

GETTING STARTED WITH AN ELDER ABUSE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

UNC SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

SEPTEMBER 2020

AGENDA

Overview of MDTs

Strengths and Weaknesses of NC's
Legal Framework

Next Steps: 2020 MDT Cohort

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF NC'S LEGAL FRAMEWORK

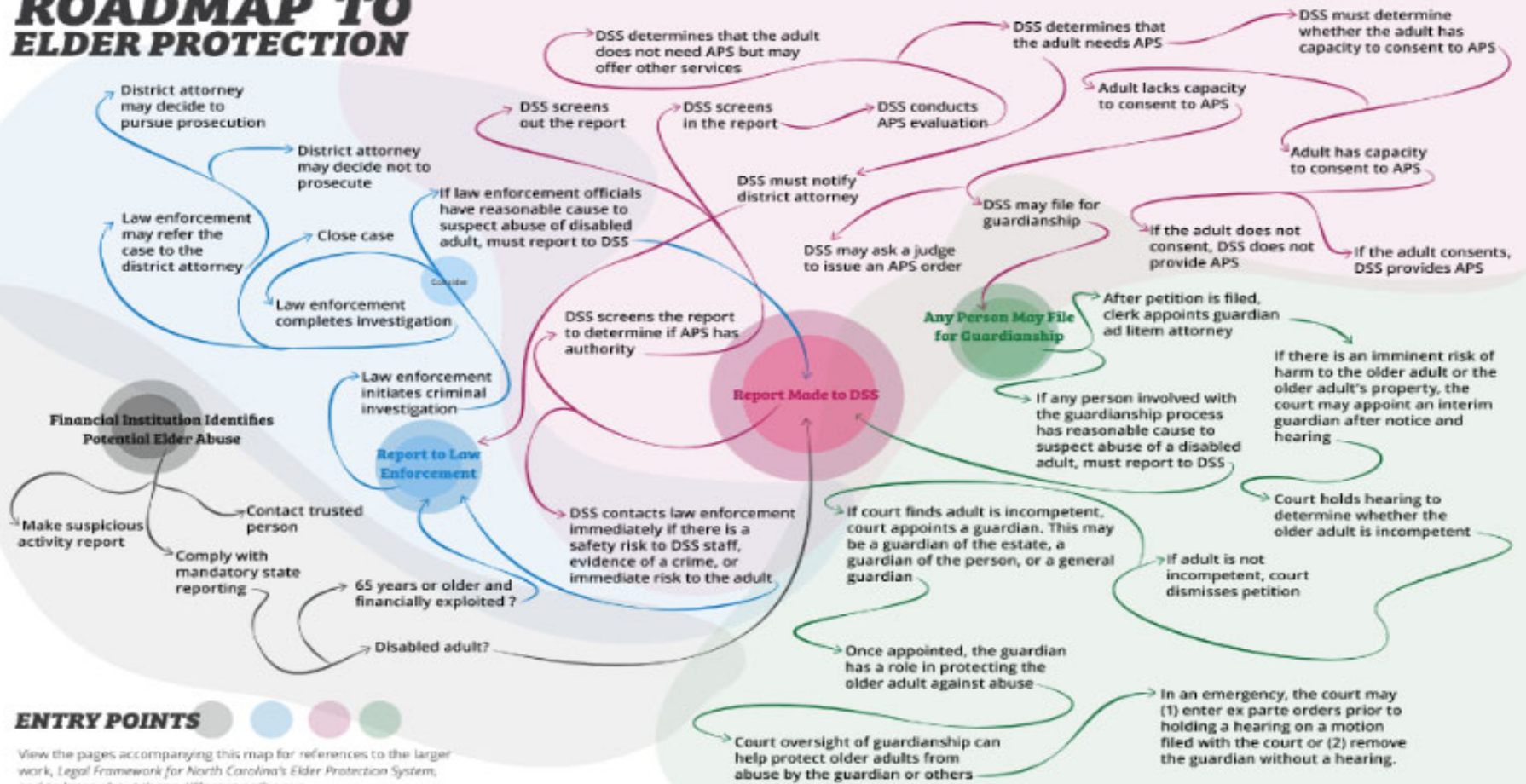
Aimee Wall
UNC School of Government



STRENGTHS

- Variety of legal tools available to help older adults
- Mandatory reporting
- Recently updated laws related to financial institutions

