

ORANGE COUNTY TRIAD

On January 15, 2002, Sheriff Kevin Beary, the Chiefs of Police in Orange County, State Attorney, Lawson Lamar, Orange County Director of Public Safety, Jerry Demings, and Orange County Health and Family Services Director, Larry A. Jones, met to discuss instituting TRIAD in Orange County. This group comprises the Advisory Board.

The triangle logo represents the partnership of the Sheriff's Office and Chiefs of Police, the State Attorney's Office, and the Commission of Aging. Those in law enforcement are charged with training their officers to identify crimes against seniors and investigating those crimes thoroughly and sensitively.

The State Attorney's Office prosecutes those who commit crimes against our vulnerable seniors and makes certain that they serve the longest jail term possible.

The Commission on Aging faces the challenge of creating a network of the social services that will provide immediate assistance to seniors who have been victimized, developing programs and public forums to help seniors protect themselves from becoming victims, and educating the public and law enforcement personnel about the agencies to call when a senior has been victimized in any way.

Orange County TRIAD also intends to increase awareness of Homeland Security issues by involving more senior volunteers in programs such as Citizens Corps, Neighborhood Watch, Volunteer Patrol Units, Civilian Police Academies and Senior Academy programs offered throughout the County.

What does TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Council do?

- **Educate:** Sponsor seminars and workshops on crime prevention, health care and other important issues.
- **Reach Out:** Reduce fear and increase peace of mind through programs designed to help seniors in need.
- **Forge Partnerships:** Provide a forum to discuss seniors' concerns and fears, identify problems, and develop and implement community-wide solutions.

What are the benefits?

- **SENIORS** benefit from regular contact with service providers, gaining knowledge of who to call for help with specific problems and sharing that information with other seniors.
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT** gains a better understanding of the fears and concerns affecting senior citizens, enabling them to develop programs and policies to meet those needs.
- **COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS** benefit from improved distribution of services, partnering with other providers, and gaining a better understanding of the challenges facing law enforcement.

Can you start your own S.A.L.T. Council?

Absolutely! Any organized elder community with its own association, apartment complex, or retirement village can have its own S.A.L.T. Council. Recommended activities within each area would be based on individual needs and concerns of its residents.

In some areas, the crime problems are intense and could be the sole focus of that S.A.L.T. Council. In other locations, reassurance programs and volunteering in law enforcement agencies may take priority.

Senior issues to be addressed could include violent crimes, property crimes, frauds and scams, elder abuse and disaster preparedness. Reassurance programs such as Telephone Call-In, Adopt-A-Senior, Buddy Systems, Senior Walks and Safe Shopping Trips, Victim Assistance by and for Seniors, Courtwatch activities, and Volunteering with local law enforcement programs are examples of activities that can be initiated.

TRIAD's goals are to reduce senior victimization, enhance a sense of security among the aging population, and improve the overall quality of life for seniors. Crucial to the success of TRIAD is the establishment of active S.A.L.T. Councils with participating seniors and those who care about the elderly, working hand in hand with law enforcement and social services personnel dealing with the issues of the elderly.

For Information and Assistance in Establishing a S.A.L.T. Council in YOUR area, please contact:

**Orange County Sheriff's Office
TRIAD/S.A.L.T. Coordinator
Community Relations Division
2500 West Colonial Drive
Orlando, FL 32804
407-254-7371**

History of TRIAD

In 1988, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the National Sheriffs Association (NSA), signed a cooperative agreement to work together to reduce both criminal victimization and unwarranted fear of crime affecting older citizens. The three organizations agreed that sheriffs, police chiefs, prominent and involved senior citizens, and TRIAD, working together, could devise improved methods for reducing crimes against the elderly and enhance the delivery of law enforcement and social services to elders. This, they agreed, is true community policing for the aging population – a group that appreciates, respects and supports law enforcement.

Why is TRIAD needed?

Older Americans comprise the most rapidly growing segment of the population. One in every eight citizens is already age 65 or older, and 25% of them live alone! These are our most vulnerable citizens!

It is expected that by the year 2025, one out of four Orange County residents will have reached the age of 60.

Increased life expectancy is leading to new issues and problems for the criminal justice system as most communities experience a dramatic increase in the number of older persons. Since Florida continues to be one of the three leading retirement destinations in the country, local numbers will far surpass those of most other states.

The anticipated increase in crimes committed against seniors and the need to provide social services to victims, demands that Orange County take steps now, to create a network addressing those issues before the number of elders reaches its peak.

The Orange County S.A.L.T. Council (Seniors And Law Enforcement Together) members:

Orange County Sheriff's Office
Orange County Government
State Attorney's Office
Orange County Dept. of Health & Family Services
Orange County Fire and Rescue Department
Apopka Police Department
Eatonville Police Department
Edgewood Police Department
Maitland Police Department
Oakland Police Department
Ocoee Police Department
Orlando Police Department
U.C.F. Police Department
Windermere Police Department
Winter Garden Police Department
Winter Park Police Department
Senior Citizen Volunteers
AARP
A Second Pair of Hands
Advocates & Guardians for the Elderly & Disabled
Alzheimer Resource Center, Inc.
Better Business Bureau
Commission on Aging
Community Services Network
Department of Children & Families
Department of Financial Services
FBI
Learning Institute for Elders at U.C.F.
Mental Health Association
Orange County Consumer Fraud Unit
Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (R.S.V.P.)
Seniors First
Senior Resource Alliance
Seniors VS. Crime
Victim Service Center

Orange County TRIAD and S.A.L.T. Council



Seniors And Law Enforcement Together

*Making a difference in the lives
of Orange County Seniors*