



The Harry and Jeanette
Weinberg Center for Elder Justice
AT THE HEBREW HOME AT RIVERDALE

2018

REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITY

WE ARE PIONEERS

of safe shelter for older adults
experiencing abuse.

A full year has passed since we announced our name change to the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice. In that time, it has been inspiring and invigorating to see our team truly claim this new name as a powerful reflection of our work.

For the Weinberg team, justice is a verb. Justice is not a passive hope to achieve some laudable political or social end or idea, but a real, concrete set of action steps uniquely designed for each of our clients to help them regain control of their lives. Justice means creating a coordinated and multi-disciplinary response with comprehensive, wrap-around services. Justice is determining what the client wants and articulating a clear process and path to achieve that goal. Justice is skilled advocacy and holistic care.

The Weinberg team sees justice through action in our training, education and outreach programs as we bolster our varied curricula to emphasize trauma and its effects

OUR MISSION IS

to champion justice and
dignity for older adults.

on older adults and as we deepen our work in the court system. Every current member and new shelter program in the SPRiNG Alliance® is justice at work on the national stage, demonstrating to our government, policy makers and philanthropists the tangible role of shelter as a critical partner in an effective, coordinated community response to elder abuse.

I am thrilled to share the impressive accomplishments of our program in 2018 and am grateful to our colleagues and our funders for their invaluable support. As we move into 2019 with a growing team, innovative projects and expanding services, I see justice stretching and strengthening her arms to even greater empowerment and healing for all.

Joy Solomon, Esq.
Director and Managing Attorney

THE WEINBERG TEAM

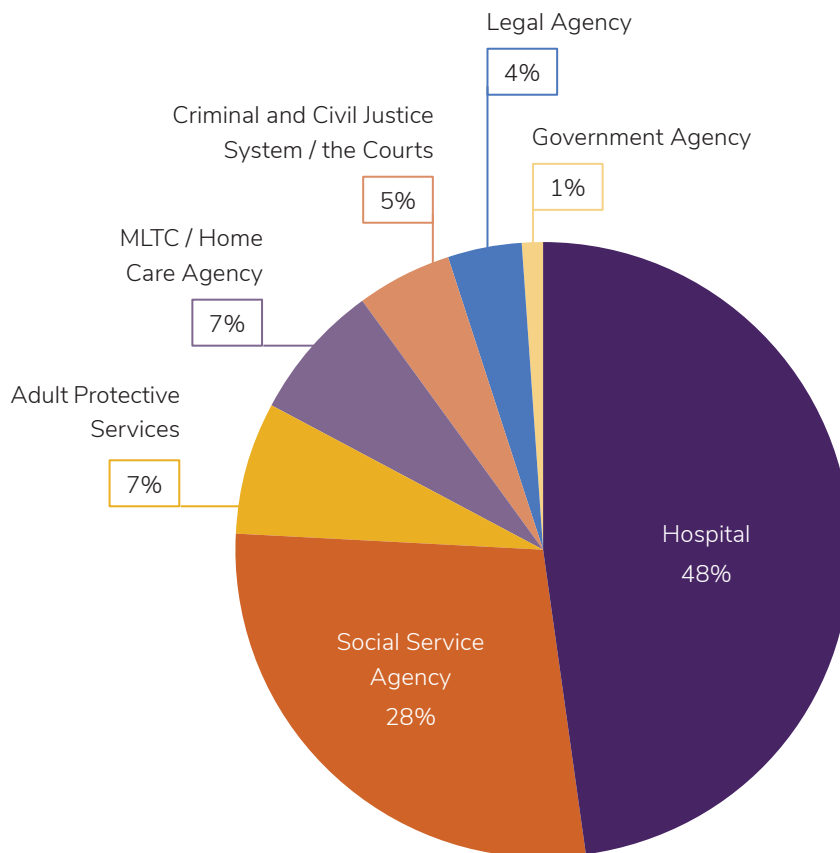
Read our elder justice reflections on page 8.



From left to right: Marlene Riquelme, MPH, Public Health Specialist; Glendalee Olivera, LMSW, ASW-G, Senior Elder Justice Specialist; Deirdre Lok, Esq., Assistant Director and General Counsel; Joy Solomon, Esq., Director and Managing Attorney; Malya Levin, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney; Amanda Lebron, Elder Justice Case Coordinator

REFERRALS

THE WEINBERG CENTER FOR ELDER JUSTICE



Professional referrals are provided prompt access to the Weinberg team for assessment to determine shelter eligibility. We serve all five boroughs in NYC and Westchester County.

