

Traci Caneer has been a prosecutor with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office for almost 20 years. In that time she has specialized in the prosecution of Vulnerable Adult cases; both by prosecuting them herself and also by sharing her expertise with the other prosecutors when they get assigned those important cases. In 1999, Traci was the driving force behind the launch of the Senior Protection Project which assembled people from various agencies and businesses to facilitate communication about the problems facing the elderly in our community and to facilitate active roles to address identified problems. In 2000, the Senior Protection Project became the Elder Multidisciplinary Team that involves agencies like Cabinet for Health & Family Services/Adult Protective Services, Lexington Police, Fayette County Sheriff's Office, Fayette County Attorney's Office, Nursing Home Ombudsman, State Office on Aging, Accessible Home Care, Bluegrass Area Agency on Aging, LFUCG, Health Department and the University of Kentucky. Traci is still leading the Elder Multidisciplinary Team meetings that meet once a month to discuss specific cases and issues involving vulnerable adults to more effectively identify, investigate and prosecute those responsible for the abuse, neglect and exploitation of elderly citizens in our community.

Traci's passion and commitment to helping the elderly in our community is contagious. She credits the work of others for getting her motivated in this field, folks like retired APS investigator, Dan Armstrong and current APS supervisor, Cliff Bryant. She also credits the first Lexington Police Detective with a full time responsibility of investigating allegations of vulnerable adult abuse, Ann Gutierrez Welch as well as last year's award recipient, Detective Chris Russell with providing the types of investigations that lead to successful prosecutions in these important and difficult cases. Traci has also worked hard to impact legislation for the benefit of vulnerable adults, but in that area too, she is quick to point out the efforts of others such as Allison Connelly (UK College of Law) and Jeff Jacobs (Central Bank) who were part of the legislation group that was initiated by the Senior Protection project.

Basically, Traci Caneer believes that when agencies work together, more can be done to help seniors in our community and her actions, dedication and work all reflect that belief. Traci's goal with the Elder Abuse Multidisciplinary Team is to facilitate open case communication so that less information falls through the cracks and more can be done to help reduce elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in Lexington.