

Constant Contact Survey Results

Survey Name: VAA Stakeholders Survey

Response Status: Partial & Completed

Filter: None

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Survey for the Vulnerable Adult Act Stakeholder Group

This survey seeks to obtain information about improvements for the Minnesota Vulnerable Adult Act. The areas of focus include Education and Training, Protections, Scope of Statutes, Reporting, Investigations, and Definitions.

Your answers to the following questions are important. We ask that you consider the range of vulnerable adults who are protected by Minnesota's Vulnerable Adult Act. Your responses will only be used in the aggregate.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING looks at the implementation and understanding of the Vulnerable Adult Act for those who come in contact with and are charged with enforcement of its provisions.

PROTECTIONS focuses on safeguarding an individual from harm or exploitation while still respecting the person's right to autonomy.








SCOPE OF STATUTES addresses the strength of current statutes to enable legal entities to prosecute those who abuse, neglect, or exploit a vulnerable adult.

REPORTING analyzes the current reporting system in Minnesota, along with methods used, timing, and reporting requirements.




DEFINITIONS examines the current usage by the State and Federal governments of terminology involving vulnerable adults and seeks to clarify any variances.

INVESTIGATIONS determines the current tools investigators have, best practices to be used, and the criteria which comprise a thorough and complete investigation by a lead agency or multiple lead agencies.

* What type of agency, organization, or office do you represent?
(please check all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
County Adult Protective Services			65	45.4 %
County Social Services			49	34.2 %
MN Department of Health (please specify which division below)			0	0.0 %
Office of Health Facility Complaints			0	0.0 %
MN Department of Human Services (please specify which division below)			5	3.4 %
Ombudsman's Office (please specify which division below)			2	1.3 %
Law Enforcement (i.e. police, sheriff)			0	0.0 %
Care Provider (i.e. nursing home, ALF, housing with services, hospice)			11	7.6 %
Government Attorney (city, county, or state)			1	<1 %
Legal-Aid Attorney (i.e. SMRLS, MN Disability Law Project)			0	0.0 %
Private Attorney			1	<1 %
Consumer or Victim Advocacy Organization			2	1.3 %
Tribe (please specify which Tribe below)			0	0.0 %
Other			7	4.8 %
Totals			143	100%

Do you receive reports, either verbal or written, of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of residents in nursing homes or other care facilities/settings?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			90	56.9 %
No			15	9.4 %
No Response(s)			53	33.5 %
Totals			158	100%

Do you receive reports, either verbal or written, of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of vulnerable adults who are not residents of nursing homes or other care facilities/settings?

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Yes			84	53.1 %
No			21	13.2 %
No Response(s)			53	33.5 %
Totals			158	100%

Do you collaborate with adult protective service groups or agencies? If so, please check all of the groups or agencies below with which you collaborate.

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
No, we do not collaborate with anyone else.			3	<1 %
County Adult Protective Services			61	10.0 %
County Social Services			63	10.3 %
MN Department of Health (please specify which division below)			38	6.2 %
Office of Health Facility Complaints			51	8.4 %
MN Department of Human Services (please specify which division below)			51	8.4 %
Ombudsman's Office (please specify which division below)			48	7.9 %
Law Enforcement (i.e. police, sheriff)			83	13.6 %
Care Provider (i.e. nursing home, ALF, housing with services, hospice)			54	8.9 %
Government Attorney (city, county, or state)			60	9.9 %
Legal-Aid Attorney (i.e. SMRLS, MN Disability Law Project)			22	3.6 %
Private Attorney			23	3.7 %
Consumer or Victim Advocacy Organization			29	4.7 %
Tribe (please specify which Tribe below)			7	1.1 %
Other			13	2.1 %
Totals			606	100%

On average, roughly how many reports involving vulnerable adults did you make or did your office receive in the past three years? Please type in "N/A" if you didn't make or receive any reports - OR - please specify a number for years 2005, 2006, and 2007 for the reports made or received.

79 Response(s)

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The current amount of training for Common Entry Point (CEP) intake reporters is adequate to enable effective intake of information to protect vulnerable adults in Minnesota.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	[Redacted]						97	3.7

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

The training provided to mandated reporters on what incidents of abuse they must report is adequate.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	[Redacted]						96	3.4

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

My local law enforcement is adequately educated on the concerns to be considered when investigating a case of potential vulnerable adult abuse.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	[Redacted]						96	3.3

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

I know the correct phone number to call when making a report to my Common Entry Point (CEP).

