

Elder Abuse Commission 2020-21

As Ohio's population ages, the commission's work to protect the elderly becomes all the more crucial. Here's a look at the group's progress during the recently ended biennium.



DAVE YOST

OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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My Fellow Ohioans,

Everybody has a stake in the fight against elder abuse. Why? Because, the fact is, none of us is getting any younger. Barring a premature demise, we're all on our way to becoming older adults.

When I was 20, I didn't think much about that. I wasn't looking 40 years down the road. But now I am 40 years down the road, and I sometimes ask myself, "Where did all that time go?"

And every year, a lot more of us are asking that same question.

Here are some astounding numbers:

- In 1980, there were an estimated 382 million people worldwide who were 60 or older. By 2050, that number is projected to be an eye-popping 2.1 billion.
- In the United States right now, there are about 56 million older adults. By 2060, that number is expected to reach almost 95 million.

Obviously, the job of protecting older adults is not going to get easier. And that is something our society needs to prepare for.

That's why the Elder Abuse Commission exists. By identifying best practices, advocating for laws and policies to improve protection of older adults, sharing expertise and promoting research, the commission is laying the groundwork for that future.

This report details the group's work in 2020 and 2021.

Today's 20-year-olds might never know the names of the people serving on this commission, but decades from now they'll benefit from the work the commission is doing today.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General

Letter from the Chair

My Friends,

As older Ohioans increase both in number and percentage of the general population, many, sadly, suffer appalling treatment: They have unexplained black-and-blue marks; they are threatened if they don't fully comply with sharp demands from caregivers; so-called friends, or even relatives, who handle their banking mispend the funds to serve their own lifestyle.

In 2009, a group of well-informed professionals and laypeople assembled to determine what could be done to help this highly vulnerable population.

The group, representing a number of organizations that work with older adults, formed the basis of the Ohio Elder Abuse Commission. Over the years, the commission strived to reduce the incidence of elder abuse and to educate the public about how to prevent such offenses. It worked closely with local and statewide organizations, conducted public events throughout the state and presented seminars to help professionals tackle thorny issues.

But it became clear that, to have an enduring impact, the efforts required long-term action, stronger advocacy for change and dedicated coordination among committed organizations. Crucial validation came in 2018 when the Ohio General Assembly established the Elder Abuse Commission in statute, specifying its membership and stating its duties.

With its mandate defined, the commission has worked during the past two years to increase Ohioans' understanding of elder abuse, including the more subtle ways in which both abuse and financial exploitation can occur, and sought to prevent and end this maltreatment. In conjunction with statewide and local organizations, the commission traveled throughout Ohio to spread awareness and hear from the public and frontline practitioners.

Amid these activities, the COVID-19 pandemic reached Ohio. Many of us lost family members and dear friends, as well as fellow advocates who had contributed to the well-being of our state. We were saddened to learn about the older Ohioans so adversely affected by this destructive disease, and we worried about the likelihood of increased cases of unreported abuse against older adults confined to their homes.

While life turned upside down, the commission rallied, establishing virtual meetings and communications, aided by the technology of the day. We worked to arm older adults and professionals with information and invited speakers from departments such as Aging, Mental Health and Addiction Services to "attend" our meetings, allowing the commission to examine how we could coordinate initiatives with their programs.

The commission's four committees have remained hard at work:

- The Policy Committee provides regular updates to the General Assembly about issues surrounding victims of elder abuse and advances the best ways to support them.

- The Research Committee is developing methods to fill frustrating gaps in knowledge about the instances of elder abuse that too often go unreported. It is planning a seminar for researchers for the upcoming biennium.
- The Direct Practice Committee is working on methods for assessing the capacity of elder abuse victims, giving guidance to frontline practitioners from fields as diverse as financial services, health care and public-interest law. Those professionals who work directly with older adults are often the first to spot risks to their well-being.
- The Education Committee found a bit of sunshine amid the pandemic hardships: Members presented online forums that drew significantly more older adults and professionals than previous presentations had.

