THE PIKES PEAK ELDER JUSTICE CENTER PRESENTS... NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE 2

CONNECTIONS



By Chris Paulton, PPEJC Service Coordinator

The Important Work of the E-MDT

The Pikes Peak Elder Justice Center (PPEJC) Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team (E-MDT) was established in 2021 by Dr. Sheri Gibson, and brings together professionals from across El Paso County to collaborate on complex cases involving older and at-risk adults. The groundwork established during those early years helped the PPEJC secure a Department of Justice grant in October 2023, allowing us to expand the E-MDT and provide additional resources, including the contributions of a forensic accountant, a geriatrician, and a psychiatric nurse practitioner. Additionally, the grant provided critical funding for capacity evaluations in situations where impaired decision-making abilities were suspected in individuals being served in the community.

Since its inception, the E-MDT has provided expert guidance for more than 100 individual clients.

Through the collaboration of our participating agencies, clients have been connected to housing, safe shelter, mental health services, food, legal assistance, law enforcement support, and additional involvement from Adult Protective Services when appropriate. The team has also helped connect clients with community partners such as Silver Key, PACE, and The Resource Exchange (TRE), providing access to additional services and long-term support.

One of the greatest strengths of the E-MDT is the opportunity for face-to-face collaboration. Sitting together allows professionals from different disciplines to discuss a case in real time, identify gaps, share resources, and develop solutions that may not have been possible through the work of a single agency. Cases can also return to the E-MDT month after month, creating continuity and allowing the team to follow progress, address new barriers, and celebrate positive outcomes.

As awareness of the E-MDT has grown, we have seen an increase in the number of referrals brought to our monthly meetings, and not only from El Paso County, but from rural counties around our state who also refer to our team for guidance. That growth reflects the importance of the relationships that have been maintained throughout our community and the recognition that we are more effective when we collaborate. The strength of the E-MDT is simple: bringing the right people to the table and working together is the best path towards creating safer, more positive outcomes for the older adults we serve.

HELP US BUILD A STRONG FUTURE
Become a Monthly Donor
SCAN TO GIVE

Education Opportunity

Designed for non-professional seeking to learn about serving as Guardian/Conservator/POA

November 14, 2026
9am-4pm
10 N. Meade Ave. Colorado Springs 80909

Retister Here: www.PikesPeakElderJusticeCenter.org/fiduciary-education

UNITED AGAINST DECEPTION: PUTTING SCAM SURVIVORS FIRST

According to the FBI's 2025 Internet Crime Report, **Americans lost a staggering $20.9 billion to internet-related crimes, with adults aged 60 and older** reporting $7.7 billion in losses—a nearly 60% increase over the previous year.

On October 1–2, 2026, Dr. Sheri Gibson attended the United Against Deception – Ultimate Fraud Symposium in Kansas City, Missouri.

The insights and connections gained will help inform the PPEJC's ongoing efforts to expand compassionate, evidence-informed services for older adults affected by financial exploitation and scams.

Dr. Sheri Gibson with author and romance scam survivor, Beth Hyland



Promoting her new book: "Diary of a Romance Scam: When Swiping Right Goes Wrong"

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING; SAY SOMETHING

Facts about Elder Abuse
National Council on Aging

- Most elder abuse takes place at home.
- Family members commit elder abuse in 6 out of 10 cases.
- Elder abuse affects people across all socioeconomic groups, cultures, races and ethnicities.

Types of Elder Abuse

- Physical abuse can range from slapping or shoving to severe beatings and restraining with ropes or chains.
- Verbal, emotional or psychological abuse can range from yelling, swearing, threatening, insulting or ignoring.
- Sexual abuse includes inappropriate touching suggestive photography, viewing pornography, or unwanted sexualized behavior.
- Financial abuse aand exploitation includes misusing funds, embezzlement, forging checks, riading benefits, or using credit cards or bank accounts without permission or changing names on accounts.

Signs of Elder Abuse

- Unexplained injuries or bruises.
- Sudden changes in financial situation.
- Withdrawal from normal activities oara social interactions.
- Poor hygiene, unattened medical needs, or weiht loss
- Depression, anxiety or fearfulness.

HOW TO REPORT: CALL LAW ENFORCEMENT

911 for emergencies 719-444-7000 for non-emergencies.
Adult Protection Services (El Paso County) 719-444-5755.