



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

February 25, 2013

The Honorable Bruce Caswell, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Peter MacGregor, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Caswell and Representative MacGregor:

This report is provided pursuant to PA 200 of 2012, Section 420(2) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Act. This section requires that DHS submit a report from the Prosecuting Attorney Association of Michigan (PAAM) on the status of the contract between DHS and PAAM to provide the support and services necessary to increase the capability of the state's prosecutors, adult protective service system, and criminal justice system to effectively identify, investigate, and prosecute elder abuse and financial exploitation.

DHS has established the Elder Justice Program by way of this contract with PAAM to facilitate the desired outcomes. There are several main avenues through which this work is being accomplished: training and education, individual assistance, establishing connections, and participation in community committees.

Training and Education: The Elder Justice Program has provided three trainings to educate prosecutors. The topics of these trainings included the mission of the Elder Justice Program, law enforcement's role in elder abuse cases, and victim advocacy. Upcoming training topics include the complex problems in elder justice, and mental health professionals as team members in the Elder Justice Program. Training sessions on the state model for elder abuse investigative protocol will be provided to prosecutors, law enforcement, and DHS Adult Protective Services staff at the Michigan Statewide Elder Justice Summit and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association conference.

Individual Assistance: The Elder Justice Program has assisted several counties with developing elder death review teams and locating cases to review. In addition, assistance with identifying expert witnesses to assist in differentiating patterns of abuse from the progression of a disease process was also provided to law enforcement officers.

Establishing Connections: The Elder Justice Program collaborated with the Michigan Bankers Association to combat financial exploitation of the elderly. In addition, an ongoing collaboration with the Michigan Association of Check Investigators and Tri-County Loss Prevention is exploring methods to prevent check scams/thefts.

Community Committees: The Elder Justice Program provides representation on the following committees: Michigan State Model Investigative Protocol; Ingham & Tri-County Elder Death Review Team; Tri-County Community Response to Elder Abuse; Michigan Elder Justice Summit Planning; and Michigan Association of Check Investigators and Tri-County Loss Prevention.

If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Farrell, Adult Services manager, at (517) 335-8388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Kangas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Kangas" clearly legible.

Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
Senate and House Standing Committees on Families and Human Services