

Buncombe County Elder Justice Coalition

Mission

The mission of Buncombe Elder Justice Coalition is to strengthen our community's capacity to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect and exploitation quickly, effectively, and with respect.

Buncombe Elder Justice Coalition is a community-wide collaboration and includes older adult volunteers and professionals from various disciplines including social work and human services, elder law, law enforcement, criminal justice, healthcare, care/case management, aging services, and many others.

The focus of Buncombe Elder Justice Coalition includes:

1. Elder-centered supportive services
2. Community awareness and prevention
3. Professional collaboration and coordination, and
4. Civic and legal protection and offender accountability

Initiatives

- Friends Against Fraud
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) observance
- Elder Abuse Case Review Multidisciplinary Team
- Professional networking and capacity-building events

Roles & Responsibilities

- **Elder Justice Steering Team** – The Elder Justice Steering Team is a multi-disciplinary group that provides strategic leadership in setting the agenda and direction for the Elder Justice Coalition, and identifying and addressing systems improvements in the four areas of focus (see above). The Steering Team is co-chaired by Laurie Dotson-Taylor, Buncombe County Health and Human Services (laurie.dotson-taylor@buncombecounty.org) and Denise Locket, Legal Aid of North Carolina (DeniseL2@legalaidnc.org)
- **Elder Justice Navigators** – The Resource Coordination staff at the Council on Aging of Buncombe County serve as the go-to case managers for clients involved in elder abuse, neglect and exploitation (including financial fraud and scam). The Council on Aging also coordinates the coalition's Friends Against Fraud program. Contact
- **Buncombe County Family Justice Center (FJC)** – The [Family Justice Center](#) is one safe place where survivors of abuse can access services from multiple, on-site agencies and, as such, provides meeting space and other in-kind support to EJC. Contact: Paulina Mendez (paulina.mendez@buncombecounty.org)