



2018 Centralina Aging Conference

We met. We shared. We learned.

The annual Centralina Aging Conference, held at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, welcomed 350 professionals, 22 speakers, and 38 exhibitors and sponsors. A great networking opportunity, the conference also offered educational opportunities on topics such as aging in place and elder abuse prevention. Community leaders, local agencies, long-term care facilities and other senior supporters were in attendance to round out the discussion.

The day was kicked off with our plenary speaker, Philip Marshall, who shared his family's hard-learned elder abuse and financial exploitation lessons. Attendees carefully listened to Philip's story as he discussed the heart-wrenching decision to turn in his father after uncovering the financial abuse of his well-known philanthropic grandmother, Brooke Astor. Philip discussed the painful details of his struggle to raise awareness and discuss how to stop the financial exploitation and psychological abuse of seniors. He encouraged participants to take advantage of community resources and look for advocacy opportunities, because in his words, to be "complacent in elder-justice is to be complicit in elder abuse."

Following this intense discussion, a panel of national, state and local representatives detailed the important issues surrounding elder abuse and elder justice. As a group, they emphasized ways elder abuse impacts everyone in our society, specifically by taking away from our public health, civic participation and economic resources. They also encouraged us to participate or establish Elder Abuse Coalitions in each county so that our communities are adequately served.

Smaller break-out sessions covered additional current topics, including mental illness, substance abuse in older adults, defining professional boundaries, new healthcare initiatives and dementia.

Make plans to join us next year! For speaking engagement opportunities, contact Hillary Kaylor at hkaylor@centralina.org.

For elder abuse resources, visit:

Elder Abuse Prevention from the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/elderabuse/index.html>;
Preventing Elder Abuse – Senior Living <https://www.seniorliving.org/research/preventing-elder-abuse/>

