



SAPGA Panel Discussion Adult Protective Services

July 13, 2020

Question 1

- What is the specific role of APS –
- What groups of adults (18+) do they serve?

APS's role is to investigate allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, caretaker neglect, exploitation, self-neglect, and other mistreatment of at-risk adults.

APS Eligible Population

Per the APS statute, “at-risk adults” are persons 18 years of age or older who are susceptible to mistreatment or self-neglect because:

- They are unable to perform or obtain services necessary for their health, safety, or welfare, OR
- They lack sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions regarding their person or affairs.

Conditions that increase risk include dementia, physical or medical frailty, developmental disabilities, brain injury, behavioral disorders, and mental illness.

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APS Priorities

Confidentiality: Per statute, all aspects of the APS report and case are confidential and can only be shared without a court order under very specific circumstances.

Consent: Adults who have capacity to understand their decisions have the right to refuse protective services.

Self-determination: Adults who do accept protective services have the right to decide which protective services they would like to receive.

Least Restrictive Intervention: APS must provide protective services that are the least intrusive to provide for the client’s health and safety. APS should intervene for the shortest time possible to implement services.

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Question 2

- Provide an overview of CDHS' role and coordination with local administration of APS.
 - In conjunction with this question, is an overview of the county department APS programs' role.

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APS Program - State Role

- Establishes statewide program and policy consistent with statute and rule
 - Monitors and implements new legislation
 - Drafts rules in collaboration with counties through the PAC process
 - Establishes best practices
- Develops and delivers formal training for new and experienced APS staff
- Provides technical assistance for county department APS staff (case staffing, rule interpretation, one-on-one training, etc.)
- Administers CAPS (APS & CCU data system) and conducts data analysis
- Manages consumer inquiries regarding APS
- Conducts systemic quality assurance and program improvement activities

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APS - County Role

- Receive and screen reports of mistreatment and self-neglect
- Conduct investigations
 - May coordinate investigation with LEAs, or other agencies with investigative authority
 - Send due process notice to substantiated perpetrators
- Conduct client strengths/needs assessments
- Implement services (with client consent)
- Other program duties
 - AP Team
 - Community education
 - Etc.

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Question 3

- Where do the majority of APS cases originate – in facilities or community?
- In FY 2018-19, about 71% of APS clients lived in the community; 29% in facilities

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Question 4

- When was APS designated “essential” by the State? Do we know why it did not happen immediately? Who makes this decision?
- APS was not designated essential early in COVID-19 response
- Federal Guidance “urged” states to designate APS as essential

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Question 5

- Even though APS was not essential, county-level APS still were working – can you provide details about what was going on in certain counties?
- County departments established practice within State APS guidelines

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State Guidelines

- Caveats
 - Testing is sporadic
 - Asymptomatic spread
 - Population served by APS is high risk
 - County departments may not have PPE
 - PPE has not been provided by State Government

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State Guidelines

- Overall/community
 - Good cause exceptions allowed for in-person visits, interviews
 - County has the option
- Non-CDHS Facilities
 - No in-person visits
 - Conduct visits, interviews remotely
- CDHS Facilities
 - May conduct in-person visits for emergency reports
 - No in-person visits for non-emergency reports

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Question 6

- What is the current availability of PPE for APS workers?
 - What are current policies for PPE use by both adult and child protective workers (since we know that many in child protection are involved with older adults in their family)?

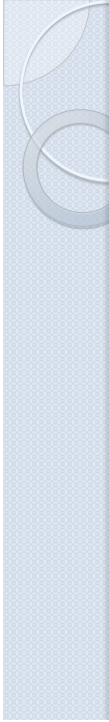
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County PPE

- Counties are responsible for securing their PPE.
- In April, conducted a brief survey with 25 counties responding:
 - 21 had masks and gloves
 - 4 indicated no masks or gloves or masks were home made
 - 5 had not been able to locate PPE to purchase
 - 4 had some PPE on hand or from local health dept. but supplies were very limited

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Contact Information

- A comprehensive APS Annual Report and more information about the APS program is available at: ColoradoAPS.com
- Contact options:
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 - Peg Rogers (peggy.rogers@state.co.us), or
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