

State of Adult Protective Services Baseline Assessment - 2012

Response ID: 228 Data

1. State of Adult Protection Services Baseline Assessment

1. Respondent Information

Name of person completing this assessment : Nancy A. Alterio

Title of person completing this assessment : Executive Director

State : Massachusetts

Email Address : nancy.alterio@state.ma.us

Telephone Number : (617) 727-6465 x219

2. APS Administrator Information

3. Where is your APS Program administratively located?

Is an independent state agency

4. 3a) Please describe other, or add any clarifying comments on how your APS program fits within your state government:

4. To whom does the APS Administrator report?

Agency Board or Commission

5. How is APS administered in your state?

State administered (APS employees are all state employees)

7. 5a) If county-administered, which county agency administers APS?

8. 5b) If county or locally administered, does the State APS Office have oversight responsibility for local APS? For example, does the state set policy/ provided the training and/or monitor local APS services?

6. How many full-time state positions are in the APS program: (please provide full-time equivalents (FTEs), so if you have three half-time intake specialists who only accept reports for APS, you would state that you have 1.5 full-time intake positions). "Investigators/Caseworkers" refers to your APS field staff who work directly with clients; different states use different terms.

	Number of FTEs
State Administrative Staff	2
State Training Staff	1
Supervisors	6
Investigators/Caseworkers	8
Intake Staff	3
IT Staff	1
Legal Staff	2
Other	5

7. Is this an increase or decrease from the past 5 years?

Increase

11. 7a) If increased, by what percentage (approximately):

30

12. 7b) If decreased, by what percentage (approximately):

8. Do the staff listed below work in APS only?

	Yes	No	N/A
State Administrative Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Training Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supervisors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investigators/Caseworkers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Case Workers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intake Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
IT Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. 8a) If no, what other programs do they work in?

9. What, if any, are the minimal education requirements for each position?

	Minimal Education Requirements
State Admin. Staff	High School
State Training Staff	College Degree
Supervisors	College Degree
Investigators/Caseworkers	College Degree
IT Staff	College Degree
Intake Staff	College Degree
Legal Staff	JD
Other	High School

10. If your system is state administered, do you provide APS field staff with the following:

	Yes	No
Smart phones (iPhone, Blackberry, Android)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cell phones (phone only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laptops or tablet PCs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State vehicles to use for work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

17. 10a) If state vehicles are not provided, are workers reimbursed for work related mileage (or public transportation fares)?

Yes

18. 10b) If yes, what is the current mileage reimbursement rate? (\$/mi.)

\$0.40/mi

11. Does your APS Program have a case review quality assurance system in place?

Yes

20. 11a) If yes, are all cases reviewed (check all that apply)?

Yes, by supervisor

Yes, by specialized quality control staff

Cases are reviewed at more than one level (e.g. supervisor & administrator)

12. Please provide the contact person who can provide more information about the quality controls measures

Name : Emil DeRiggi

Title : Deputy Executive Director

Email : emil.deriggi@state.ma.us

Phone : (617) 727-6465 x209

13. Does APS have regular, case level access to expertise/consultation from:

	Yes	No
Attorneys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physicians	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physician Assistants and/or Nurses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Professionals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Forensics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accountants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. If other, please specify:

15. Does your APS program track annual staff turnover rates?

Yes

25. 15a) If yes, please provide any additional information you can:

16. Does the Program have case performance measures (benchmarks/metrics) in place (e.g. timeliness of response; supervisor involvement; recidivism rates)?

Yes

2. Scope of APS

17. What is the age range for eligible clients?

18-59

28. 17a) For clients aged 60+ or 65+ only, must the alleged victim be defined as vulnerable before APS can open the case or is anyone 60 years and older eligible for APS?

18. Your APS Program is responsible for abuse investigations in (check all that apply):

Community Settings

Care Homes/Board Homes

State Developmental Disability Facilities

State Mental Illness Facilities

Other (specify): Transportation, Correctional Facilities

19. Does APS petition for guardianship in your state?

Yes

20. Do APS employees serve as guardians?

No

21. Does your APS program serve as representative payee for Social Security/Railroad Retirement client benefits?

No

22. The following questions are about intake:

	Yes	No
Is your intake centralized?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you have a toll free number?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

34. 22a) If yes to either above, is the APS intake line combined with another program's intake (such as CPS or aging services)?

No

23. Do you accept reports 24 hours a day?

Yes

36. 23a) If available 24 hours, is the line (check all that apply):

Staffed

Contracted Call Center

37. 23b) If no, what happens to after-hours reports?

38. 23c) Do you respond (go out on) cases 24 hours a day?