The majority of the referrals were from the Bronx (32) and Manhattan (28), with the remaining coming from Westchester (8), Queens (7), Brooklyn (7), and Long Island (1).

In 2018, 82 older adults were referred to the shelter program, with more than 3/4 coming from hospitals and social service agencies.

The average age of the older adults referred is 83 years old and 1/4 are reported to be male.

Professionals can make referrals at 800-56-SENIOR (800-567-3646).

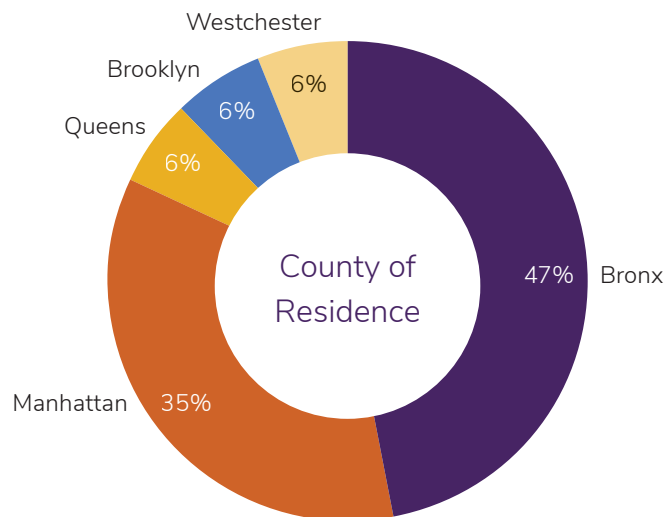
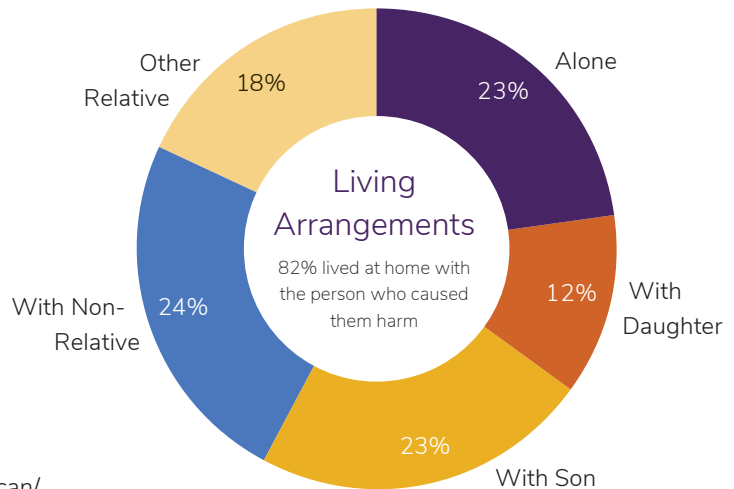
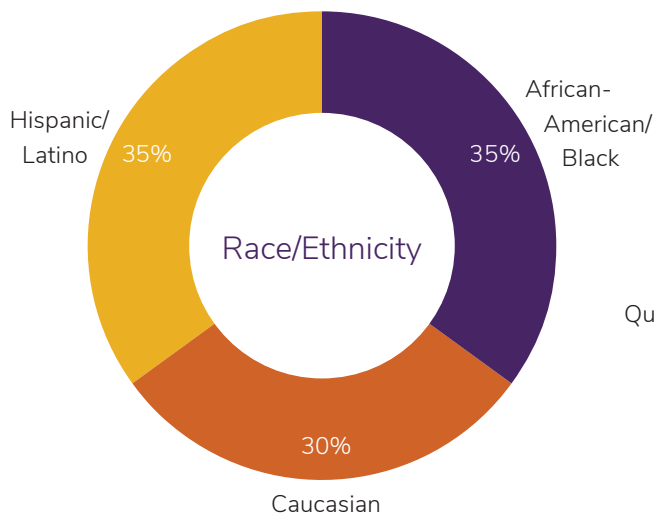


Thank you to all of RiverSpring Health's 1,500 employees who help the Weinberg Center provide care and justice to our clients.

