



The Harry and Jeanette  
**Weinberg Center for Elder Justice**  
AT THE HEBREW HOME AT RIVERDALE

## **Elder Abuse in the Community**

A proposal to the New York State Long Term Care Planning Project  
to address a critical gap in service to  
New York State's most vulnerable older adults

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New York State's long-term care system is not equipped to effectively address the burgeoning epidemic of elder abuse in the community



At least 1 in 10 older New Yorkers  
– 370,000 – living at home  
is a victim of elder abuse.

Elder abuse causes significant and rapid decline in physical and cognitive function...



...and large, but hidden increases in health care costs



Elder abuse victims are three times as likely to use a hospital emergency room and four times as likely to be admitted to a nursing home.

Neither venue is equipped to address the root cause and complexity of elder abuse.

90% of elder abuse cases involve  
family members,  
making their home dangerous

# George's Story



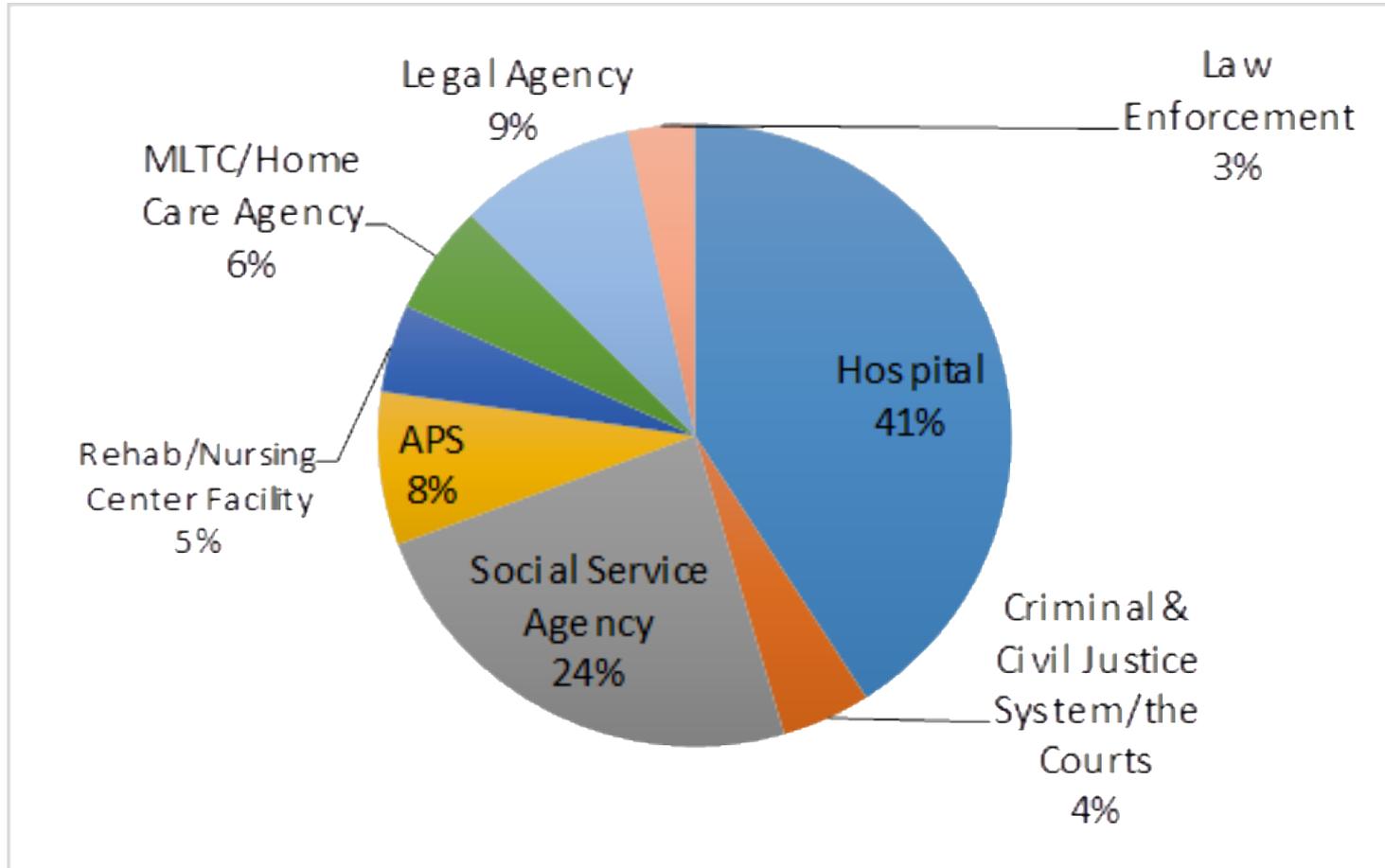
The Weinberg Center's shelter model leverages existing resources using a non-profit nursing facility as a hub, to provide holistic and cost-effective services to a high-needs population at a low variable cost



