

# State of Adult Protective Services Baseline Assessment - 2012

Response ID: 161 Data

## 1. State of Adult Protection Services Baseline Assessment

### 1. Respondent Information

Name of person completing this assessment : Greg Brockmeier  
Title of person completing this assessment : Program Specialist  
State : Nebraska  
Email Address : greg.brockmeier@nebraska.gov  
Telephone Number : 402-471-9160

### 2. APS Administrator Information

Name : Sherri Haber  
Title : Administrator  
Email Address : sherri.haber@nebraska.gov  
Telephone Number : 402-471-7989

### 3. Where is your APS Program administratively located?

Is one program in a larger state agency

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

The APS program is located within the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Children and Family Services.

### 4. To whom does the APS Administrator report?

A subordinate of the above named agency director

### 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	3
State Training Staff	0
Supervisors	6
Investigators/Caseworkers	29
Intake Staff	32
IT Staff	1
Legal Staff	1
Other	

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

Increase

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

10

**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		✓	
State Training Staff			✓
Supervisors		✓	
Investigators/Caseworkers	✓		
Case Workers			
Intake Staff		✓	
IT Staff		✓	
Legal Staff		✓	
Other			

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

CPS

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

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

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

	Yes	No
Smart phones (iPhone, Blackberry, Android)		✓
Cell phones (phone only)	✓	
Laptops or tablet PCs		✓
State vehicles to use for work	✓	

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

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

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

No

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

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

Name : Sherri Haber

Title : Administrator

Email : sherri.haber.nebraska.gov

Phone : 402-471-7989

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

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

14. If other, please specify:

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

No

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)?

No

## 2. Scope of APS

17. What is the age range for eligible clients?

18+

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):

Nursing Homes

Community Settings

Assisted Living Settings

Care Homes/Board Homes

State Developmental Disability Facilities  
State Mental Illness Facilities  
Other (specify): All reports of abuse of vulnerable adults

**19. Does APS petition for guardianship in your state?**

No

**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)?**

Yes

**23. Do you accept reports 24 hours a day?**

Yes

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

Staffed  
Leave message

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

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

No

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

Other (explain): 8 hours

**25. Are investigation time frames triaged depending on allegations?**

If Yes, describe:: Prioritized based on severity of allegations and risk of harm.

**26. Must APS complete investigations within a certain timeframe?**

Yes, 60 days

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

Yes, other (explain): 180 days with an optional extension of another 180 days.

**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			
Other			

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		\$100,000							
County*									
Other (describe)									
Other									
TOTAL		\$100,000							
Amount over or under previous year. Indicate under with a minus sign.		0							

31. Please provide any additional budgetary information:

The \$100,000 SSBG funds is the only funding for APS to pay for services for clients.

### 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	1481	919	2400
Physical Abuse	634	679	1313
Emotional Abuse	NA	NA	NA
Sexual Abuse	79	172	251
Neglect by others	1921	1227	3148
Financial abuse	1151	679	1619
Other abuse (describe below)			
Total	5266	3465	8731

**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):**

100

**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	181	94	275
Physical Abuse	8	49	57
Emotional Abuse	NA	NA	NA
Sexual Abuse	1	7	8
Neglect by others	62	28	90
Financial abuse	56	21	77
Other abuse (describe below)			
Total			

**36. If other, please describe:**

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

Decrease

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

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

30

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

**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):**

20

**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 : 1:5

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

Yes

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

All vulnerable adults aged 18+

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

Social Services

Law Enforcement

Aging services providers

Disability services providers

Health care professionals

Other (describe): Mental Health Professionals; Caregivers or Employees of Caregivers; Owners, Operators, or Employees of DHHS Licensed Facilities; Human Services Professionals or Paraprofessionals

## 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

Days case remains open

Reason for case closure

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

MMSE (Mini-Mental Status Exam)

SLUMS (Saint Louis University mental status examination)

SPMSQ (Short Portable Mental Status Questionnaire)

GDS (Geriatric Depression Scale)

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

Integrated with other systems

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

Child Protective Services

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?

6-9 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		
Local Policy		
Not Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (explain):		

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

1 week/40 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

Aging Process

Disabilities Information



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

Less than one week (number of hours): 24 hours

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

- Policy
- Intake
- Investigations
- Data Systems
- Documentation
- Communications/interviewing
- Legal issues
- Disabilities Information

**56. Does your program provide training for APS supervisors?**

Yes, APS supervisors attend supervisor training that is not specific to APS

**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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Via contract with University or other entity*			
In a classroom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online (e-learning)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
On the Job	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other**			

**58. Specify**

**59. Do you have APS specific/dedicated trainers?**

No

**60. Is there a certification process?**

No

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

**61. What is the annual training budget?**

Total : \$0

**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)?**

5

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

Not required

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

Not funded

Federal funds

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

Older Americans Act

Violence Against Women Act (DOJ)

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

Law Enforcement

Legal/Courts/Criminal Justice

Domestic Violence

Other (Describe): Elder Rights Groups; Senior Medicaid Patrol

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

case reviews (financial abuse, for example)

public awareness

training

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

No

**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?**

No

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

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

Moderately significant barrier

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

Yes

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

All cases upon being reported to APS (cross-reporting)

Cases upon being reported where there is indication of criminal activity

Substantiated cases with evidence of criminal activity

**67. Does your state have an APS abuser registry?**

Yes, operated by APS

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

Yes

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

Integrated with other registries

For all abusers (family, paid employees, etc)

Required to be checked by home health care agencies, long term care facilities, etc. before hiring

**108. 67c) other registries**

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

\$0

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

Name : Greg Brockmeier

Email : greg.brockmeier@nebraska.gov

Phone : 402-471-9160

**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, campaign done with other agencies (e.g. an elder abuse coalition)

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

Yes

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

Name : Julie Hippen

Title : Program Specialist

Phone : 402-471-1731

Email : julie.hippen@nebraska.gov

**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. Improvements in the training of new APS workers. 2. Improvements in the electronic case management system. 3. Public Awareness/Outreach and Mandatory reporter training.

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

1. Quality of documentation. 2. Limited funding for training, quality assurance, and direct services. 3. Outdated policy and procedures and difficulty in locating research/evidence based practices and resources.

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

NebraskaAPS found the training modules developed so far by NAPSA and the Academy for Professional Excellence for NAPSA's core competencies to be extremely useful and looks forward to the completion of more of the modules. APS in Nebraska is also anticipating the information and support that the APS resource center will be able to provide.

## Response Location

<b>Region:</b>	United States
<b>Region:</b>	NE
<b>City:</b>	La Vista
<b>Postal Code:</b>	68128
<b>Long &amp; Lat:</b>	Lat: 41.176498, Long:-96.061302