Despite technology's ability to make those events possible, technology has not lessened the need for help. Older Ohioans continue to fall prey to calls from people claiming to represent their grandchildren "who have been arrested and need money to get out of jail." Others have found that shoddy driveway and roof repairs completed by unfamiliar workers required a costly overhaul. The commission worked throughout the biennium to help Ohioans recognize and avoid such schemes.

The commission's work in other areas included gauging the difficulties that arise when the criminal justice system interacts with older people. Through a partnership with the Aging Committee of the Criminal Justice Mental Illness Task Force, the commission is collecting data from the Social Determinants of Health jail data project to understand and respond more appropriately to issues that surface.

The commission also has promulgated guidance for those who want to bring up issues, assuring that each meeting includes time for public comment.

The commission believes that ending elder abuse is everybody's responsibility. Whether we are young, old or somewhere in between, we can all commit to remaining alert to misdeeds or people of ill will who hurt older Ohioans. By working together, we can prevent our neighbors and loved ones — and every other Ohioan — from suffering such abuse, and we can contribute to the contentment they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Brachman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Judith Brachman,
Chair, Elder Abuse Commission

About Elder Abuse

Elder abuse, a devastating reality for vulnerable Ohioans of all backgrounds, refers to any intentional or negligent act by a caregiver or another person that causes harm or a serious risk to an older adult. The abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, and/or it could involve neglect or financial exploitation.

Growing numbers of people suffer the effects, including deteriorating health, depression and premature death. It is obvious, then, why, as Ohio's older population steadily increases, the need for adequate protection does, too.

It is an unfortunate fact that elder abuse often goes undetected. For every case brought to light, 24 remain undiscovered, according to a prevalence study conducted in New York in 2011 by a team including Cornell University and the New York City Department for the Aging.

The U.S. Justice Department estimates that more than 10% of adults age 60 or older experience elder abuse every year.

The same share of Ohio's older population experiences physical abuse, psychological or verbal abuse, sexual abuse, financial exploitation and/or neglect, according to an analysis from the National Center on Elder Abuse. In addition, studies have shown that those with dementia face increased risk, with about 50% enduring some form of mistreatment that likely goes unreported.

There is growing concern that, when offenses against the elderly do get reported, they are not being treated as the serious crimes that they are.

Requests for assistance from the Ohio Attorney General's Office are common. Victims, their families and concerned citizens relay concerns about elder abuse, often after attempts to work with local authorities have failed. The victims frequently express frustration that offenders have not been held accountable.

AG Yost's Elder Abuse Commission

In 2009, the Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission (EAC) was launched to help protect Ohio's older adults. The mission includes:

- Increasing awareness of elder abuse and improving education on how to reduce and prevent it.
- Encouraging research.
- Improving policy, funding and programming.
- Advancing elder justice and the criminal judicial response.
- Identifying ways to implement statewide coordination efforts.

In September 2018, the 132nd General Assembly codified the Elder Abuse Commission via House Bill 49. Ohio Revised Code Sections 5101.741 and 5101.74 (available in [Appendix A](#)) define the EAC's duties and membership. (The same General Assembly amended the member list in March 2019 via Senate Bill 158.)

The commission includes representatives from multiple agencies in Ohio government and from public and private organizations that assist older adults.

The EAC seeks to change how Ohioans think of older adults and promote the idea that everyone plays a role in protecting this vulnerable population.

The commission is committed to developing systems and programs that encourage justice, prevent abuse, and provide protection and support to those in need. Just as a house requires strong support beams, our state needs a solidly sustained structure that allows older Ohioans to live their lives to the fullest, participate in their communities and live free from abuse and neglect.

The EAC meets five times a year to discuss initiatives, pending legislation and other programs that prevent and reduce elder abuse. Despite the pandemic, which required online meetings after April 2020, the commission was able to accomplish a great deal through statewide advocacy, work with legislators, educational outreach and establishment of standards for determining abuse.

The EAC formulates and recommends strategies through four committees. They are:

- **Direct Practice**, which provides resources to front-line practitioners and identifies the services needed to reduce and eliminate elder abuse and victimization.
- **Education**, which conducts outreach to teach the public, first responders and service providers how to prevent, identify and investigate elder abuse.
- **Policy**, which identifies a variety of potential legislative and administrative policy responses to elder abuse.
- **Research**, which mentors elder justice researchers.

