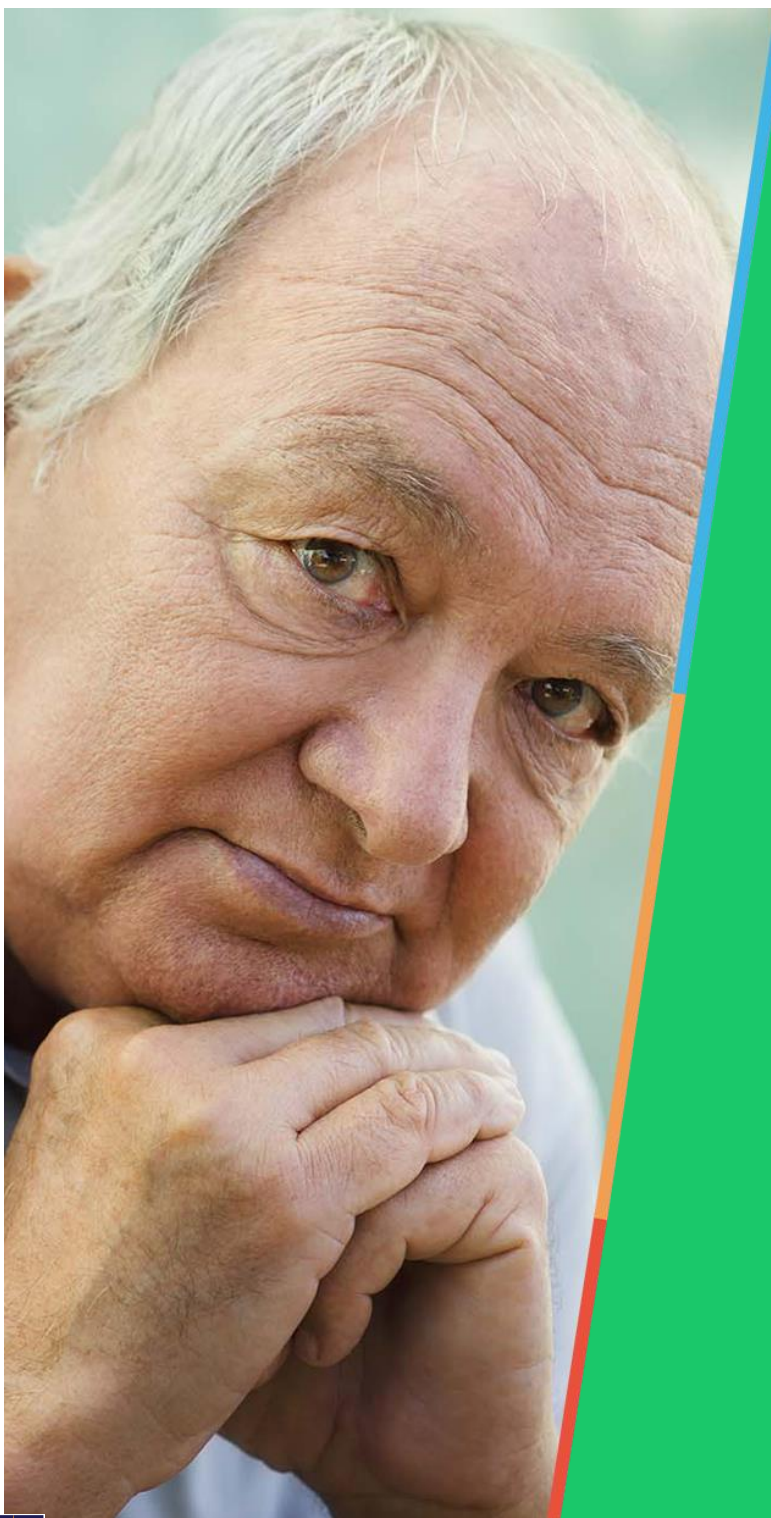
- Many individuals with disabilities find it difficult to report abuse because it may be difficult to describe the experience verbally.
- They may fear losing a longtime support staff/caregiver.
- They may fear retaliation for reporting certain staff.
- They may fear they will not be believed.
- They may not have enough information about abuse to know they can get help.



Empowering the Person to Report

- Educate on anonymous reporting and confidentially.
- Build confidence through continuous education on how to report.
- Encourage to report even if unsure.
- Build trust by always following up on concerns. If you promise to do something, do it.
- Explain it is their right to be safe and to report.
- Explain how reporting can help protect others.
- Acknowledge any fears about reporting and address those.
- Assure there will NOT be any retaliation.





Techniques on how to educate individuals on abuse.

Community Inclusion

- Interactions with community members and programs that build connections and relationships beyond the service environment are essential for individuals with disabilities.
- Enhancing valued status is achieved through giving individuals opportunities to form relationships, demonstrate competence, exercise citizenship rights and meet social responsibilities.
- Raising awareness and education is vital in the prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- Increased awareness establishes a culture of transparency of the issues and encourages those who have experienced abuse to seek assistance.

Create a Culture

Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation are less likely to occur in:

- Environments that are positive towards people with disabilities and value their status.
- Services that integrate with the community and do not segregate or isolate people with disabilities.
- Services that encourage risk awareness, take steps to prevent harm, and report all incidents as early as possible.
- Staff that are appropriately trained and equipped with relevant knowledge and strategies.



Education

Educate individuals about:

- Personal boundaries and safety – saying “No.”
- Ascertaining good, bad, and confusing touches.
- Identify private parts of the body as being parts of the body covered by bathing suits.
- Understanding that their bodies belong to them and they have the right to say no to anyone who touches them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Identifying when secrets should and should not be told (what are good and bad secrets).
- Pinpointing specific people to go to for help.



Education Continued

Various ways to educate on abuse:

- Individually and in group settings with examples.
- Examples can be visual, verbal and demonstrated.
- Use YouTube, pictures, stories, role playing, open and/or confidential discussions.
- Through the encouragement of questions and providing answers.
- Engage in conversations – avoid interrogations or assigning blame.
- Create a positive learning culture that encourages interaction and active engagement in learning.

Education

- Educate individuals in an on-going manner utilizing a variety of resources – visual and auditory.
- Utilize scenarios to teach abuse, neglect and exploitation concepts.
- Encourage individuals to develop and participate in self-advocacy groups.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhLsATwO0o4>



Educational Resources on Abuse

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFWXWFBt5B4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLbaDkq6xb0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps0Rt9TU3ao>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBioPN46j4Q>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hp4PW17U_h8



Consider Learning Styles

- **Determine the individual's learning style – ask what are the preferences on how to learn about abuse, neglect and exploitation.**
 - Visual and auditory learners – use role-play, video's and pictures to portray concepts.
 - Hands-on learners – use scenarios to act out and demonstrate concepts.



Summary

- Enhance community connections
- Valued social status
- Raising awareness
- Education of safeguards
- Create a culture free from abuse, neglect and exploitation



References and Resources

- *National Adult Protective Services Association – Types of Abuse.* <http://www.napsa-now.org/get-informed/>
- *American Bar Association – Summary of Statutes for Domestic & Sexual Violence.*
http://www.americanbar.org/groups/domestic_violence/resources/statutory_summaryarts.html
- *People with Disabilities in Partner Relationships – Power and Control Wheel.* http://www.ncdsv.org/images/safeplace_powercontrolwheeldisabilities_2011.pdf
- *Preventing Abuse and Exploitation – a Tiered Approach.*
<https://www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/support-services/service-providers/preventing-responding-abuse-neglect-exploitation>

Questions and Feedback



The Georgia
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Thank you

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