Skilled nursing facilities already have many of the features critical to the success of an elder abuse shelter:

- Open 24/7
- Beds are usually available
- Staff have mandated SNF elder abuse training
- All will receive trauma training by end of 2019
- SNFs provide services for men and women, as well as the LGBT community
- SNFs accommodate underlying medical conditions associated with older adults

# The Weinberg Center's Referral Sources



# The Weinberg Center Shelter Model partners with:

- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Hospitals
- Law enforcement
- New York State Courts
- Legal Services
- Social and Victim Service Agencies

# About The Weinberg Center

- Opened on January 1, 2005
- Housed within the Hebrew Home at Riverdale – a non-profit, non-sectarian SNF
- First elder abuse shelter in the United States
- Has provided 140,000 shelter days since inception
- Team comprised of:
  - Lawyers
  - Social Workers
  - Public Health Specialist
- Has assisted in the creation of 18 shelters across the country
- Has received numerous awards including the United States Department of Justice Crime Victims Services Award
- Provides testimony and expertise in public policy arenas
- Has created and led Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs)
- Conducts extensive training
  - Law enforcement
  - Medical personnel
  - New York State Judiciary
  - Doormen
  - City Meals on Wheels

# About The Weinberg Center

- Has established the SPRiNG Alliance (Shelter Partners Regional, National & Global)
- Has fostered eighteen replications around the United States
- Five additional shelters are currently in the process of formation
- Regular best practice meetings and conference calls
- Model is flexible and adaptable to specific community resources
- Offers an opportunity to study the efficacy of the shelter model

# Weinberg clients receive holistic, trauma-informed therapeutic and legal services with the goal of returning clients to their homes or another safe setting

- Medicaid ALP
- Long-term care
- HUD 202s
- We are currently seeking to secure priority admission for clients in New York City affordable housing with services



# Challenges to Providing Shelter Services

- MLTCs do not recognize elder abuse as a clinical care need and routinely reject coverage of SNF shelter stay
- Medicaid does not recognize elder abuse as a clinical care need
- Office of the Medical Inspector General (OMIG) does not recognize elder abuse as a condition requiring skilled nursing care

# Recommendations and Proposal

A three-year demonstration project is needed to further validate the resource efficiency and cost benefits of an integrated elder abuse shelter as a component of Medicaid covered care.

Require MLTC Medicaid rate reimbursement when a client is admitted to the Weinberg Center following referral from:

- Hospital which has failed to identify a safe discharge
- Adult Protective Services, where the home is deemed unsafe
- Law enforcement
- NYS Courts
- Positive indication of elder abuse in post-acute setting through Weinberg Center screening tool (*WC-RAPS*)

- Develop criteria for other SNFs to qualify for reimbursement for shelter services
- The Weinberg Center has identified possible NYS facilities for participation who are part of the SPRiNG Alliance
- Secure approval for priority admission into affordable housing with services for shelter clients
- Gather data for program evaluation on the cost benefits of the shelter model under Medicaid

# Thank You

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