

Kansas Department of

Social and Rehabilitation Services

Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary

Senate Judiciary Committee

March 16, 2005

Sub HB 2038 - Adult Multi-Disciplinary Team

Integrated Service Delivery Division

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Sub HB 2038 - Adult Multi-Disciplinary Team

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding the Substitute for HB 2038 which establishes a multi-disciplinary team for adults in need of protective services.

The Department provides adult protective services which are directed towards safeguarding 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/certified by SRS. Emergency support services as well as guardianship/conservatorship services are also available.

Sub 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 support or services to provide advice regarding cases referred to the team. The team would provide recommendations to the referring entity that empowers the adult to be provided support and services in the least restrictive setting. 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 substitute version.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written input.