ROADMAP TO ELDER PROTECTION



ENTRY POINTS

View the pages accompanying this map for references to the larger work, *Legal Framework for North Carolina's Elder Protection System*, and to learn about these different pathways.

- Reports to DSS
- Reports to law enforcement
- Reports to federal government (financial)
- **EPN Quick Reference:**
Reporting Elder Abuse [[link](#)]

MANDATORY
REPORTING



FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

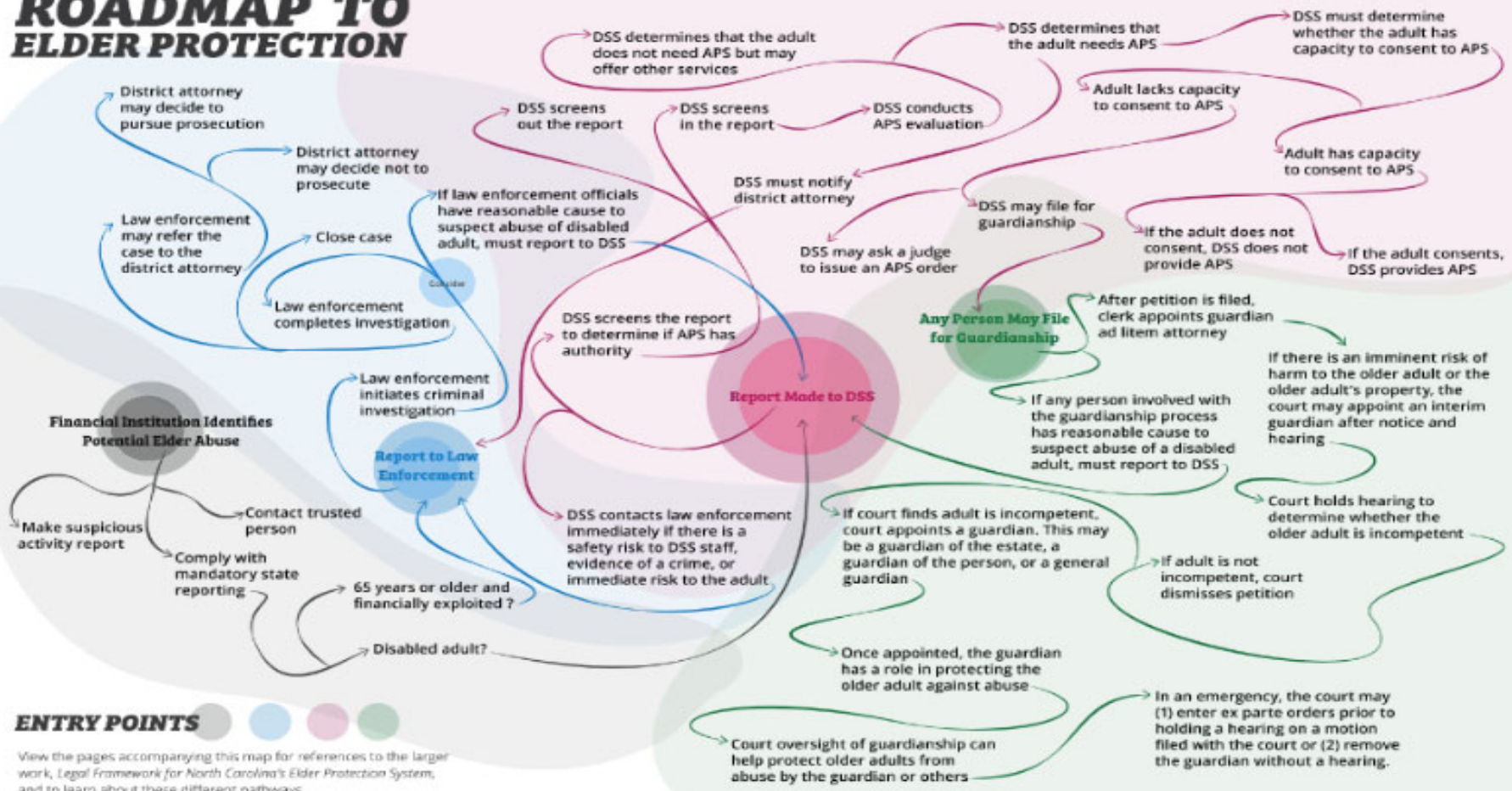
- Laws updated to harmonize state law with federal law to clarify authority to report and share records with DSS and law enforcement
- **EPN Quick Reference:** *Legal Framework for the Role of Financial Institutions in Elder Protection* [[link](#)]
- **NC Administrative Office of the Courts Webinar (2014):** *Combatting Financial Exploitation* [[link](#)]