The EAC plays a unique role as it works in tandem with other resources in Ohio to protect the elderly, and it takes care to protect the freedoms of older adults. In fact, it broadens options for elders by creating access to services, including those offered by the criminal justice system.

The EAC also has been an active member of the Ohio Attorney General's Criminal Justice and Mental Health Task Force. EAC representatives serve on the Task Force's Aging Subcommittee with a special emphasis on the role of the courts and public safety systems to protect Ohio's growing older population.

Committee Reports

Direct Practice Committee

The Direct Practice Committee promotes standard-of-care models to front-line practitioners. Those include:

1. Adult Protective Services workers, law enforcement, and state licensing and oversight agencies.
2. Health care and mental health providers, and case managers.
3. Aging service personnel and providers.
4. Caregivers.
5. Legal surrogates, such as guardians and those with powers of attorney.
6. Victim advocates.

7. Legal system responders, including prosecutors, elder-law and public-interest attorneys, and court personnel.
8. Ombudsmen.
9. Financial services entities, such as banks and brokers.
10. The religious community.

Priorities of the committee include:

- **Expanding knowledge about elder abuse.** Practitioners should know how to identify and respond to the characteristics of elder abuse, which include age, incapacity, disability, ethnicity, family structure, language, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status.
- **Identifying gaps in geriatric care.** Gap analysis can be used to ultimately address disparities in services across networks and improve prevention of elder abuse and the response to it. Networks with gaps include aging, consumer, disability, legal, financial, health, hotline, housing, mental health, social, trauma and victim services.
- **Securing training for geriatric experts.** The number of health professionals with expertise in aging and elder abuse can be expanded by providing additional training to existing professionals. Such professionals also should learn about local multidisciplinary teams that address legal, social-service or financial issues and, where appropriate, participate in such teams.

Currently, the Direct Practice Committee is examining the complexities related to declined capacity and elder abuse/crimes victims. The committee is interested in addressing the challenges that arise when decisional capacity of an elder abuse victim is assumed versus confirmed (through a formal capacity evaluation). As a baseline for this project, the committee reviewed existing assessment tools and tests designed to evaluate decisional capacity. To better understand the various perspectives among professionals, the committee created a survey that will be distributed widely to professionals who work with older adults. The feedback sought is specific to the location and service area of the practice, background and training of professionals, frequency of evaluations conducted and tools that are routinely used. The committee believes the survey results will highlight gaps in services and expertise, define the need to increase uniformity in the standard of practice, and advocate for increased use of formal capacity evaluations of victim of elder abuse/crimes. In addition, the committee expects the survey results to help identify experts across the state. For the final step of this project, the committee will invite these experts to participate in a focus group, from which it will develop and publicize a best-practices tool kit for conducting capacity evaluations. The tool kit will serve as an excellent resource for educating a broader range of interdisciplinary team members.

Also in the past year, the committee conducted trainings with local Adult Protective Services groups and delivered a presentation on the project at the 2021 Probate Court Investigators Conference.

Education Committee

The Education Committee seeks to expand knowledge and outreach programs for the public and professionals, including first responders and service providers, because education is key to early detection, prevention and increased reporting of elder abuse.

The committee's events raise public awareness and share how to prevent, identify and investigate elder abuse cases. Topics cover research, policies and interventions that have demonstrated effectiveness in combating abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Two events put on during the biennium were:

- **Protecting Older Ohioans Forum.** On May 17, 2021, the committee presented "Staying Safe: Thriving Through the Pandemic," a two-hour virtual forum for older Ohioans, their families and caregivers. Expert presenters covered topics on wellness and isolation, financial exploitation and staying physically and mentally healthy. About 250 people attended the event, which was recorded and made available on the [Ohio Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission](#) website and on the [Ohio Channel website](#).
- **Ohio Elder Abuse Awareness Day.** On June 28, 2021, the Education Committee presented "Strategies for Serving Older Ohioans at Risk of Adult Maltreatment, Through the Pandemic and Beyond," a half-day webinar for professionals. The program showcased innovations by state and local experts that addressed the needs of older adults during the pandemic. The webinar also focused on changes to service delivery systems, the importance of professional self-care, and lessons learned that could provide benefits post-pandemic. More than 300 people attended the event, which was recorded and made available on the [Ohio Attorney General's Elder Abuse Commission website](#).

