



Please Vote YES on SB21-118

Alternative Response Mistreatment At-risk Adults Sponsors: Sen. Ginal & Gardner, Rep. Snyder & Pelton

Problem:

Adult Protective Services (APS) uses the same approach to respond to every report of potential abuse and neglect to at-risk adults. Without the flexibility to respond to low risk cases using a more collaborative style, APS workers miss the opportunity to better connect with clients and their families in a manner that feels more like a partnership.

Solution:

Create a pilot program that allows some county APS programs to adopt an alternative approach to low risk cases, like reports about a client’s home condition. APS can still revert to a traditional approach, if upon assessment, a finding of abuse and neglect and an unannounced appearance is warranted.

Background:

APS receives a wide variety of reports that span a spectrum of low to high risk cases. Examples of low risk cases include self-neglect, clients found wandering from home and clients with minor bruises or injuries. Examples of high risk cases include sexual abuse, severe injury and confinement.

All cases, regardless of risk level, are handled in the same manner. They are:

- 1.) reviewed by trained staff;
- 2.) tracked and logged into APS’ computer system;
- 3.) investigated which includes an unannounced home visit; and
- 4.) determined with a finding (i.e. who is responsible for the alleged mistreatment).

In an **alternative response** approach steps 3 & 4 from above are different as follows:

- 1.) an unannounced visit is optional; and
- 2.) there is no finding of mistreatment

Many county departments of human services have successfully used a similar, tailored response in their child welfare programs for many years. This friendlier approach to low-risk child welfare cases engenders a sense of partnership between the family and county workers and has helped restore families that were in need of supports.

The success counties have had in the child welfare arena informs and motivates the request for a tailored approach in APS.

Please Support SB21-118

Contact:

Gini Pingnot 720.255.8941 // gpingenot@ccionline.org

Supporters:

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 Archuleta County
 The Arc of Colorado
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