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Contact: Sarana Schell, 907-269-8041, Cell 907-398-1480, sarana.schell@alaska.gov
Cathy Stadem, 907-269-3495, Cell 907-529-1520, catherine.stadem@alaska.gov

Adult Protective Services awarded \$1 million grant to test case management model

DHSS will test model's effectiveness in preventing abuse, neglect over three years

ANCHORAGE — Alaska's Adult Protective Services office has received a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Administration on Aging to test a program to prevent elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. The grant adds limited case management to APS' current services: resource referral, and short- and medium-term crisis intervention.

"We're looking forward to learning whether this focused assistance consistently promotes well-being and can prevent harm," said Bill Streur, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

The pilot program will fund three case managers for three years. They will work with Alaskans age 60 or older in Anchorage who have already experienced or are at high risk for abuse, neglect or exploitation. Participation will be encouraged, but voluntary.

Workers will use Critical Time Intervention, a model used in the past to support people with severe mental illness, the chronically homeless and other populations. The Alaska project adapts the model to a new population: vulnerable seniors. The case management lasts for nine months.

Case managers help clients to navigate hurdles, such as applying for services, and to establish a support network beyond the case manager.

To identify high-risk individuals and evaluate the program's effectiveness, APS is partnering with the Anchorage Police Department, Southcentral Foundation, Providence Alaska Medical Center, the Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman, Anchorage homeless shelters and other community agencies.

APS protects the independence and well-being of adults who cannot protect themselves because of their physical or intellectual disability or other condition. For more information, visit www.hss.state.ak.us/dsds/aps.htm.

The State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services promotes and protects the health and well-being of Alaskans. We help individuals and families create safe and healthy communities. For more information, visit <http://hss.alaska.gov>.

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