

Prevention of Elder Abuse

Response to HCR 63 of the
2019 Regular Legislative Session

Sharon Jackson

Report

Office of Aging and Adult Services

February 10, 2020



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Aging and Adult Services

February 10, 2020

Representative. Edward C. James, Chairman
House Committee Administration of Criminal Justice
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Senator Frank Foil, Chairman
Senate Committee on Judiciary C
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Representative Larry Bagley, Chairman
House Committee on Health and Welfare
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Senator Fred H. Mills, Jr., Chairman
Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Honorable Chairman
Legislative Audit Advisory Council
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

**RE: Response to House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 63 of the 2019 Regular Session
*Means by Which to Reduce Incidence of Elder Abuse in Louisiana***

Dear Chairpersons:

The National Adult Protective Services Association estimates that one in ten older adults is a victim of elder abuse. Older adults are a rapidly expanding percentage of the population nationally and in Louisiana. As the population continues to grow, issues of adult and elder maltreatment will likely increase.

Services offered by OAAS are paramount in reducing risks to vulnerable adults and the elderly. OAAS develops preferred, high-quality programs that provide cost-effective

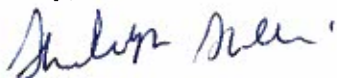
approaches to population aging and disability for its citizens as an alternative to institutional care. OAAS strives to reduce hospitalizations, optimize independence and self-determination, and promote quality in facility-based long-term care and to protect against adult abuse, neglect, exploitation, and extortion in the community.

OAAS works to achieve this mission through an array of statewide services performed by multiple Home and Community-Based programs, facility-based support options, and protective services to meet the long-term care and protection needs of Louisiana's adults with onset disabilities and the elderly.

To further reduce the incidence of elder abuse, OAAS recommends improved coordination amongst parties of the joint study group and others. Under the Adult Protective Services Act, in Louisiana Revised Statute 15:1507(E), the Adult Protection Agencies must convene a regional level coordinating council composed of representatives of both public and private agencies providing services, with the objectives of identifying resources, increasing needed supportive services, avoiding duplication of effort, and assuring maximum community coordination of effort.

OAAS recommends additions to the current statute to include provisions for the creation of a State Administrators' Coordinating Council requiring mandatory participation by representatives from health and human services, law enforcement and protection, and financial services to improve prevention and coordination efforts to reduce the incidence of adult and elder maltreatment.

Sincerely,



Sherlyn Sullivan,
Interim Secretary
Office of Aging and Adult Services
Department of Health

cc: Mark Thomas, Deputy Secretary LDH
Stephen R. Russo, JD, Interim Secretary LDH

Louisiana Department of Health

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