



Media Contact: Kelli Stauning
Email: kstauning@wiseandhealthyaging.org
Telephone: (310) 394-9871, x150;
Cell: (323) 243-2659

WISE & Healthy Aging to Run New Center to Help Address Elder Abuse

SANTA MONICA, CALIF. (June 27, 2023) – WISE & Healthy Aging, a community-based, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the dignity and quality of life of older adults has been awarded a contract to run the new Adult Protective Services (APS) Center of Excellence. The new Center will serve older adults and those with disabilities who are experiencing abuse, neglect and/or exploitation by working to ensure their safety; prevent further abuse; and to seek justice on their behalf.

Following a motion by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the [Los Angeles Department of Aging and Disabilities](#) created the new APS Center of Excellence, where an interdisciplinary team of government and community-based organizations will meet weekly to address the most egregious abuse cases of older adults and adults with disabilities.

Elder abuse as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is an intentional act or failure to act by a caregiver or a person that the older person trusts that causes them to be at risk for harm. About 1 in 10 people aged 60 or older living at home experience some form of abuse each year and nearly 30 percent of individuals age 65 and older with disabilities who need assistance with daily care have been the victim of a non-fatal violent crime, according to the [National Center on Elder Abuse](#).

“Elder abuse is more common than many people realize,” said [Miles McNeeley, Vice President](#), Elder Abuse Prevention, WISE & Healthy Aging, who will lead the APS Center. “Bringing all the right people to the table through the APS Center of Excellence will enable us to intervene when elder abuse is suspected, as early, effectively, and expeditiously as possible.”

As part of the Center’s team of experts, WISE & Healthy Aging is partnering with renowned elder abuse experts [Laura Mosqueda, M.D.](#), Professor of Family Medicine and Geriatrics, Director, National Center on Elder Abuse, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California and [Bonnie Olsen, PhD](#), Geropsychologist and Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and Vice Chair for Research at Keck USC. Drs. Mosqueda and Olsen will provide the clinical expertise on how best to address the complex elder abuse cases presented at the Center.

Others contributing their expertise at the Center include APS, the WISE Long-Term Care Ombudsman team, law enforcement, the offices of the District Attorney, City Attorney and Public Guardian, mental health professionals, medical professionals, community legal service providers and advocates.

“What we learn from case reviews and the data collected from assisting these vulnerable clients will enable us to conduct research that will inform best practices for a national model on how best to intervene and support adults experiencing abuse,” said Dr. Laura Mosqueda.

Additionally, the APS Center of Excellence will function as both a Forensic Center and a Training Center, where its interdisciplinary team will not only collaborate to help resolve complex cases of alleged elder abuse in Los Angeles County, but also provide advanced training for APS social workers and community partners to hone their skills and learn new interventions to prevent and address elder abuse.

“The physical and emotional impact of abuse on a frail older person is devastating,” said [Molly Davies, LCSW](#), President and CEO, WISE & Healthy Aging. “We are grateful for the opportunity to work with such a highly skilled team of advocates, each contributing their respective expertise to help achieve the best outcomes possible for these individuals.”

###

About WISE & Healthy Aging

WISE & Healthy Aging is a multiservice, community-based nonprofit organization serving older adults and their families and caregivers throughout Los Angeles County. Headquartered in Santa Monica, the team at WISE & Healthy Aging works to advance the dignity and quality of life of older adults through leadership, advocacy, and high-quality, innovative services.