Yes

24. What is the shortest timeframe in which APS must initiate a case?

24 hours

25. Are investigation time frames triaged depending on allegations?

If Yes, describe:: 24 hours if an emergency, 10 days for non emergencies

26. Must APS complete investigations within a certain timeframe?

Yes, 30 days

27. Must APS close cases within a specific time frame?

No

28. Is there required regular contact with the victim of an open case?

No

44. 28a) If yes, please check all that apply:

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly
In person	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
By Phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

45. 28b) If other, describe:

29. Which of the following services does APS provide to victims: (Direct=via APS personnel; Indirect=via referral to outside services)

	Yes	Yes, Indirect	Yes, both	No
Developing a case plan		✓		
Counseling		✓		
Advocacy with other systems	✓			
Money Management		✓		
Legal Interventions			✓	
In-home services		✓		
Home Delivered Meals		✓		
Medical Services			✓	
Placement			✓	
Environmental Cleanup		✓		

47. 29a) If indirectly through referrals, does APS continue monitoring the case after the referrals are made?

Yes, some cases

3. Budget Information

30. From the most recent state fiscal year data, please describe how much money is allocated from each funding source (answer should be dollar amount):

	State Funds	SSBG	OAA	Medicaid (TCM)	County Funds	Department of Justice	Other Local	Other	Information not Available
State	\$2,210,698								
County*									
Other (describe)									
Other									
TOTAL	\$2,210,698								
Amount over or under previous year. Indicate under with a minus sign.	+								

31. Please provide any additional budgetary information:

Obtain grant funding for trainings and special projects

4. Report Information - Statewide Report Totals

32. For the previous year, please provide the number of statewide report totals by age of vulnerable adult if possible; by total numbers if age breakdown is not available.

	Age 60+	Age 18-59	Total

Self-Neglect		n/a	
Physical Abuse		5,796	
Emotional Abuse		2,726	
Sexual Abuse		641	
Neglect by others		4,373	
Financial abuse		630	
Other abuse (describe below)			
Total		14,166	

33. If other, please describe:

34. Is the total number of statewide reports an increase or decrease from the past 5 years?

Increase

51. 34a) If increase, by what percentage (approximately):

30

52. 34b) If decrease, by what percentage (approximately):

35. Please provide the number of statewide substantiated report totals by age of vulnerable adult if possible; by total numbers if age breakdown is not available.

	Number Substantiated (60+)	Number Substantiated (18-59)	Total
Self-Neglect		n/a	
Physical Abuse		145	
Emotional Abuse		165	
Sexual Abuse		25	
Neglect by others		173	
Financial abuse		n/a	
Other abuse (describe below)		123	
Total		631	

36. If other, please describe:

pending investigations

37. Is the total the number of statewide substantiated report an increase or decrease from the past 5 years?

Increase

56. 37a) If increase, by what percentage (approximately):

10

57. 37b) If decrease, by what percentage (approximately):

38. What is the statewide average caseload (including new and ongoing cases) for Investigators/Caseworkers?

50

39. Is the statewide average caseload per caseworker/investigators an increase or decrease over the past 5 years?

Increase

60. 39a) If increase, by what percentage (approximately):

90

61. 39b) If decrease, by what percentage (approximately):

40. If the program is state-administered, what is the average ratio (e.g. 1:10) of:

Supervisors to Investigators/Caseworkers : 1:6

41. Does your state law mandate reporting of suspected adult abuse to APS?

Yes

64. 41a) If yes, is reporting mandated for:

Vulnerable adults aged 18 – 59 only

65. 41b) If yes, in your state, who is a mandated reporter?

Social Services

Law Enforcement

Disability services providers

Government employees

Health care professionals

Veterinarians

5. Case Level APS Data Collected Statewide

42. Does your state have an automated (computerized) data system for APS?

Yes

43. Does county (or local) case level data feed into the state data system?

Yes

44. Which of the following pieces of data do you collect at the state level (check all that apply)?

Number of reports

Individual allegations

Reporter type (family, neighbor, social worker, etc.)

Victim age

Victim gender

Victim Ethnicity

Victim's residence type (home; senior housing; assisted living; board and care; foster care; nursing home, etc.)

Relationship of victim to abuser

Abuser age

Abuser gender

Abuser relationship to victim

Risk assessment

Days case remains open

Reason for case closure

45. Please check all assessment tools used: (check all that apply)

State specific tool

46. If automated, what type of data system does your state use?

Built by state personnel

71. 46a) If purchased, from what company?

47. Is the data system APS only or integrated with other systems

APS only

73. 47a) If integrated, is it with:

48. Does the system keep track of all reports/cases involving the same client over time?

Yes

49. How recently did you adopt your automated data system?

more than 10 years ago

50. Is your automated data system web based?

No

51. Does your automated data system allow for case notes?

Yes

6. Training Information

52. APS-Specific training is required by:

	Investigator/Caseworker	Supervisor
Statute		
State Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Local Policy		
Not Required		
Other (explain):		

53. How much pre-service (new worker) APS-specific training is provided for investigators/caseworkers?

4 weeks/160 hours

54. What type of content is provided in APS-specific training (check all that apply)?

Policy

Intake

Investigations

Casework

Worker Safety

Communications/interviewing

Legal issues

Disabilities Information

Other (describe): Basic Investigation training, sexual assault investigations, criminal statutes, crime scene preservation, taking and logging photos, injury recognition, agency cross training - APS, disability services, law enforcement, crime lab, district attorneys, SANE, etc..