The committee plans to annually offer a Protecting Older Ohioans Forum for the public and the Ohio Elder Abuse Awareness Day presentation for professionals. Goals for the next biennium include returning to regional in-person events, as the pandemic allows, and staying on the lookout for educational opportunities that may present themselves.

Policy Committee

The Policy Committee focuses on identifying a variety of potential approaches that governments and agencies throughout Ohio can adopt to address elder abuse. The work includes tracking and analyzing policy on elder abuse and then promulgating and supporting effective laws, regulations and guidance for government entities at all levels.

In essence, the committee helps officials implement and enforce strong policy and initiatives that fight elder abuse.

The Policy Committee has served as a resource for the Ohio General Assembly since the commission's inception in 2009. Recommendations made in 2013 formed the basis of a proposed Ohio Elder Justice Act,

then-House Bill 49, which was later incorporated into the 2018-19 state budget. The legislation made numerous changes to laws pertaining to Adult Protective Services, including:

- Expanding the group of people required to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of certain older adults.
- Modifying and adding definitions to the Adult Protective Services statutes, including redefining exploitation to include improper acts by any person who uses an older adult's resources for his or her own benefit via deception, threat, intimidation or other actions.
- Allowing a county prosecutor to petition courts for orders related to the provision of Adult Protective Services.
- Requiring county departments of Job and Family Services to notify law enforcement agencies if workers reasonably suspect that the subject of an abuse, neglect or exploitation report has been criminally exploited.
- Codifying the Elder Abuse Commission.
- Mandating that the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services provide training for implementing the statutes and make educational material available to mandatory reporters.

The Policy Committee frequently serves as an interested party for vetting relevant legislation and provides additional resources as policy is developed. The committee served in this capacity on the following bills:

- SB 158, enacted in 2019, which promoted more education for the general public and financial professionals; imposed new criminal financial penalties; and required more collaboration among public entities charged with reporting, investigating and prosecuting elder abuse and financial exploitation.
- HB 527 (introduced in 2018) and the subsequent HB 500 (introduced in 2020), which would have created a presumption that it is in the best interest of an incompetent person or ward to have visitation from relatives or an interested person. The bills also would have provided the circumstances for rebuttal of the presumption and a process for family members to petition the probate court to seek visitation when a guardian has denied it. As of the writing of this report, there remained no explicit right to petition for visitation in probate court rules. HB 500 did not pass in the General Assembly; instead, the Policy Committee has recently advocated for revisions to Ohio's Rules of Superintendence 66 to increase guardianship visitation rights, changes that are pending approval by the Supreme Court. In addition, the committee has been supporting the Guardianship Modernization Bill, which is pending in the House Civil Justice Committee.
- HB 700, introduced in 2018, would have required county departments of Job and Family Services to release Adult Protective Services information to mandatory reporters. HB 700 did not pass during the General Assembly and, therefore would need to be reintroduced.
- SB 58, introduced in the current General Assembly, would permit a resident of a long-term-care facility to conduct electronic monitoring of the resident's room. The bill is pending in the House Families, Aging and Human Services Committee.

Members of the Policy Committee also met with the chairs of the Ohio House's Aging and Long-Term Care Committee to share more about the Elder Abuse Commission and policy initiatives.

During the biennium, the Policy Committee led the Elder Abuse Commission in developing a process to receive public input from Ohioans seeking to share issues that they or their families had experienced in the community.

Next, the Policy Committee plans to collaborate with the chair of the new House Families, Aging and Human Services Committee and remain connected with champions of issues important to older adults across the House and Senate, including the legislative representatives to the Elder Abuse Commission. The committee also will continue to track and advocate for legislation and implementation of laws and policy relevant to older adults and their well-being.

