

APS Success Stories

(January 30, 2012)

Success #1:

APS recently collaborated with the Sedgwick County Sherriff's office, Animal Control, Hoarding Task Force, KETCH, Mid Kansas Senior Outreach, Fire Department and County Compliance Office on a case involving a family that APS had had repeated reports on involving neglect and self-neglect issues. This family had four adults living in the home and all were on disability. However, the major concern was the welfare of the elderly grandmother and a son with a development disability. Up to this point, the family had not allowed SRS past the front door. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responded to a call to find the elderly woman semi-conscious. She was taken to a local hospital and admitted. EMS contacted the Sherriff's office about the condition of the home and the state they found the elderly woman in as well as the neglected animals in the home. The family was also known to the sheriff's office and code enforcement. Like APS, the sheriff's office was also unable to gain entry into home as family. A meeting was called with all agencies that have had been in contact with this family. A search warrant was issued to rescue the neglected animals. Once access was gained to the home by the sheriff's office and SRS, as reported, the home was filled with trash, feces and rodents. Due to the collaboration of all these agencies, APS is now seeking guardianship of the elderly lady who is currently in a nursing home. The adult with the developmental disabilities agreed to go to a residential placement. As far as the other two adults in the home, charges may be filed on them for violating their court order with the county on the number of animals they were allowed to have and mistreatment of the dependent adults in their care.

Success #2:

A man who was disabled had been recently kicked out of a trailer in his brother's back yard. This trailer had no propane or electricity. APS emergency funds were used to temporarily house him in a motel until a more permanent plan could be made. The client had a sister in Topeka area but he wasn't able to go live with her. The APS social worker called the Topeka Rescue Mission and explained the situation. Having family in Topeka area made him eligible to be accepted to be temporarily housed in the homeless shelter. Through their emergency funds, APS was able to buy him a bus ticket to Topeka. Since his move to Topeka, he has twice been in contact with the social worker: Once to tell her that he loved it there at the shelter and he was going to get to visit his sister. The second time he called and told the social worker that he had received his SSI but he was going to stay at the Rescue Mission a little while longer and save up his money for his own place. He had been working at the shelter earning points and he was taking some classes. If he completed everything they would help him find an apartment and get furniture. He thanked the social worker for the help and told her how grateful he was.

Success #3

APS supervisor received a call from Mental Health Association regarding a 78 year old woman. This elderly woman had been in a meeting with her insurance agent and informed him that she was in fear of her life and safety in the home. The insurance agent had her pack a few things and he took her to his office and started making calls to agencies for help. The client had been living with her granddaughter, granddaughter's boyfriend and their two children. Once the client moved in with them, she was responsible for paying the rent and utilities from her check. The boyfriend lost his job and the granddaughter was not working. The client stated the boyfriend had taken her car and would not allow

her drive. Whenever she wanted to go somewhere he would always drive her. He told her if she tried to leave, he would remove the wheels off the car. He was also verbally abusive and would punch holes in the wall to scare her. The granddaughter would yell and scream at her. The Mental Health Association staff called the APS supervisor, and the SRS Social Worker was asked to make immediate contact with client. An intake had not been made at this point but it was felt client needed help because the client had nowhere to go. Her daughter lived in El Dorado but client stated she did not feel she would be safe there. The client had a son who lived in Minnesota and he was contacted about the events that had taken place. He was willing to drive to Wichita to assist his mother. This also happened to be the 4th of July weekend. The social worker was able to work with the Mental Health Association staff in locating a hotel for the client to temporarily stay until her son from Minnesota arrived. The client is diabetic and also needed her insulin and food. SRS' Economic and Employment Supports was contacted and they were able to assist her with food vouchers. The client was provided 2 Dillon's gift certificates of \$25.00 each for client to purchase needed items. Law enforcement escorted the client back to her granddaughter's home to gather her belongings and medications. The client's son arrived over the weekend and moved his mother to Minnesota. In this case a fellow citizen took action to protect the welfare of an adult at risk. Community agencies worked together to take care of her immediate need for temporary housing and a safety. APS was able to reach out to internal partners for assistance in meeting need for food.