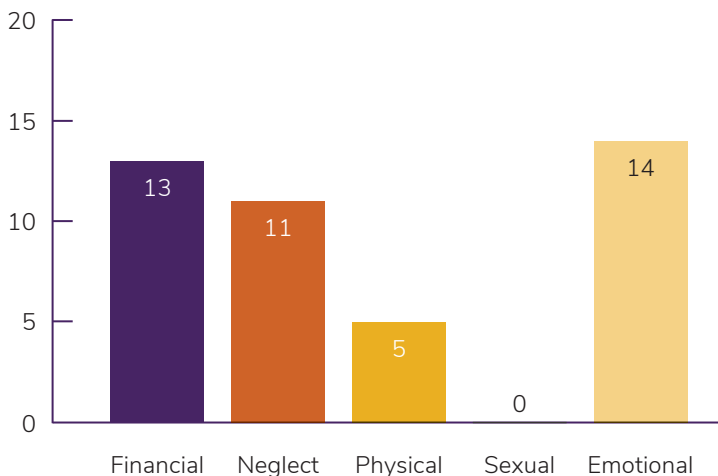
ADMISSIONS

The Weinberg Center's multidisciplinary team develops a holistic and trauma-informed action plan based on each client's particular circumstances and goals. Each of our clients also receives individualized and comprehensive coordinated care provided by the Hebrew Home's clinical team.

In 2018, 17 older adults were admitted into the Weinberg Center. Age range: 55-100



POLYVICTIMIZATION



It is common for older adults to experience multiple co-occurring or sequential types of abuse by one or more abusers. In fact, 35% of our clients had more than one person causing harm to them. The majority (88%) of our clients report experiencing more than one type of abuse, with financial and emotional abuse being the most frequent types.



Our holistic shelter model provides a unique opportunity to work with clients intensively and over time. The knowledge we gain improves our direct services and informs our outreach, training and education efforts. A critical part of our elder justice work is leading the way towards a nuanced understanding of elder abuse for thought leaders, professionals and the public.

MORE JUSTICE IN ACTION

Voices from our clients

The United States has been a blessing for me in so many ways, but Bulgaria is a part of my soul," said Ms. S reflecting on renewing her Bulgarian passport with the help of the Weinberg team.

After the Weinberg team located Ms. E's granddaughter after years of not seeing her, Ms. E said "Thank you for this gift," when she saw her granddaughter for the first time.

”

Trixie [the robotic cat] is so important to me, so I thought it would be important to her too," said Ms. P, a Weinberg client who generously gifted a robotic cat to a Hebrew Home friend.

“

CLIENT SERVICES

Civil legal services are a cornerstone of our work:

- Obtaining orders of protection
- Representing clients in housing court
- Advocating in a guardianship proceeding
- Counseling on advanced directives
- Educating clients on legal ramifications of legal decisions, both short and long-term
- Assisting with eviction proceedings
- Ensuring the client's safety and comfort in court
- Preventing future financial exploitation
- Working with MDTs (multi-disciplinary teams) and other coordinated community response to ensure clients' legal issues are addressed

Weinberg Center clients are supported through trauma-informed, person-centered services. **We advocate for justice** through:

- Testifying in court on behalf of clients
- Retrieving personal items from clients' homes
- Completing bio-psychosocials to understand clients' personalities, hobbies and preferences
- Applying for benefits and entitlements, including housing and Medicaid applications
- Ensuring a safe transition back into the community
- Supporting clients' financial security
- Providing individual counseling
- Performing case management
- Advocating on behalf of clients to legal, clinical, and other social service professionals

IN 2018 WE PROVIDED:

60

Training, Outreach
and Education Events
Reaching 2,500
People

7

Presentations at
Regional, National
and International
Conferences

8

Continuing Legal
Sessions, Webinars
and Webcasts

JUSTICE
IN THE
COMMUNITY

4

Publications

88

Social Media Posts

236

Nursing Students
Trained

7

Radio, TV and Magazine
Appearances

MEDIA PRESENCE



CRAIN'S MAGAZINE:
Local Justice Center
Tackles Elder Abuse



BROOKLYN EAGLE
DAILY: Volunteer
Lawyers Project
Looking to Help
Seniors Targeted in
Financial Scams



BLOOMBERG: How
Criminals Steal \$37
Billion a Year from
America's Elderly



LEADING AGE
MAGAZINE: Social
Impact in Word
and Deed

FOX 5 NEWS:
Protecting Against
Elder Abuse



DR. OZ: Elder Abuse
Prevention with
Weinberg Center
Experts



PUBLICATIONS

Methodological
approaches to the
analysis of elder abuse
screening measures:
Application of latent
variable measurement
modeling to the WC-
RAPS ■

Jeanne A. Teresi Ed.D., Ph.D.,
Katja Ocepek-Welikson
M.Phil., Mildred Ramirez
Ph.D., Joy Solomon, Esq. &
Daniel Reingold M.S.W., J.D.
Journal of Elder Abuse and
Neglect.