Research Committee

The Research Committee recognizes that the more Ohio knows about elder maltreatment, the better equipped the state will be to respond to it and/or prevent it. As a result, the committee promotes research from experts throughout Ohio. Because elder abuse's effects ripple through a wide range of disciplines – including medicine, social work, criminal justice and public health – the committee seeks out experts familiar with developing research in these and related fields.

The Research Committee supports research by, say, issuing letters of support for special projects or sharing relevant communications (e.g., research alerts). However, the committee does not seek funding in order to conduct empirical research of its own.

Building on the past work of the Research Committee and the [U.S. Department of Justice's "Elder Justice Roadmap,"](#) the Research Committee works toward the following goals:

- Increasing the number of professionals, advocates and policymakers in Ohio who are familiar with developments in elder abuse research and the relevance to their work.
- Building organizational infrastructure to make elder abuse research in our state particularly compelling.
- Delineating research questions that most interest Ohio policymakers and practitioners.

The ongoing projects of the research committee include:

- A review of research literature.
- Collaboration with commission members and the agencies they represent to help answer research questions, determine which metrics should be used to measure outcomes and assist in creating connections throughout the community.
- Expansion of the committee webpage on the Ohio Attorney General's Office website with a goal of hosting an elder-abuse research symposium in 2022 or 2023.

Next Steps for the EAC

To date, the Elder Abuse Commission has developed a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach to address the complexity of elder abuse and ensure that Ohio meets its mandate to protect at-risk elderly from abuse.

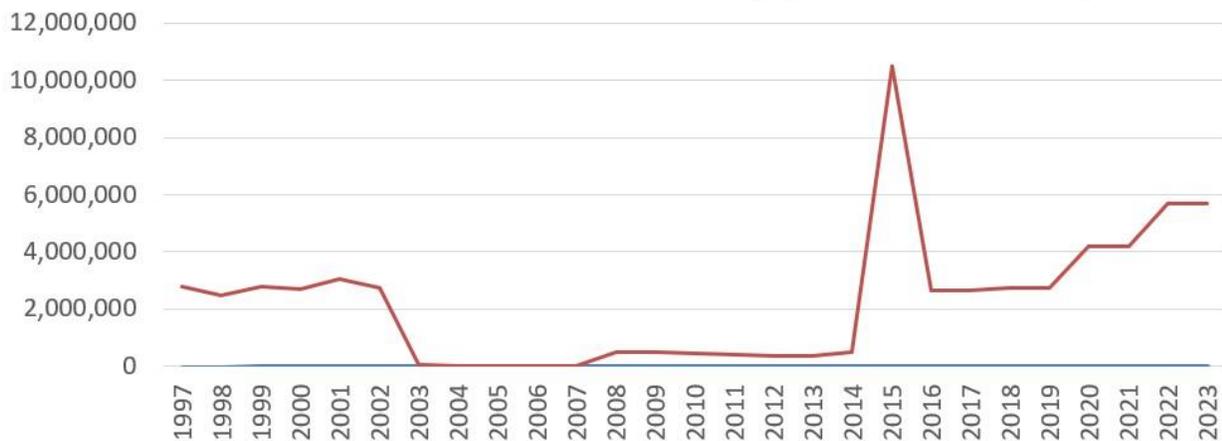
To continue to address the barriers and achieve its mission, the EAC must exponentially increase its training and outreach efforts at locations throughout the state. As well, efforts to increase Ohio investment must occur to strengthen protective services for older Ohioans and reinforce the effectiveness of Ohio's elder justice systems. Such progress is vital to helping the commission increase the community rate of reporting elder abuse and neglect.

Funding for Adult Protective Services

The Elder Abuse Commission advocates for funding to protect the elderly.

Adult Protective Services (APS) operates under the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Although the commission is not directly involved in the agency's funding, it is helpful to examine the funds dedicated to APS through the years to help protect older adults. The elderly population has steadily risen, yet the level of funding allocated for the protection of older Ohioans has been unpredictable.