POTENTIAL
WEAKNESSES

- Fragmented system
- No specific law authorizing MDTs
- APS laws viewed as incomplete or antiquated
- Confidentiality laws inhibit information sharing

ROADMAP TO ELDER PROTECTION



- **Georgia**

- Authorizes district attorney to establish MDTs
- Allows information sharing among team members and makes information confidential

- **Texas**

- Requires large counties to have MDTs; mandates membership
- Authorizes government agencies to share information with one another and also with community providers involved

- **South Carolina**

- Authorizes APS to adopt regulations, policies, and MOUs related to investigations



EXAMPLES

Source: Elder Justice Initiative, 2019 Statutory Review [[link](#)]



NC CHILD PROTECTIVE
SERVICES

Image: clipartkey.com

- **Case review – Child and Family Teams, Permanency Planning Reviews**
 - Review active cases; child in custody of social services
- **Systemic review - Community Child Protection Teams**
 - Review selected active cases
 - Review fatalities connected to CPS
 - Make recommendations for system change

APS LAWS - EXAMPLES

CHILD PROTECTIVE

- **Access to records:** Expansive authority to demand access to any and all information necessary to evaluate a report
- **Duration:** Authority to provide services for an extended period of time (years)

ADULT PROTECTIVE

- **Access to records:** Limited authority to demand access to some records from some involved with an adult's care
- **Duration:** Maximum of 120 days if adult lacks capacity to consent; guardianship becomes default if extended services necessary

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Patchwork of disconnected confidentiality laws
- Confusion and concern
- Default is to withhold



CONFIDENTIALITY

- **Social services:** Limited authority to share with law enforcement and health care providers involved with investigation or providing services
- **Health care providers:** Duty to report; unclear how far authority extends after report without being compelled
- **Financial institutions:** Duty to report; authority to share with law enforcement and social services
- **EPN Quick Reference:** *Information-Sharing in Elder Abuse Cases* [[link](#)]

**NEXT STEPS:
JOIN THE 2020 MDT COHORT**

Margaret Henderson
UNC School of Government

- **What is included?**

- Workshops (October, November, December)
- Asynchronous training
- Facilitation services
- Technical assistance

- **How much does it cost?**

- Nothing!

