



STATE OF KANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**DEREK SCHMIDT**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORIAL HALL  
120 SW 10TH AVE., 2ND FLOOR  
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1597  
(785) 296-2215 • FAX (785) 296-6296  
WWW.AG.KS.GOV

July 27, 2022

Hon. Derek Schmidt  
Kansas Attorney General  
120 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: 2021 Annual Report for the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Council

Dear General Schmidt:

I write to you with great pride to provide the annual report of the work, recommendations, and anticipated future activities of the Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse Prevention Council. This report covers the time period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

### **Council Members and Meetings**

The Council held meetings on January 7, 2021, February 25, 2021, May 12, 2021, August 8, 2021, and December 1, 2021. The list of members of the Council, as of December 31, 2021, was as follows:

- Steven Karrer, Chair, Deputy Attorney General, Fraud and Abuse Litigation Division
- Kendra Baldrige, Director of the Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE
- Dr. Stephen Benson, Licensed Clinical Psychologist
- Payton Meader, Consumer Outreach and Public Affairs Coordinator, Attorney General's Office
- Fran Oleen, Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Protection & Antitrust Division
- Kathy Greenlee, Former Assistant Secretary for Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Barbara Conant, Public Policy Coordinator, Kansas Advocates for Better Care
- Robert R. Short II, Chief Assistant District Attorney, Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office
- Ruth Ritthaler, Chautauqua County Attorney
- Deb Schwarz, Deputy Director of Prevention and Protection Services, DCF
- Dawne Stevenson, Director of Survey and Certification, KDADS

- Kathy Taylor, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Kansas Bankers Association
- Mary Tritsch, Associate State Director, AARP
- Jackie Williams, Deputy Attorney General, Medicaid Fraud & Abuse Division
- Jacklyn Zickel, Detective, Overland Park Police Department

It should be noted four members of the Council, Mitzi McFatrach, Vanessa Riebli, Kathryn Carter, and Niomi Burget, announced their resignation during the reporting period and were replaced by Barbara Conant, Robert Short, Fran Oleen, and Payton Meader, respectively.

### **Multidisciplinary Teams**

The Council in 2020 drafted and approved to introduce proposed legislation for the 2021 legislative session to create multi-disciplinary teams. HB 2151 was introduced on January 27, 2021. As Chairman of the Council, I provided written and oral testimony to the House Committee on Children and Seniors on February 3, 2021. I also provided both written and oral testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare on March 23, 2021. Ultimately, the bill passed both the House and Senate as H.B. 2114 on April 9, 2021, and was signed by the Governor on April 21, 2021, becoming effective July 1, 2021. The bill was enacted into statute as K.S.A. 75-782.

K.S.A. 75-782 creates a statewide MDT coordinator located in the Office of the Kansas Attorney General who facilitates the convening of an MDT in each judicial district in Kansas. These teams consist of law enforcement, county and district attorneys, and social service agencies. It also allows for members to be added to the team as needed, such as medical personnel, financial and banking personnel, advocates, and service providers. The purpose of the teams is to coordinate both civil and criminal investigations of elder and dependent adult abuse, as well as identifying local opportunities to improve policies and procedures in the notification and response to abuse, neglect, and exploitation, of elder and dependent adults.

### **Education and Outreach**

The Council, with leadership from the Education and Outreach Committee, worked for most of the year on creating a way to get information to the public on Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse. This culminated in creating both a magnet and a bookmark. The magnets and bookmarks provide valuable phone numbers for people to call if they suspect abuse, neglect, exploitation, or fraud regarding elder and dependent adults. It also provides numbers for resources regarding mental health and aging.

The project was funded by the Kansas Department of Children and Families and the Johnson County District Attorney's Office. Design was provided by the Johnson County District Attorney's Office in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General. The Council is extremely grateful to all of these entities in helping us to fulfill our Education and Outreach obligations.

## Looking Forward

The Council will continue to meet regularly in 2022. As of December 31, 2021, the Attorney General's Office is still attempting to fill the position of Statewide MDT coordinator. Once this position is filled, the Council anticipates spending considerable time assisting the Coordinator in creating and developing MDTs in each judicial district.

The Council will also be working on a plan to distribute the elder abuse prevention magnets and bookmarks. Our intent is to work with local libraries, elder advocacy groups and area agencies on aging in order to distribute the items. We will also be working on preparing a handout for law enforcement that provides vital information related to elder abuse investigations, such as statutes, phone numbers, etc. Both of these projects will be headed up by our Education and Outreach subcommittee.

I express my gratitude to you on behalf of all Council Members in allowing us to serve the citizens of Kansas. We look forward in 2022 to continue working with you to prevent the abuse of elder and dependent adults.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SK', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Steven A. Karrer  
Chair of the Elder and Dependent Adult  
Abuse Prevention Council  
Deputy Attorney General  
Fraud and Abuse Litigation Division