Adult Protective Services Funding (JFS ALI 600-534)



Annual funding for APS has grown in the past five years from a total that provided an average of about \$30,000 per county to a recently approved plan to provide an average of \$65,000 per county (for a total of \$5.7 million). However, the peak year for funding was 2015, when a one-time pot of \$10 million (allocated in HB 483 by the 130th General Assembly) was enacted. In addition, Section 751.130 established the APS Funding Work Group, which was charged with exploring programmatic or financial gaps in the APS system and recommending priorities for a one-time \$10 million statewide investment in APS. The work group's recommendations ultimately resulted in core program requirements, funding for training, planning grants and an Innovation Fund to encourage multidisciplinary collaboration and build system capacity for Ohio to improve its resources for protecting older Ohioans.

The funding of APS programs remains crucial. Local funding varies considerably among Ohio's 88 counties, contributing to inconsistencies in services and protection for the elderly. Increased support for APS will enable communities to make new connections, strengthen existing connections and find better ways to enhance the intervention in and response to elder abuse and neglect cases.

The Elder Abuse Commission is encouraged by the recent APS funding increase from the General Assembly but will continue to advocate for more until it returns to an adequate level. Given budget constraints, the commission will keep working to identify new revenue sources for the General Assembly to consider.

Accomplishments

Since its inception in 2009, the EAC has focused on strategies to increase awareness, improve local and state collaboration, and provide a comprehensive approach to the complex issues surrounding elder abuse.

Raising awareness among the public includes hosting presentations throughout the state to develop and share resources in relation to scams, identity theft, health care fraud, elder abuse and consumer tips. Outreach to professionals has involved developing first-responder guidelines for helping victims, which is a crucial component of addressing elder abuse. The guidelines include a checklist of things to do, first steps and questions to ask.

Further public awareness and outreach efforts:

- **Ohio Attorney General's Elder Abuse Awareness Day**, This promotes collaboration to protect older adults from maltreatment, including abuse and neglect. The day showcases innovations from state and local experts that address the unique needs of serving and protecting older adults, and the creative and energetic activities have succeeded in expanding the awareness of elder abuse throughout Ohio. A brief history:
 - In 2018 and 2019, more than 400 people total attended the conference.
 - In 2020 and 2021, more than 750 people total participated in the virtual webinar.
- **Regional Elder Financial Exploitation Symposium Series**, These events have been presented in Summit, Montgomery and Washington counties.
- **Regional Anti-Fraud Senior Forums**, These events have been presented in Guernsey, Clark and Mahoning counties.

Upcoming outreach events:

- Elder Abuse Research Symposium
- Elder Victims and Capacity Evaluation – Best Practices Symposium
- Regional Elder Financial Exploitation Symposium Series
- Regional Anti-Fraud Senior Forums
- Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Leadership in Legislative Reform

Legislation is essential to preventing and intervening in elder abuse. Since its inception, the commission has sparked numerous measures, as amendments to legislation or standalone bills, such as Ohio's Elder Justice Act. The bills were:

- 130th General Assembly (2013-14)-HB483
Short title: MBR-Operation of State Programs
Signed by the governor on June 16, 2014
 - Initiated an Adult Protective Services Funding Work Group
 - Made a \$10 million one-time funding appropriation to Adult Protective Services

- 131st General Assembly (2015-16)-HB64
Short title: Operating Budget
Signed by the governor June 30, 2015
 - Required ODJFS to provide training on the implementation of the APS statutes
 - Required all protective services caseworkers and their managers to complete a training on procedures
 - Increased funding with a \$2.6 million appropriation in fiscal years 2016 and '17
 - Required ODJFS to create and maintain a statewide APS information system

- 132nd General Assembly (2017-18)-HB78
Short title: Revise adult protective services law
Bill was absorbed by HB49 (operating budget), which was signed by the governor on June 30, 2017
 - Codified the EAC
 - Added mandatory reporters
 - Permitted county prosecutor to petition courts for orders involving APS
 - Required county DJFS to report criminal exploitation cases to law enforcement
 - Modified information being released to the state APS IT system
 - Changed the word caretaker to person, in the definition of exploitation, which expanded DJFS ability to screen in alleged cases of exploitation

