



## Dane County Department of Human Services Division of Adult Community Services

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Director – Shawn Tessman  
Division Administrator – Todd Campbell

**JOSEPH PARISI**  
DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

To: Personnel and Finance Committee

From: Shari Gray-Dorn, Adult Protective Services Supervisor

Re: Request for Exception to Ordinance Chap 20.17 Honorarium Limitation

Date: February 16, 2021

Dane County Department of Human Services has once again received a \$4,753 Domestic Abuse in Later Life grant from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (WDPH), Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources. WDPH has approved our plan to offer the Seventh Annual Domestic Violence in Later Life Conference, which will focus on Domestic Violence in Later Life, Social Isolation and the COVID-19 impact.

Vera House Inc. staff Ms. Jenny Ackley and Ms. Betsy Ferner, LMSW have agreed to be our keynote speakers. Vera House Inc. has provided over 40 years of domestic violence services to the Central New York Community. They provide direct services to older adults including elder advocacy, outreach, legal services and support groups. Ms. Ackley is the Project Coordinator for the Abuse in Later Life Program at Vera House. In this role, she develops services for older victims, works to enhance a coordinated community response, and organizes training for criminal justice professionals, governmental agency staff and victim assistants. Ms. Ferner is the Coordinator of the Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Team at Vera House Inc. She has also been a Vera House Abuse in Later Life Advocate and Trainer as well as a domestic violence and sexual assault advocate. Ms. Ferner and Ms. Ackley annually present at the Syracuse Area Domestic and Sexual Violence Coalition's Elder Abuse Conference on topics regarding Elder Abuse Advocacy, Elder Abuse: A Social Justice Issue, Social Isolation, Financial Exploitation, and other related topics.

The conference planning committee has negotiated a \$1,250.00 honorarium with Ms. Ackley and Ms. Ferner. This fee is half of their customary fees and is reasonable given their expertise and reputation. The free conference will be held virtually the morning of October 28, 2021. The presenters will share materials with conference participants and engage individuals in breakout sessions, polls and case scenario discussions.

Thank you for considering this request.

CC: Shawn Tessmann, Director  
Todd Campbell, ACS Division Manager  
Beth Freeman, APS Manager