

CONNECTIONS



PIKES PEAK ELDER JUSTICE CENTER

HONORING OUR PAST, EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

A message from our Founder and Board Chair, Sheri Gibson, PhD



It is a privilege to welcome you to *CONNECTIONS* the inaugural newsletter of the Pikes Peak Elder Justice Center (PPEJC).

As I reflect on how far we have come—from our beginnings as a volunteer-based coalition to the multidisciplinary organization we are today—I am filled with **gratitude for the extraordinary people who have believed in our mission:** *to support and enhance the safety, stability, and security of older adults. Our history tells a remarkable story of growth, impact, and momentum.*

As we celebrate our accomplishments, we are also marking an important transition in PPEJC's leadership. **After more than three years of dedicated service, Patrick Cush has concluded his tenure as Executive Director.** Patrick helped guide PPEJC through a pivotal period of growth—strengthening our programs, expanding our community presence, building organizational infrastructure, and helping transform an ambitious vision into a sustainable organization. On behalf of the Board of Directors,

I extend my deepest gratitude to Patrick for his leadership, commitment, humor, and steadfast belief in the mission of PPEJC. At the same time, **I am delighted to welcome Kris Marsh as our new Executive Director.** Kris brings to PPEJC more than **50 years of nonprofit leadership experience and a remarkable depth of wisdom, energy, and commitment to community service.** Kris joins us at an exciting moment—one in which PPEJC is expanding services, strengthening community partnerships, investing in education and outreach, and developing a long-range strategic plan to guide our future.

As someone who has been part of PPEJC since its earliest days—I remain deeply moved by what happens when a community decides that the safety and dignity of older adults matter. Elder justice is not the work of one organization. It is the work of a community. Thank you for being part of ours.

MEASURING OUR SUCCESS

100⁺

ELDER ABUSE CASES REVIEWED

Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT) has reviewed more than 100 cases of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



300⁺

OLDER ADULTS SERVED THROUGH ELDER SHELTER

Elder Shelter program has served over 300 older adults.

84%

ELDER SHELTER PLACEMENT RATE

Elder Shelter program's placement rate increased from 40% in 2023 to 84% in 2025.



800⁺

HOURS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Fiduciary Education Program and Behavioral Health Program provide services, training and support to help older adults live with dignity and well-being.

HONORING OUR PAST, EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GEROPSYCHOLOGISTS

Lydia Grenka is a fifth-year Clinical Psychology PhD student at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS), specializing in Geropsychology. She is currently completing her clinical practicum with the Behavioral Health Services at PPEJC, where she provides psychotherapy to older adults in their homes or at the PPEJC offices. Services are free of charge.



MAKING A NATIONAL IMPACT

PPEJC is taking elder justice expertise and innovation to national audiences this fall:



United Against Deception Ultimate Fraud Symposium

Kansas City | Oct. 1–2
Dr. Sheri Gibson will attend this inaugural national symposium focused on strengthening responses to fraud and supporting victims and survivors.



Gerontological Society of America Annual Scientific Meeting

Washington, DC | Nov. 4–7
UCCS doctoral students will present PPEJC Elder Shelter research, Implementing Trauma-Informed Care in Elder Shelters. Dr. Gibson is a co-author with UCCS students and faculty.



National Adult Protective Services Association Conference

Austin | Nov. 16
Dr. Gibson, Talitha Guinn-Shaver, and Mayla Levin will present “From Coordination to Sanctuary”, highlighting how multidisciplinary teams and elder shelters can work together to strengthen APS outcomes.



HELP US BUILD
A STRONG FUTURE

Become a
Monthly Donor



SCAN TO
GIVE

NEW GRANTS RECEIVED

\$100,000

to build a stronger infrastructure and support organizational transition
(private foundation)

\$50,000

for general operating support
(family trust)

\$40,000

treatments for scam victims
(VOCA)

\$25,000

for Transitional Housing Program
(CSHF)