- 132nd General Assembly (2017-18)-SB 158
Short title: Combat elder fraud and exploitation
Signed by the governor Dec. 19, 2018
 - Increased penalties for theft
 - Added mandatory reporters (financial industry)
 - Required the Attorney General's Office to release public service announcements
 - Provided for available resources and public awareness materials
 - Called for best practices and standards for preventing elder fraud and financial exploitation to be developed by state agencies/APS agencies/financial institutions (pending)

Appendix A

5101.741 Duties of commission.

(A) The elder abuse commission shall formulate and recommend strategies on all of the following:

- (1) Increasing awareness of and improving education on elder abuse;
- (2) Increasing research on elder abuse;
- (3) Improving policy, funding, and programming related to elder abuse, including estimated funding necessary to implement specific recommendations;
- (4) Improving the judicial response to elder abuse victims;
- (5) Identifying ways to coordinate statewide efforts to address elder abuse.

(B) The commission shall prepare and issue a biennial report on a plan of action that may be used by local communities to aid in the development of efforts to combat elder abuse. The report shall include the commission's findings and recommendations made under divisions (A) of this section.

(C) The attorney general may adopt rules as necessary for the commission to carry out its duties. The rules shall be adopted in accordance with section [111.15](#) of the Revised Code.

5101.74 Elder abuse commission.

(A) There is hereby created the elder abuse commission. The commission shall consist of the following members:

- (1) The following members, appointed by the attorney general:
 - (a) One representative of the AARP;
 - (b) One representative of the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association;
 - (c) One representative of the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio;
 - (d) One representative of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging;
 - (e) One representative of the Board of Nursing;
 - (f) One representative of the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services;
 - (g) One person who represents the interests of elder abuse victims;
 - (h) One person who represents the interests of elderly persons;
 - (i) One representative of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network;

- (j) One representative of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorneys Association;
 - (k) One representative of the Ohio Victim Witness Association;
 - (l) One representative of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police;
 - (m) One representative of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges;
 - (n) One representative of the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors' Association;
 - (o) One representative of the Ohio Bankers League;
 - (p) One representative of the Ohio Credit Union League;
 - (q) Two representatives of national organizations that focus on elder abuse or sexual violence;
 - (r) One representative of the State Medical Board;
 - (s) One representative of the Community Bankers Association of Ohio;
 - (t) One representative of an organization representing the interests of senior centers;
 - (u) One representative of an organization representing the policy interests of seniors;
 - (v) One representative of a research-based academia representing elder abuse research.
- (2) The following ex officio members:
- (a) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;
 - (b) The chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio or the chief justice's designee;
 - (c) The governor or the governor's designee;
 - (d) The director of aging or the director's designee;
 - (e) The director of Job and Family Services or the director's designee;
 - (f) The director of health or the director's designee;
 - (g) The director of Mental Health and Addiction Services or the director's designee;
 - (h) The director of developmental disabilities or the director's designee;
 - (i) The superintendent of insurance or the superintendent's designee;
 - (j) The director of public safety or the director's designee;
 - (k) The state long-term care ombudsman or the ombudsman's designee;

(l) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

(m) One member of the Senate, appointed by the president of the Senate;

(n) One member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(o) One member of the Senate, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

(p) The director of commerce, or the director's designee.

(B) Members who are appointed shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments.

(C) All members of the commission shall serve as voting members. The attorney general shall select from among the appointed members a chairperson. The commission shall meet at the call of the chairperson, but not less than four times per year. Special meetings may be called by the chairperson and shall be called by the chairperson at the request of the attorney general. The commission may establish its own quorum requirements and procedures regarding the conduct of meetings and other affairs.

(D) Members shall serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for mileage and other actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

(E) Sections [101.82](#) to [101.87](#) of the Revised Code do not apply to the Elder Abuse Commission.



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

ELDER ABUSE COMMISSION 2020-21 BIENNIAL REPORT

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