55. How much in-service (existing staff) training is provided for investigators/caseworkers per year?

Less than one week (number of hours): 15

82. 55a) What content does APS-specific In-services training include (check all that apply)?

Policy

Intake

Investigations
 Case Management
 Data Systems
 Documentation
 Assessing capacity/competency
 Worker Safety
 Communications/interviewing
 Legal issues
 Disabilities Information
 Other (describe): current issues

56. Does your program provide training for APS supervisors?

No

84. 56a) If yes, What content does APS-specific supervisor training include (check all that apply)?

57. How is the majority of your APS training provided?

If more than one method is used to train, please check all the methods that apply (e.g. classroom and online)

	Investigator/Caseworker (Pre-Hire, pre-service)	Investigator/Caseworker (Ongoing, in-service)_	Supervisor
Directly by APS Program Staff	✓	✓	✓
Via contract with University or other entity*			
In a classroom	✓	✓	✓
Online (e-learning)	✓	✓	✓
On the Job	✓	✓	✓
Other**	✓	✓	✓

58. Specify

**other : Other state and provider agencies

59. Do you have APS specific/dedicated trainers?

Yes, on staff

60. Is there a certification process?

Yes, for investigators/caseworkers

Yes, for supervisors

89. 60a) If yes, is certification based on testing?

No

61. What is the annual training budget?

Total : \$2,500

7. Multidisciplinary Teams

62. Does APS participate on multi-disciplinary teams?

Yes

92. 62a) How many multi-disciplinary teams within the state does APS participate in (estimated)?

40+

93. 62b) Are multi-disciplinary teams required by:

State policy

94. 62c) How are multi-disciplinary teams funded?

Not funded

95. 62d) If multi-disciplinary teams receive federal funding, please check all that apply:

96. 62e) What organizations/professionals regularly participate in multi-disciplinary teams?

Law Enforcement

Legal/Courts/Criminal Justice

Medical

Mental Health

Developmental Disabilities

Varies according to the cases under review

97. 62f) What is the purpose of this multi-disciplinary work?

other (describe): Investigations and protective services

63. Are there elder fatality review teams in place in your state?

99. 63a) If yes, please provide the locations and contact information for the primary coordinator, if available.

64. Has your program executed agreements to facilitate cross-county, cross-state or interagency cooperation?

Yes

101. 64a) What form of agreements has your program entered into (check all that apply)?

inter-county cooperative agreements

inter-agency cooperative agreements (specify agency): APS, Disability Agencies, State Police, District Attorneys

65. How much of a barrier are confidentiality restrictions to multi-disciplinary and interagency work?

Previously a barrier but we were able to overcome it

66. Is APS required to report cases to law enforcement?

Yes

104. 66a) If yes, in which cases do you report to law enforcement?

Cases upon being reported where there is indication of criminal activity

67. Does your state have an APS abuser registry?

No

106. 67a) If yes, is the abuser registry required by state statute?

107. 67b) If yes, is the abuser registry:

108. 67c) other registries

109. 67d) What is the annual budget for the registry?

110. 67e) Who can be contacted for more information about the registry?

111. 67f) What due process does APS afford the alleged perpetrator and victim?

Perpetrators Victims

Notification of allegations		
Notification of substantiation decision		
Right to appeal		
Hearing		
Other		

112. 67g) If other, please describe:

68. Has your APS program conducted any broad-based, multi-faceted public awareness campaigns (e.g., billboards, public service announcements, etc. – not just program brochures)?

Yes, APS Program Campaign

114. 68a) If yes, do you have any World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) materials or activities developed?

No

115. 68b) If yes, please provide contact information for the person we can follow-up with to learn more information:

69. If your state published an annual APS report, please provide a link:

8. Open Ended

70. What are the three biggest improvements your APS program has implemented in the past five years?

1. Digitized case files 2. Streamlined investigation process 3. Strengthened relationship with partners including law enforcement, district attorneys, disabilities agencies, SANE, self-advocates, etc... 4. Created and provide training to persons with disabilities, law enforcement, medical community and providers

71. What are the three biggest challenges facing APS in your state?

1. Funding resulting in lack of staffing and resources 2. Excessive caseloads 3. Overdue cases 4. Training funding

72. Is there anything you want to tell us about your APS Program which we failed to ask?

Response Location

Region:	United States
Region:	MA
City:	Boston
Postal Code:	02101
Long & Lat:	Lat: 42.342499, Long:- 71.067703