

**Association for Conflict Resolution (ACR) and
Florida Chapter, Association of Family and Conciliation Courts**

ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE ON ELDERCARING COORDINATION AAA-ICDR Foundation 2018 Highlights

The ACR Elder Justice Initiative on Eldercaring Coordination (“Eldercaring Coordination Initiative”) remains dedicated to expanding the worldwide reach of Eldercaring Coordination – a compassionate, court-alternative process that helps families reduce conflict while enhancing the safety, autonomy and quality of life of their ageing loved ones. The Eldercaring Coordination Initiative is devoted to providing best practices, training and research that helps courts and communities reduce family conflict about care and safety of their ageing loved ones. The Eldercaring Coordination Initiative extends great appreciation to the American Arbitration Association International Centre for Dispute Resolution for helping us reach our goals during its grant cycle 2018-2019.



The driving force of the Eldercaring Coordination Initiative has been the strength of conviction of the Pilot Site Judges, Magistrates, Pilot Site Administrators, Eldercaring Coordinators (EC’s) and many others who have continued the dedication of the Task Force organizations to forward eldercaring coordination as a viable conflict resolution process for high conflict families regarding the care and safety of aging persons.

- EC’s improved decision-making outcomes of family and legally authorized decision-makers by focusing on the needs, voice and safety of ageing persons.
- EC’s conserved judicial time, optimizing community supports to address non-legal issues.
- **Florida** offered training for each judge and magistrate rotating into a Pilot Site division in order to provide seamless transition.
- **Florida** worked in collaboration with several groups to draft legislation for a bill on eldercaring coordination to be resubmitted next legislative session.
- **Idaho** coordinated a statewide effort to roll out eldercaring coordination.
- **Ohio Superintendent’s Rule** on Eldercaring Coordination was approved by Ohio Supreme Court, rolling out eldercaring coordination throughout the state.

ELDERCARING COORDINATORS TRAININGS

- Ohio Supreme Court Hosted Eldercaring Coordination Training for **expansion in Ohio** and for the new **Toronto** the Pilot Site Administrator and three EC trainees.

- **Idaho** coordinated eldercaring coordination training at their Annual Magistrate/Judges Conference in April 2019, with Eldercaring Coordinator Training set for later this summer.
- **Orange County, California**, spearheaded an Eldercaring Coordination Pilot Site; Eldercaring Coordinator Training to take place in February 2019. Also attending was one person planning to introduce eldercaring coordination in Ventura, County and one person from Utah.
- **Maryland** received MACRO funds to bring eldercaring coordination to their state with an Eldercaring Coordinator Training planned for May 2019.
- Eldercaring Coordination Initiative provided a **webinar** for current Eldercaring Coordinators on **trauma-informed services** to enhance delivery of eldercaring coordination services.

RESEARCH

- Provided data for Virginia Tech University experts Pamela Teaster, Ph.D., Director of the Center for Gerontology and Megan Dolbin-McNab, Ph.D., Director of the Marriage and Family Doctoral Program. Ongoing study of eldercaring coordination to inform the development of best practices. Presented a plenary session at American Bar Association Elder Law and Aging Annual Conference in October.
- Collaboration with Michael Saini, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at University of Toronto in developing a tool to identify typology of conflict in older families.
- Sarah J. Gross, M.Ed., J.D., LL.M., Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution, Pepperdine School of Law, Doctoral Thesis on eldercaring coordination prompted pilot site in Orange County, California.

ELDERCARING COORDINATION INITIATIVE OUTCOMES

- Significantly fewer motions to the court, and motions filed were shorter and more efficient, focused on legal, rather than nonlegal, issues.
- Reduction of risks and decrease in safety issues of elders.
- Fewer cases to determine guardianship and in which capacity needed final determination through the court.
- Awareness and appreciation of elder mediation and the general need for conflict resolution options for elders and families.
- Recognition by StayWell Medicare/Medicaid provider that high conflict in families is a health issue for elders.
- The youngest generation benefits from the modeling of collaboration, understanding, tolerance and support as aging loved ones leave a legacy of peace.

SPREADING THE WORD in 2018: CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLICATIONS

International Event:

- **United Nations** presentations on Eldercaring Coordination at World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, New York, June 14, 2018

International and National Conferences:

- Avant Touts, Les Enfants/Children Now 9th International Symposium. Montreal, Canada, Montreal, May
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., June
- Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Fall Conference, Denver, November
- International Federation on Ageing Global Conference, Toronto, August 2018 (Symposium/Workshop)
- American Bar Association Elder Law and Aging Annual Conference, Plenary Session, Virginia, October
- National Association for Social Workers Southern District Conference, Florida, July

Publications:

- FLAFCC July Newsletter devoted to Eldercaring Coordination
- National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys Journal article published electronically 2/2018; hard copy in Winter edition

[WEBSITE: ELDERCAIRNGCOORDINATIONFL.ORG](http://www.eldercairngcoordinationfl.org)

NOTEWORTHY EVENTS/LINKS

- **United Nations Presentation**, June 14, 2018, in commemoration of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, recognizing eldercaring coordination as an Action Model for the welfare of ageing persons (presentation by Initiative Co-Chairs: Linda Fieldstone, Sue Bronson, Judge Michelle Morley)
 - <http://webtv.un.org/search/2018-world-elder-abuse-awareness-day-moving-from-awareness-to-action-through-a-human-rights-based-approach/5797702171001/?term=&lan=English&cat=Meetings/Events&sort=date&page=5>
- **The Ohio Chief Justice** welcomed over 500 attendees to their 2018 Dispute Resolution Conference, with eldercaring coordination included an example of innovation in Ohio
 - <http://www.ohiochannel.org/video/chief-justice-oconnor-greeting-dispute-resolution-conference-2018>
- **The American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging** published a new legislative fact sheet, [Guardianship and the Right to Visitation, Communication, and Interaction](#), including eldercaring coordination as an option for families in discord

*For more information, contact the
Elder Justice Initiative on Eldercaring Coordination Co- Chairs:*

Linda Fieldstone, M.Ed.

Tel.: 305-206-8445

LindaFieldstone@outlook.com

Sue Bronson, LCSW

Tel.: 414-841-8889

SBronson@wi.rr.com

Judge Michelle Morley

Tel.: 352-569-6960

MMorley@circuit5.org

United Nations Presentation in Honor of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 2018
ELDERCARING COORDINATION:
AN INTERGENERATIONAL MODEL OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION



Florida Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts representative Wilhelmina Tribble, Association for Conflict Resolution Eldercaring Coordination Initiative Co-Chairs Sue Bronson, Linda Fieldstone and Judge Michelle Morley

Eldercaring Coordinator Training, Orange County Courthouse, California
February 19-21, 2019



International Federation on Ageing Global Conference Toronto 2018
Eldercaring Coordination Initiative Co-Chairs Judge Michelle Morley, Linda Fieldstone, and Sue Bronson

