Fiscal Year 2005 Accomplishments

**B*SAGE (Bankers and Seniors Against Financial Exploitation)**

Training continued to be conducted by elder abuse caseworkers to bank personnel and senior groups throughout the state on how to identify financial exploitation, scams and other types of abuse, and to follow simple guidelines for reporting suspicious circumstances to the Department’s Elder Abuse and Neglect Program and to law enforcement.

**Rate Study**

In Fiscal Year 2005, as a result of the 2004 Rate Study conducted of the elder abuse provider agencies, the Department increased the hourly rate for reimbursement from $29.10 to $40, a 37% increase.

**19th Annual Elder Rights Conference**

The Department sponsored its 19th Annual Elder Rights Conference July 19-21, 2005.

**Elder Abuse Awareness Month**

In January 2005, Governor Blagojevich signed a proclamation declaring July 2005, as Elder Abuse Awareness Month. Department staff developed a logo “Break the Silence” and began preparing for a statewide campaign. Elder Abuse Provider Agencies and the Regional Administrative Agencies were provided with funding and a toolkit to assist in outreach efforts.

**Crimes Against Seniors Program**

On March 28, 2005, the Governor announced the creation of the Crimes Against Seniors Program (CASP); a statewide program dedicated to fighting financial exploitation and abuses against the elderly. Four highly qualified investigators were hired to provide a variety of services to Illinois seniors. The Illinois State Police received funding for the program through the Edward Burne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, administered by the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority.

**State of Illinois**

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor

Charles D. Johnson, Director

**Illinois Department on Aging**

421 East Capitol Avenue, #100
Springfield, Illinois 62701-1789

Elder Abuse Hotline
1-866-800-1409
1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

The Illinois Department of Aging does not discriminate in admission to programs or services of employment in violation of any Federal, State, or local laws. If you feel you have been discriminated against, call the Senior Hotline at 1-866-800-1409, 1-888-206-1327 (TTY)

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Since the program became statewide in April 1991, the period of July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001, was the first state fiscal year in which reports decreased from the previous year. In FY 2003, 8,289 reports of elder abuse were received, an increase of 8.9% from FY 2002.

Victims generally experience more than one type of abuse, e.g., financial exploitation is the type of abuse reported most frequently, (58% of reports). Neglect is highly associated with emotional abuse, reported in 44% of cases.

In 78% of the cases in which abuse is substantiated, the victim consents to services. Services might include in-home care, adult day care, respite, health services and services such as counseling. Other interventions might include an order of protection, obtaining a representative payee to manage the financial exploitation, de-enlisting the abuser from personal care or assisting the victim in obtaining other legal remedies. In some cases, services for the abuser are also obtained, including mental illness, substance abuse, job placement or other services related to their problems.

Four out of five victims suffered from one or more barriers to independent living. The greatest number of barriers were physical, such as non-ambulatory, incontinence, or threatened or actual violence. Four out of five victims were functionally impaired, meaning they had difficulty performing daily tasks such as walking, personal care, meal preparation, laundry and housecleaning. Many of these older adults were victims of neglect and deprivation. 28% of all reports and victims self-reported in 10% of all cases. Self reports were most likely to occur in physical, sexual, emotional and financial exploitation cases. Older adults most often needed others to report for them in cases of neglect and willful deprivation.

In 70% of the cases in which abuse is substantiated, the victim consents to services. Services might include in-home care, adult day care, respite, health services and services such as counseling. Other interventions might include an order of protection, obtaining a representative payee to manage the financial exploitation, de-enlisting the abuser from personal care or assisting the victim in obtaining other legal remedies. In some cases, services for the abuser are also obtained, including mental illness, substance abuse, job placement or other services related to their problems.