



## **EBCAP's Robin Covington Receives Elder Justice Award**

*By Maggie Laurianno, Communications Specialist*

Robin Covington, Director of Senior Services at East Bay Community Action Program (EBCAP), was among a group of honorees receiving an Elder Justice Award at the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Breakfast, hosted by Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick, RI on June 15, 2018. Several of Covington's EBCAP colleagues were present at the breakfast to support and congratulate her.

Other honorees were: Catherine Harrington, Protective Services Investigator, RI Department of Elder Affairs, Lieutenant Raymond Blinn, East Providence Police Department, Sergeant Mark Bourget, East Providence Police Department, Mickaela Driscoll, Elder Abuse Investigator, RI Office of the Attorney General, Jane Palumbo, Public Housing Coordinator, Bristol Housing Authority, and Lori N. DiPersio, Executive Director, Women's Resource Center, Newport and Bristol Counties.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed annually on June 15th. Its aim is for people and organizations to act to protect older people by raising awareness about elder abuse, why it happens, and what can be done to end it.

According to statistics from the Rhode Island Annual Report on Elder Abuse, more than 41 million Americans are age 65 or older, and elders represent a growing segment of the U.S. population. Furthermore, 1 in 10 Americans age 60 or older experience abuse over one year, and many experience it in multiple forms. And 1 in 2 people with Dementia experience some form of abuse.

Speakers at the breakfast stated that elder abuse is both a public health and human rights issue. The Rhode Island Annual Report on Elder Abuse supports that, noting that elder abuse is associated with increased rates of hospitalization. Older adults who were abused or neglected are two times as likely to be hospitalized as other seniors. And survivors of mistreatment incur “significantly higher levels of psychological distress than non-victims.”

“Robin Covington, along with her staff of Senior Services Case Managers, works tirelessly to ensure justice for elders. The entire staff at East Bay Community Action Program joins in congratulating Robin on receiving this award. She is making an important difference in the lives of older adults in the communities we serve,” said Dennis Roy, President and Chief Executive Officer at East Bay Community Action Program.

East Bay Community Action Program is a private, non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation that provides a wide array of health and human services to the residents of Rhode Island’s East Bay, including the municipalities of East Providence, Barrington, Warren, Bristol, Little Compton, Tiverton, Portsmouth, Middletown, Newport and Jamestown. The agency also provides senior services to residents of Pawtucket and Central Falls. More information can be found on [ebcap.org](http://ebcap.org).

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