

TV 24 – Oxford

June 15, 2012



Elder Abuse Awareness Day Summit

(6-15-12) Quite often we see and hear headlines about child abuse and anxiously follow all of the details of the latest child abuse court case...but there is another kind of abuse that occurs all too often with getting headlines...elder abuse. The Etowah County Council on Aging and the HELP Coalition addressed that issue in a big way today with an Elder Abuse Awareness Day Summit at the Senior Activities Center in Gadsden. Council on Aging board member Jon Costa says that elder abuse occurs way too often in our local communities. The guest speaker for today's event was Dr. Timothy Stone who is the Medical Director for the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Dr. Stone says that many elder abuse issues stem from cultural changes in the way families take care of one another. Stone also says that Alabama's new Elder Abuse Prevention Act that was recently signed into law by Governor Bentley will go a long way toward providing a solution to this sometimes-hidden problem. More than 6,000 cases of elder abuse are reported every year in Alabama, but officials estimate that anywhere from 25,000 to 75,000 cases go unreported. [▶ Video](#)