<u>Elder Justice "Concept Map" Project</u>

Elder abuse, neglect and exploitation present a complex constellation of issues that requires a multifaceted response from the health, social service, and legal fields. In order to begin the process of developing a comprehensive strategy or an "elder justice roadmap," Secretary Sibelius announced on June 14, 2012, that she would convene the Elder Justice Coordinating Council. The EJCC was created under the Elder Justice Act and is charged with making recommendations to Congress on how to coordinate activities relating to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and other crimes against elders.

In order to provide the EJCC with a broad array of input from interested and affected stakeholders, the Department of Justice (DOJ), with financial support from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), contracted with Concept Systems, Inc. (CSI) to develop a "concept map" of the elder justice field. Concept mapping is a structured process of gathering ideas, views, and concepts from a wide group of stakeholders and creating a diagram (or concept map) which reflects the relationships between those ideas and concepts. In this context, DOJ asked CSI to conduct a concept mapping analysis to help identify potential policy, practice, and research priorities in the field of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

CSI began the concept map process by inviting 750 professionals from the field to respond to the following prompt: *"To understand, prevent, identify or respond to elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation we need…"* This "brainstorming" phase generated 686 ideas, which were consolidated into 121 statements. At that point, 118 individuals helped to "sort" the statements into different categories, while almost 200 individuals helped to rate both the feasibility and importance of the suggestions. Based upon this input, CSI was able to develop a preliminary concept map. On August 14, 2008, CSI met with the Project Guidance Group, comprised of 22 subject matter experts from around the country to evaluate the map and to confirm that the concept map made sense and, more importantly, to identify any concerns or issues that were not properly reflected in the concept map. The final steps remaining are for CSI to conduct a series of leadership interviews and facilitated discussions to gather additional input on the concept map and to complete a bibliography. Once those final tasks are complete, CSI will finalize its report and expects to have its final report prepared by April 2013.
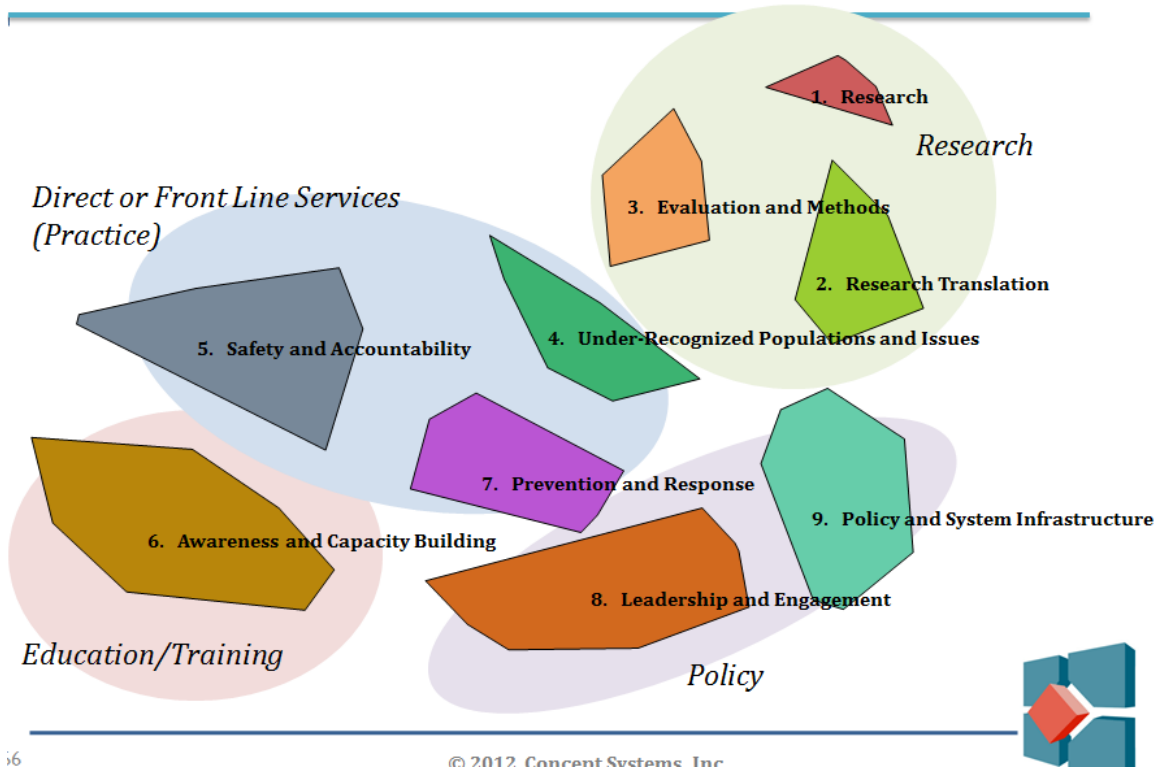
Even the preliminary concept map results have been very informative and provided guidance on the initial hearing topics for the first Coordinating Council meeting. As illustrated below in Exhibit I, the participants identified nine general areas for increased activity and focus. Those areas include:

1. Research
2. Evaluation and Methods
3. Research Translation
4. Under-recognized Populations and Issues
5. Safety and Accountability

6.   Awareness and Capacity Building
7.   Prevention and Response
8.   Leadership and Engagement
9.   Policy and System Infrastructure

EXHIBIT 1: ELDER JUSTICE CONCEPT MAP

The Emergent Structure: A "Regions" Perspective

1. Research

Research

Direct or Front Line Services (Practice)

3. Evaluation and Methods

2. Research Translation

4. Under-Recognized Populations and Issues

5. Safety and Accountability

7. Prevention and Response

9. Policy and System Infrastructure

6. Awareness and Capacity Building

8. Leadership and Engagement

Education/Training

Policy

56   © 2012 Concept Systems, Inc.

In conclusion, the concept map project has been a valuable exercise in gathering information for the EJCC's consideration, as well as in promoting increased coordination and cooperation among HHS, DOJ and the other federal agencies working on elder justice issues. The final concept map report is expected in the Spring 2013.

Appendix

The Concept Map titled "The Emergent Structure: A "Regions" Perspective" displays the nine general areas for increased activity and focus organized into four categories. The Research category includes: Research, Research Translations, as well as Evaluation and Methods. The Direct or Front Line Services (Practice) category includes: Under-recognized Populations and Issues, Safety and Accountability, and Prevention and Responses. The Education/Training category includes: Awareness and Capacity Building. The Policy category includes: Policy and System Infrastructure, as well as Leadership Engagement.