- **How does our team apply?**

- <https://www.sog.unc.edu/courses/elder-abuse-multi-disciplinary-team-workshop>



2020 MDT
COHORT

<https://protectadults.sog.unc.edu>

Protect Adults

About

Read the Manual

Resources

Find Your Peers

Sign Up

Login

HOME / RESOURCES / TRAINING LIBRARY

Training Library

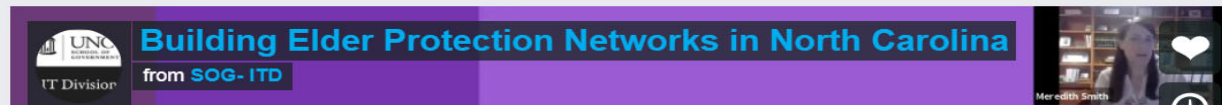
Upcoming Trainings

- Register for the Webinar 'Getting Started with an Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team'(September 9, 2020)
- Apply to join the 2020 MDT Cohort by September 23, 2020 and participate in a series of workshops to grow your multidisciplinary team

Recordings

Webinar: Building Elder Protection Networks in North Carolina

Many groups, individuals, and agencies across North Carolina are involved with protecting older adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. What role do they each play? How can and do they work together? What might they want to do in the future to build an even stronger elder protection network? Join School of Government faculty members Meredith Smith and Aimee Wall for an overview of the legal framework of North Carolina's network and to hear from individuals across the state who are doing this work in different ways.



BUILD
YOUR
TEAM

Protect Adults

About

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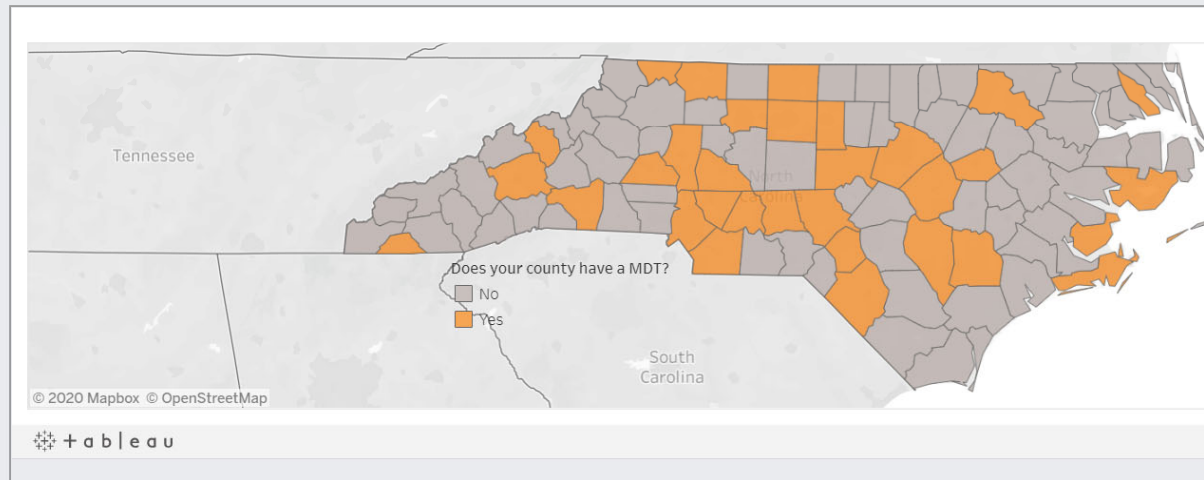
Find Your Peers

Sign Up

Login

Map of North Carolina Multidisciplinary Teams

The map below identifies the location of multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) collaborating to address elder abuse in North Carolina. To find an MDT or to contact the MDT members, click on the individual county.



Find Your Peers

Professionals work each day across North Carolina in the field of aging and adult services. Use the directory below to connect with professionals who do similar work. Identify gaps in expertise on your local MDT and reach out to a professional in the directory to ask them to join your MDT. Filter by job description, area of expertise, or location.

Search & Filter



Jason Minnicozzi

County: Brunswick

Job Title: Assistant District Attorney

Organization: Brunswick County District Attorney's Office



Edward Vogler

County: Davie

Job Title: County Attorney

Organization: Davie County

THANKS FOR JOINING US!

Special thanks to

- Talitha Guinn-Shaver
- US DOJ, Elder Justice Initiative

SOG MDT Team

- Rebekah Appleton
- Margaret Henderson
- Meredith Smith
- Aimee Wall