

# Cheektowaga Chronicle

## New team to fight elder abuse in Erie County

By Jim Herr; May 11, 2017



DA John Flynn announces Enhanced Multidisciplinary Teams in Erie County. (Submitted)

AMHERST, N.Y. – Erie County officials announced Thursday additional tools aiding them in the combat of elder financial abuse and exploitation.

An [Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team](#) is a partnership among public, profit and non-profit organizations, with the goal of working collaboratively to improve the process of protecting victims of financial exploitation and abuse, as well as improve the outcomes of complex elder abuse cases.

“This collaboration will help our office spot and aggressively prosecute those who prey on these vulnerable members of society,” says Erie County District Attorney John J. Flynn. “The sooner we can take action, the easier it will be to get justice for these elderly victims.”

Erie County Adult Protective Services reported receiving 1,600 referrals involving elder abuse for investigation in 2016. It is estimated that only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse are ever reported.

By working collaboratively, the group hopes to offer a coordinated, person-centered approach. The E-MDT meets at least once a month to discuss cases, develop service plans and assign action items. While the primary goal is to ensure the safety of elder abuse victims, the E-MDT also seeks to reduce risk of future abuse, recover stolen assets and pursue criminal prosecution in appropriate cases.

The team is coordinated by social worker Kathy Kanaley of Center for Elder Law & Justice, and includes the Erie County District Attorney’s office and representatives from Erie County Adult Protective Services and Senior Services.

For more information about the E-MDT, call Kathy Kanaley, the E-MDT coordinator at 853-3087 x 219.