Development and
Spanish translation of
the Weinberg Center
Risk and Abuse
Prevention Screen
(WC-RAPS) ■

Mildred Ramirez Ph.D.,
Joy Solomon J.D., Marlene
Riquelme M.P.H., Brooke
Santoro L.M.S.W., Daniel
Reingold M.S.W., J.D., Jeanne
A. Teresi Ed.D., Ph.D. Journal
of Elder Abuse and Neglect.

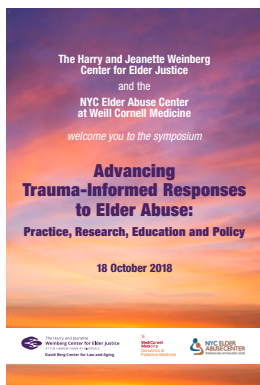
Elder Law Q&A: An
Introduction to Aging
Issues and Planning
for the Future. ■

A publication of the Harry
and Jeanette Weinberg
Center for Elder Justice
in collaboration with
the Westchester Public
Private Partnership for
Aging Services and the
Pace Women's Justice
Center. Written by
Steven A. Schurkman,
Esq. 19th Edition. ([Click](#)
[here for Spanish Version](#))

Predatory Marriages:
A Growing Concern ■

Malya Kurzwell Levin, Esq.,
Deborah S. Ball, Esq. NYSBA
Elder and Special Law
Needs Journal

ADVANCING TRAUMA-INFORMED RESPONSES TO ELDER ABUSE



The Weinberg Center and The NYC Elder Abuse Center at Weill Cornell Medicine hosted the **“Advancing Trauma-Informed Responses to Elder Abuse: Practice, Research, Education & Policy”** Symposium.

There is a growing interest in the elder justice field in developing trauma-informed responses to elder abuse, yet there is scant information on older adults and trauma and less still on elder abuse and trauma. The symposium was an important step in the direction of changing this landscape.

78 leading professionals from around the country from diverse disciplines and fields participated in the invitation only, daylong symposium.

A white paper with recommendations for the elder justice field is due out in Spring 2019.

LEADERS IN JUSTICE

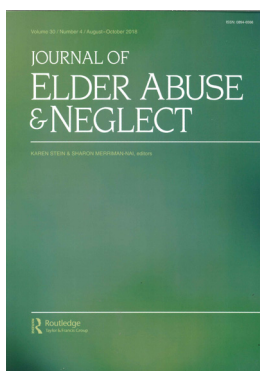
2018 AWARDS

Recipient of The Weinberg Foundation’s **“Show Your Story”** Initiative for our inspirational client story!

So proud of our Weinberg Elder Justice Specialist who was named **“2018 Advocate of New York”** by the NYC Mayor’s Office!

Congratulations to the Weinberg Center’s Senior Staff Attorney for being named by **Jewish Week** as **“36 Under 36”** to watch!

VALIDATION OF THE EVIDENCE-BASED WEINBERG CENTER RISK AND PREVENTION SCREEN (WC-RAPS)



After years of researching, creating and implementing our elder abuse screening tool at the Hebrew Home, we are thrilled to announce our instrument has been vigorously studied and is now an effective evidence-based screening tool. The WC-RAPS assesses for risk of elder abuse and is completed with every older adult in the RiverSpring Health System. Older adults who screen positive for abuse or are at risk of abuse meet with the Weinberg Center and Hebrew Home staff to safety plan before returning home, which can include receiving legal assistance, making an APS referral, applying for benefits or requesting a wellness check from the local precinct.

54 of the 637 screens (8.5%) performed in 2018 screened positive.

THE SHELTER MOVEMENT CONTINUES TO GAIN MOMENTUM



The SPRiNG (Shelter Partners: Regional, National, Global)

Alliance® is a worldwide professional network of elder abuse shelters. The Alliance's mission is to create a network of elder abuse shelters with close

working relationships, shared resources and technical assistance, common standards of excellence and a vibrant community of support. The group has monthly phone calls and an annual symposium.

