Statewide Elder Abuse Interventions and Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team Initiative

Background

Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams (E-MDTs) intervene in complex cases of elder abuse. They bring together professionals from various disciplines, including but not limited to Adult Protective Services, aging services, health and human services, and law enforcement to provide an effective and efficient means of addressing abuse of older adults (aged 60 and older). The enhancement comes with access to forensic accountants, geriatric psychiatrists/mental health professionals, and civil legal services.

The E-MDT model was piloted in eight counties from 2012-2016 using federal funds. During 2016-2017, New York State provided funding to sustain the existing E-MDTs and establish or enhance teams in five additional counties, for a total of thirteen. Building upon this success, in 2017 the NYS Office for Victim Services and NYS Office for the Aging partnered to establish and implement the Statewide Elder Abuse Interventions and E-MDT Initiative. The E-MDT Initiative is coordinated Statewide by Lifespan of Greater Rochester. Lifespan and the New York City Elder Abuse Center work together to provide technical assistance and training to E-MDTs across New York State and with NYSOFA to provide strategic planning to the Initiative.

Expanded Access

The Elder Abuse E-MDT Initiative continues to expand, with the goal of having a team in every county. The county-based E-MDTs are being implemented through an E-MDT Regional Hub model, in which a host organization is responsible for E-MDT establishment, coordination, and implementation in each of the counties in its E-MDT region. There are 11 regions that have been established for this Initiative (see attached table). As of July 2021, there are 53 counties in eleven E-MDT Regional Hubs with operational E-MDTs funded through this Initiative. The remaining counties are in development.

Services and Components

Services provided to abuse victims through E-MDT interventions include information about and referral to other types of services (e.g., victim service programs, legal services, etc.) and individual advocacy (e.g., return of personal property, assistance with applying for public benefits, etc.). E-MDT Coordinators provide case consultation on cases as well as access to consultation services such as a forensic accountant, geriatric psychiatrist/mental health professional, and civil legal attorney, as appropriate and available. Additionally, as part of the E-MDT Initiative, Lifespan of Greater Rochester holds monthly webinars for professionals on financial exploitation.

During the COVID-19 public health crisis, E-MDTs have continued to meet virtually, ensuring continued interventions in elder abuse cases and protections for New York's older adults during a time when many other programs have been forced to pause.

Professionals seeking more information should contact the Hub agency covering their county (see attached table).

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E-MDT Hub Regions, Counties, and Coordinators (July 2021)

Counties in italics are in development as part of this Initiative.

E-MDT Hub Region	Counties	Hub Agency Coordinator	
Region 1 – Western NY	Cattaraugus Chautauqua Erie Niagara Wyoming	Center for Elder Law and Justice 438 Main St., #1200 Buffalo, NY 14202 (716) 853-3087 https://elderjusticeny.org/	
Region 2 – Finger Lakes	Allegany Cayuga Chemung Genesee Livingston Monroe Ontario Orleans Schuyler Seneca *Steuben* Yates Wayne	Lifespan of Greater Rochester, Inc. 1900 S. Clinton Ave. Rochester, NY 14618 (585) 244-8400 https://www.lifespan-roch.org/	
Region 3 – Central NY	Cortland Herkimer Madison Oneida Onondaga Oswego Tompkins	Vera House, Inc. 723 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 (315) 425-0818 https://www.verahouse.org/	
Region 4 – Southern Tier	Broome *Chenango* Delaware Otsego Tioga	Action for Older Persons, Inc. 200 Plaza Dr. Suite B Vestal, NY 13850 (607) 722-1251 https://actionforolderpersons.org/	
Region 5 – North Country	Clinton Essex Franklin Jefferson Lewis St. Lawrence	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Ogdensburg 46 Flynn Ave. Suite 612 Plattsburgh, NY 12901 (518) 566-0944 https://www.rcdony.org/	
Region 6 – Mohawk Region	Fulton Hamilton Montgomery Saratoga Schoharie Warren Washington	Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York 95 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206 (518) 462-6765 https://www.lasnny.org/	
Region 7 – Capital Region	Albany *Columbia* *Greene* *Rensselaer* *Schenectady*	LifePath 28 Colvin Ave., Suite 2 Albany, NY 12206 (518) 465-3322 https://lifepathny.org/	Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York 95 Central Avenue Albany, NY 12206 (518) 462-6765

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		https://www.lasnny.org/
Region 8 – Hudson Valley	Dutchess Orange *Rockland* *Sullivan* Ulster	Jewish Family Services of Ulster County 280 Wall St. Kingston, NY 12401 (845) 338-2980 https://jfsulster.org/
Region 9 – Metro North	*Putnam* Westchester	The Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at The Hebrew Home at Riverdale 5901 Palisade Avenue Bronx, NY 10471 (718) 581-1000 https://www.riverspringhealth.org/hebrew-home/
Region 10 – New York City* *The New York City Department for the Aging also provides funding for E-MDTs in New York City	Brooklyn Bronx Manhattan Queens Staten Island	New York City Elder Abuse Center 525 East 68th Street, Box 39 New York, NY 10065 (212) 746-7211 https://nyceac.org/
Region 11 – Long Island	Nassau Suffolk	The Safe Center of Long Island 15 Grumman Rd W #1000 Bethpage, NY 11714 (516) 465-4700 https://www.tscli.org/