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	[Redacted]						97	5.2

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Additional comments on Education and Training:

20 Response(s)

TextBlock:

PROTECTIONS

A "Silver Alert" system for vulnerable adults, similar to the "Amber Alert" or "Code Adam", would be helpful in protecting vulnerable adults with physical disabilities or cognitive impairments.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	[Redacted]						95	4.3

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

County Adult Protective Services, County Social Services, Department of Human Services, or Consumer Advocacy Organizations should be allowed to apply for an Order for Protection or a Hardship Waiver on behalf of a vulnerable adult.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	[Redacted]						95	4.8

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Vulnerable adult victims have an adequate amount of appeal rights from a final disposition concerning abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	[Redacted]						95	4.2

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Substantiated perpetrators have an adequate amount of appeal rights from a final disposition concerning abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
	[Redacted]						95	4.8

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Additional comments on Protections:

TextBlock:

SCOPE OF STATUTES

There should be a civil form of action, in addition to the criminal action, to recover funds when a vulnerable adult has been financially exploited.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								95	5.3

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

It would be beneficial to create a legal mechanism, such as the Revenue Recapture Act, to withhold certain financial gain (income tax refund or certain inheritance rights) from a substantiated perpetrator of financial exploitation.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								95	5.4

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

A thorough background check should be performed on any individual who acts in a substitute decision-making capacity or is an informal, paid caregiver.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								95	5.0

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

A legal mechanism should be enacted to "freeze" a vulnerable adult's assets, such that the vulnerable adult would still have access and that the assets would be protected from a potential perpetrator while an investigation of financial exploitation is conducted.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								94	5.4

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Additional comments on Scope of Statutes:

5 Response(s)

TextBlock:

REPORTING

Minnesota should move to a state-administered Centralized Reporting System for intake of vulnerable adult reports, but all county lead agencies would still be responsible for their investigations.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								95	4.3

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Reports of vulnerable adult abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation made to the Common Entry Point (CEP) are taken by the CEP in an efficient, timely, and user-friendly manner.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								95	4.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

The current statewide database adequately provides for the entering and accessibility of Common Entry Point (CEP) intake information by all agencies permitted to have such information under current statute.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
							94	3.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Minnesota should change its definition of "maltreatment" to align with the Federal definition used by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
							93	3.5

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

The Common Entry Point (CEP) should be allowed to take written or faxed reports of suspected maltreatment, instead of only oral reports.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
							93	4.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Additional comments on Reporting:

7 Response(s)

TextBlock:

DEFINITIONS

As more vulnerable adults are choosing to live in the community, rather than in a facility, clarification is needed on what an "informal caregiver" status may entail, including any associated obligations, required training, and penalties.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								94	5.1

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

The definition of self-neglect within the Vulnerable Adult Act should be clarified to ensure the vulnerable adult's lack of mental capacity is taken into consideration when an agency acts on behalf of that individual.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								94	5.1

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Guardianship and conservatorship fiduciary responsibilities need to be further clarified in Minnesota statutes.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								94	4.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

When an individual abuses their power over another individual (using a power of attorney, guardianship, conservatorship, etc.), the penalties for such abuse are adequate to punish the perpetrator.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								94	2.9

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Additional comments on Definitions:

5 Response(s)

TextBlock:

INVESTIGATIONS

Local law enforcement agencies are actively involved in an investigation of financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
							94	3.9

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Financial exploitation investigations are difficult to conduct because of many financial institutions' requirements to get a subpoena or warrant before any bank records are disclosed.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
							94	4.8

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

All financial institutions in Minnesota (banks, financial advisors, mortgage advisors, credit unions, etc.), and their employees, should be mandated reporters under the Vulnerable Adult Act.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
							94	5.3

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

It would be helpful to enact a system to "flag" an alleged perpetrator of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation while the perpetrator is under investigation.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
							94	4.6

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

The lead agency investigation of an incident of maltreatment should receive the same priority, despite an internal investigation required by CMS or when an alleged perpetrator (employee) has been terminated.

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								93	4.4

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Government agencies (Ombudsman, County APS, DHS, OHFC, etc.) should be allowed access to information necessary to protect a vulnerable adult when the vulnerable adult is unable to access the information himself/herself (for example, due to cognitive incapacity).

1 = No Opinion, 2 = Strongly Disagree, 3 = Disagree, 4 = Neutral, 5 = Agree, 6 = Strongly Agree

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*	
								93	5.2

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

Additional comments on Investigations:

2 Response(s)

TextBlock:

FINAL COMMENTS

What, if any, recommendations would you make to improve how vulnerable adults can be protected while living in the community with independence and dignity?

31 Response(s)

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Thank you for your time filling out this survey. Your responses are greatly appreciated and will be essential to the stakeholder group working to reform the Vulnerable Adult Act to protect Minnesota's vulnerable population.