The Weinberg Center launched the new user-friendly, streamlined SPRiNG Alliance® website this year, springalliance.org, to serve as an entry point for interested stakeholders seeking to explore creating an elder abuse shelter in their community.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY 2018

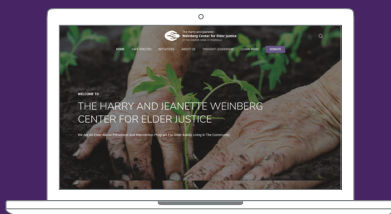


As part of our efforts to recognize all the people who contributed to advancing elder justice, the Weinberg Center met staff on all 19 units of the Hebrew Home at Riverdale to

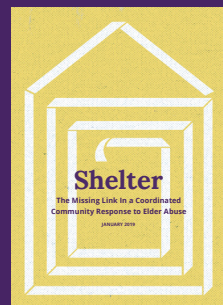
express gratitude for providing invaluable care to our clients. We cannot do this alone. The Weinberg Center honored: **Tova Reich, Resident Services Coordinator**, with the 2nd annual "Sarita Bonilla Memorial Elder Justice Hero Award," **Claire Anchete, an RN from SP3**, with the Elder Justice Award, and **Lisa DiMeo-Luna, Director of Material Management and Logistics**, as Weinberg's Honorary Team Member of the Year.

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TWO STEPS FORWARD TOWARD ELDER JUSTICE



The Weinberg Center is excited to debut our updated Weinberg Center for Elder Justice website: theweinbergcenter.org. Highlighting our wide range of services, strengths and initiatives, the updated website is a comprehensive expression of our mission to champion justice and dignity for older adults.



We are pleased to share our important new monograph, **"Shelter: The Missing Link in a Coordinated Community Response to Elder Abuse."**

This publication is a milestone for the burgeoning

elder shelter movement, which began at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale in 2005 with the launch of the Weinberg Center, the first elder abuse shelter in the nation. In the ensuing years, we have been privileged to work with courageous and caring leaders around the country to adapt the elder abuse shelter model to the unique needs and resources of their communities. This powerful monograph describes what these visionary colleagues already know: elder abuse is a vital component of any robust coordinated community response or multidisciplinary team.

REFLECTING ON OUR NEW NAME, THE TEAM WAS ASKED “WHAT DOES ELDER JUSTICE MEAN FOR YOU NOW?”

“There are two parts to justice in the context of our legal system. One is the result, achieving what the client wants: an Order of Protection, an eviction, a path to return home. The second is the process. Does the client feel they were given the space and support to voice what happened to them and what they need? Did they feel seen in the eyes of the law and was the legal process a way to regain power and control? We advocate for a just process for our clients, and our goal is that legal proceedings, and not just their results, are steps forward on the path towards healing.” — **Malya Levin, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney**

“Often, we fill the spot of a family member or best friend for our shelter clients, many who come in because they have nowhere else safe to go. We monitor their health, make hair appointments for them, connect them with loved ones living abroad, buy their favorite comfort foods, help decorate their rooms, ensure they have their advanced directives completed, encourage them to attend social gatherings or religious services. We provide justice through our advocacy and care.” — **Marlene Riquelme, MPH, Public Health Specialist**

“When Ms. G arrived to our shelter, she arrived only with the clothes on her back and hospital slippers—the rest of her belongings remained in her home. We were able to collect and deliver a stack of mail and personal documents to Ms. G, including her birth certificate and the death certificate of her husband. In that moment, there was a calmness to her that I had not yet seen—perhaps a sense of relief or regaining of control. I have never seen her smile so brightly. To me, that’s justice.” — **Amanda Lebron, Elder Justice Case Coordinator**

“Justice for me means helping our clients feel empowered to be and see themselves as the experts in their own lives by building on their personal strengths to help them overcome the traumatic events they have experienced. We help by creating a therapeutic space where our clients can share their thoughts, feelings and goals without judgment.” — **Glendalee Olivera, LMSW, ASW-G, Senior Elder Justice Specialist**

“A critical goal of the Weinberg Center is to serve as a bridge between the worlds of law and medicine. Too often, these arenas work in silos, to the detriment of the client. When working on an elder abuse case, legal assistance and healthcare are both so important, and information and expertise from each realm can inform and enhance the other, ensuring that victims of elder abuse receive holistic, coordinated and high quality care. For me, this is justice.” — **Deirdre Lok, Esq., Assistant Director & General Counsel**

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THANK YOU

Thank you to the generous contribution and support from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Bloomberg L.P, the Brookdale Foundation, the David Berg Foundation, FJC-A Foundation of Philanthropic Funds, Gemiluth Chessed of Greater New York, LeadingAge, the New York State Bar Foundation, the NYC Council, the NYC Speaker Initiative, the Spingold Foundation, Safe Horizon/DOVE, the Westchester County Office for Women, and the Starr Foundation.