

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary

House Corrections & Juvenile Justice Committee
February 2, 2005

Adult Multi-Disciplinary Team
HB 2038

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HB 2038 - Adult Multi-Disciplinary Team

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Thank you for the opportunity to testify regarding HB 2038 which authorizes a multi-disciplinary team for adults in need of protective services.

The Department provides adult protective services to safeguard the well being and general welfare of adults (age 18 and older) in need of protection from abuse, neglect, exploitation or fiduciary abuse. SRS social workers investigate reports and provide protective services to adults who reside in the community and in facilities licensed or certified by SRS. Emergency support services as well as guardianship/conservatorship services are also available.

HB 2038 establishes the statutory authority for multi-disciplinary teams which would bring together professionals with expertise in working with adults who are in need of protective services, to provide advice and consultation to SRS and other entities regarding cases referred to the team. The teams would also serve as advocates for resources and help increase public awareness of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation as well as work to eliminate its occurrence where possible. The statutory authority would also provide free exchange of information within the team and a process for obtaining additional information necessary to help resolve case situations.

A similar structure has been in place for children and has worked effectively to provide more comprehensive resolutions for children in need of protective services. The Department believes the same results can be achieved for adults and has worked in collaboration with the authors of this legislation to develop the amended version you have been provided.

SRS is supportive of establishing a multi-disciplinary team process for vulnerable adults and believes the structure provided for in this legislation will provide additional resources to assist in resolving instances of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in Kansas.

I will be glad to respond to questions.