

Witnesses also noted that both the abuser and the abused should be considered in delivering services. It was suggested that, looking at what caused the problem, not who caused it, might be the most effective way to deal with the situation.⁷⁴ Mary Carson supported the idea of having "available necessary resources in the home to meet with the family or the people living together to look at the cause of the problem."⁷⁵ Interventions within the family could identify the source of the problems, perhaps alleviate them, and allow the individuals to live more peacefully together. Citing examples of psychological battering perpetrated by a spouse impaired due to stroke or Alzheimers, Judith Leon argued that: "You don't always have to deal with the person being battered. Sometimes dealing with a person who is doing the battering is every bit as effective."⁷⁶

Evidence from studies in the United States revealed that there was "five times more substance abuse among the perpetrators than the victims, but substance abuse services were not offered commensurate with the problem."⁷⁷ In a similar vein, Rosalie Wolf suggested that research findings indicate that each of the common manifestations or categories of abuse may emanate from a different characteristic in the abuser. Thus, physical abuse may be perpetrated by someone with psychological problems; financial abuse by someone driven by greed or need; neglect by someone who is overly dependent on the victim. This, in turn, suggested that different services might be needed for different forms of abuse.⁷⁸

The need for services for the informal caregivers of the elderly is increasingly the focus of various levels of government and of community based organizations. Kathy Yurkowski of the Manitoba Seniors Directorate acknowledged that: "We're beginning to recognize that the caregiver is under a reasonable amount of stress. We're looking at a sandwich generation where 40-year-olds who have their own kids to worry about are also looking after their elderly parents... We are looking at respite

⁷⁴ Katrina Johnson, Presentation to Sub-Committee, Washington, D.C., April 29, 1993.

⁷⁵ Carson, 4:17.

⁷⁶ Leon, 9:7.

⁷⁷ John F. McCarthy, Acting Commissioner on Aging, Presentation to Sub-Committee, Washington, D.C., April 29, 1993, p. 14.

⁷⁸ Rosalie Wolf, National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse, Presentation to Sub-Committee, Washington, D.C., April 29, 1993.