

Testimony for Health Care Oversight Committee
Adult Protective Services
Commissioner Wehry
Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living
September 12, 2013

Litigation

- Plaintiffs released all of their claims against the state and Judge Bent signed the order to dismiss the APS lawsuit on August 27, 2013. (An e-copy was provided)

Highlights of the agreement

- Requires DAIL to revise our Policy and Procedure Manual to better reflect current practices.
- Requires plaintiffs to participate on DAIL Advisory Board APS subcommittee.
- Restores pre-litigation independent review panel and creates new and clear benchmarks by which the public can monitor our ongoing success. National colleagues have hailed this level of commitment to quality improvement and accountability as unprecedented.

Status of agreement provisions

- Outreach to review panel members has begun. The panel is being created from a pre-determined slate of 6 individuals acceptable to all parties.
- The revised Policy and Procedure Manual is complete and being presented to APS subcommittee today. Training of APS staff on the revisions to the Policy and Procedure manual also begins today.
- We are awaiting the plaintiffs' nominees to the Advisory Board.

Ongoing issues

- The APS-led FAST team continues its collaboration with the Elder Justice Work Group and its multiple partners to address and attempt to prevent financial exploitation of older adults.
- Roll out of the Affordable Care Act is creating new scam opportunities. New federal factsheets have been developed to help seniors and adults with disabilities recognize these and which we will help disseminate through FAST.
- DAIL continues community outreach and education (see SFY13 summary for examples of activities)

August Data

- In August, APS received a total of 357 reports; 54% of allegations were opened for investigation. This represents a sustained upward trend which began earlier this year; the percentage of complaints investigated remains fairly stable.
- We are recruiting for one open investigator position
- 14 perpetrators' names were added to the Adult Abuse Registry
- The next quarterly report will be presented October 15th
- Monthly reports can be found on our website (<http://www.dlp.vermont.gov/protection/adult-protective-services-program-data-reports>)