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The Retreat Launches Groundbreaking Abuse in Later Life Program to Support Older Adults in Suffolk County

EAST HAMPTON, NY (March 7, 2025) — The Retreat is excited to announce the launch of its new *Abuse in Later Life (ALL)* program in Suffolk County, designed to empower and support older adults facing domestic violence, sexual assault, neglect, economic abuse, exploitation, and other forms of harm. This innovative program, a first of its kind in the region, will deliver a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to addressing the unique needs of individuals aged 50 and older. Along with our partners Sepa MUJER, Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office, Riverhead Police Department, EAC Network, and Suffolk County Sheriff, ALL ensures that older adults in Suffolk County receive the comprehensive support they deserve—because no one should have to face abuse at any age.

The ALL program focuses on four key objectives: (1) Expanding trauma-informed support services; (2) Improving coordinated community responses; (3) Increasing awareness through professional training; and (4) Fostering partnerships among agencies dedicated to addressing abuse in later life. Leading these efforts is the Abuse in Later Life Project Coordinator, Sarah Samson, who will oversee cross-training initiatives and ensure policies across partner organizations are inclusive and effective.

“The Abuse Later in Life program is a critical new initiative for Suffolk County. Our community members who are ages 50+ face gaps in services for domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault,” said Ms. Samson. “As the population of older adults continues to grow, it is more important than ever that we take proactive steps to protect their dignity, safety, and well-being. By offering specialized outreach, services and training for professionals, this program helps to empower our communities and ensure that no one suffers in silence.”

A critical component of the ALL program is the formation of a Coordinated Community Response (CCR) team. This comprehensive team—comprising community-based organizations, faith-based groups, law enforcement, and community members—will work together to strengthen the response to domestic and sexual violence, ensuring that older victims receive the resources and protections they need. In the fall of 2025, The Retreat will be hosting a kickoff event for the Suffolk County CCR detailing how local agencies and stakeholders can be part of this collaborative effort. Anyone who is interested in being part of the CCR is encouraged to attend this free event.



“We are committed to creating a safer environment for our entire community, no matter their age, and this program is a vital piece of that effort,” said Cate Carbonaro, Executive Director of The Retreat.

A critical first step to understanding the gaps in outreach and services in Suffolk County for those 50+ is to hear from professionals who work directly with this population as well as community members themselves. The information that is gathered will inform future services at our agencies, as well as the CCR. Please consider taking this important survey.

Professionals interested in training opportunities, individuals looking to join the Coordinated Community Response team, or would like to be contacted about the details of the kickoff event are encouraged to reach out. For more information, please contact:

Sarah Samson

Project Coordinator, Abuse Later in Life

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If you or someone you know needs help, call The Retreat’s 24-hour hotline at (631) 329-2200. For more information, visit allagainstabuse.org or follow [@allagainstabuse](https://www.instagram.com/allagainstabuse) on Instagram and Facebook.

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About the Retreat: The Retreat is a safe haven for families in crisis across Suffolk County. The not-for-profit agency provides comprehensive domestic violence support services for children and adults, as well as violence prevention programming. If you or someone you know needs help, call The Retreat’s 24-hour hotline at (631) 329-2200. For more information, visit allagainstabuse.org or follow [@allagainstabuse](https://www.instagram.com/allagainstabuse) on Instagram and Facebook.