

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



February 16, 2001

ALL-COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO: I-13-01

TO: COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES
PROGRAM MANAGERS

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL

- State Law Change
 Federal Law or Regulation
 Change
 Court Order
 Clarification Requested by
 One or More Counties
 Initiated by CDSS

SUBJECT: ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES BUREAU PROGRAM VISITS

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) recognizes and appreciates the collaborative manner in which the statewide Adult Protective Services (APS) program created by Senate Bill 2199 (Chapter 946, Statutes of 1998) has been implemented. Working with our county partners and other stakeholders we have developed program requirements, addressed initial data collection and reporting issues and had good dialogue on challenging start-up funding issues. Now that initial State-level APS program roll-out activities have been completed, or are well on their way to completion, we would like to continue our collaboration with counties through on-site visits with county APS program staff by staff of the APS Bureau (APSB) of the CDSS Adult Programs Branch.

Briefly, APSB program visits would be for the purpose of:

- a) Providing county APS agencies the opportunity to educate CDSS APSB staff about their local APS program organization and design and showcase best practices that can be shared with other counties.
- b) Enabling CDSS APSB staff to observe county APS activity first-hand, learn about issues that are unique to a county or the county's APS client population, and provide on-site technical assistance, training and support.
- c) Offering county and CDSS APSB staff a forum to discuss county-specific conditions that have enhanced or impaired successful rollout of the APS program, statewide issues important to all counties, best practices observed in other counties and other agenda items selected by the county.

- d) Providing CDSS APSB staff with information and insights that will better enable CDSS to understand and interpret the data reported to CDSS by county APS programs.

APSB program visits will be scheduled in advance at county convenience. We understand other agencies also conduct county visits, so we are willing to accommodate your schedules. Our target date to begin program visits is February 2001.

To allow ample time for observation and discussion, we anticipate the visits will take at least two days, depending on the distance traveled and the itinerary. If possible, the two-person APSB team would like to observe the APS telephone response system, an APS home visit and a multidisciplinary team meeting. We are also interested in discussing issues such as outreach and public awareness efforts, as well as barriers to successful implementation of the APS program.

APSB program visits are intended to provide counties on-site technical assistance and support. These visits are not monitoring visits or compliance reviews. We appreciate that counties are diligently working towards full implementation of the APS program, and we understand that counties may not yet be fully staffed. At this time, given current APSB staffing levels, our priority is the successful implementation of the statewide APS program, not the initiation of APS program monitoring. We do not expect to begin a monitoring process until sometime after all APS regulations have been adopted, training has been completed, and evaluation tools have been developed.

Beginning February 2001, APSB staff will contact county APS program managers to schedule visits. At this time, if you prefer a specific date for a visit, please contact Jenene Acosta, Adult Protective Services Bureau Chief, at (916) 229-0323. Should you have any questions regarding the APS Bureau Program Visits, please contact Alan Stelmack, Adult Programs Branch Chief, at (916) 229-4582.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By
Donna L. Mandelstam on 2/16/01***

DONNA L. MANDELSTAM
Deputy Director
Disability and Adult Programs Division