



House Children and Seniors Committee
January 24, 2013

Adult Protective Services

Presented by:

Secretary Phyllis Gilmore

Kansas Department for Children and Families

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Testimony of:

Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Topeka, Kansas

Presented to:

The Honorable Connie O'Brien and Honorable Members
of the Kansas House Children and Seniors Committee:

DCF testimony on Adult Protective Services

Chairman O'Brien, Vice-Chair Meigs, Ranking Member Wilson and Honored Members:

I am Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary of the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF). I thank you for the opportunity to testify before the committee to address the progress of Adult Protective Services (APS).

DCF aligned APS within the Division of Prevention and Protection Services (PPS) in July 2011. The realignment placed social service programs involving vulnerable adults and children within the same division. Aligning like social service programs allows internal collaboration to strengthen programs and to work more efficiently to support our workers in the field.

I am very happy to advise you of the strides made in APS including: strengthening our outreach to stakeholders, forming an advisory panel, training and supervision of our staff, collecting data on the population served and creating outcomes to measure our performance, plus an educational awareness initiative. While we appreciate there is still more to do, I am here to assure you that DCF is committed to maintaining its focus on APS and the continued strengthening of this program to meet the needs of vulnerable Kansas adults.

To address the needs of our most vulnerable adults requires DCF to work in close collaboration with the Attorney General's office, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), our advisory committee, community stakeholders, local law enforcement, to name a few. DCF knows that continued work with its key partners and stakeholders is critical. DCF appreciates the

cooperation required to provide social services and will continue reaching out to strengthen our collaborative ties to meet the needs of vulnerable adults.

Gina Meier-Hummel, our Director of Prevention and Protection Services will go over the specifics of our planning with you. I believe you will see our commitment reflected in this planning. We have made great strides, and I want to ask for your continued support in allowing the social service programs within DCF to continue this important work.

Thank you.

Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary
Kansas Department for Children and Families