Goshen County Adult Protection Services (APS) Case Reviews

The Wyoming Citizen Review Panel reviewed three APS cases in Goshen County on November 18th, 2014. The cases represented one current case, one closed case and one developmental disabilities case which remains open. The APS caseworker covers the four counties in district 8.

**Goshen –APS-001**

A 43 year old man with a traumatic brain injury who took too much of his medications resulting in a visit to the emergency room. As a result of the overdose, the man experienced a possible seizure. DFS was notified by the hospital due to a safety concern. Two contacts were made by the caseworker. He was given resources for public health nursing for medicine management, senior center and the senior friendship center for transportation. There were also a referral to public housing as he was wanting to relocate to Cheyenne.

The case is still open however the caseworker is unable to locate the individual.

**Goshen –APS-002**

A 46 year old male schizophrenic who had erratic behavior which was concerning to his landlord who notified DFS.

The client was provided a referral to Peak Wellness Center where he was already a current client. Client was stabilized with medical intervention and the case was closed.

During a phone interview, the client reported that he was satisfied with services from DFS and felt he was treated well.

**Goshen –APS-003**

A 19 year old with developmental disabilities who was reported to not be complying with his educational plan. DFS and law enforcement was notified of possible inappropriate behaviors with a minor. Law enforcement and the County Attorney’s office felt there was no justification for an arrest. Client does not qualify for residential placement.

Resources were provided to the client including a referral to Diversified Services, Inc., Peak Wellness, case management at the waiver program, and law enforcement. All resources available are being utilized. Case remains open.

After talking to mother of the client, she is satisfied with the APS caseworker and is relieved that they are involved.

**Strengths**

1. It is reported that the APS case worker supports staff in the four counties of District 8. This is reported to provide consistency with case management of adult clients in District 8.
2. Clients and family members report being satisfied with services. Case management was supportive and referrals to community resources were helpful to address immediate concerns.
3. Caseworkers are utilizing available resources in the community to support clients. Caseworkers appear to have knowledge of the community resources as well as resources outside of the immediate area that could be of assistance.
4. Case files contained the necessary documentation and were easy to locate the necessary information.
5. The adult protection team is active in Goshen County.

**Opportunities for Growth**

1. There is a lack of understanding in the community related to the capacity for DFS to intervene in adult protection cases.
2. There is lack of understanding in the community about financial exploitation and how to best serve individuals who have been exploited.
3. Due to the aging population, there is a need for additional staffing specific the adult protection.
4. There are a lack of resources to support adults with developmental disabilities. It is difficult to assist individuals who need assistance but have the “capacity” to decline services. This is further complicated by determination of capacity when individuals move from the child to adult system of services.

**Recommendations**

1. It is recommended that the state continue to support efforts to educate communities about the role of DFS in adult protection. It is imperative that community stakeholders have an understanding how the restrictions that DFS experiences when working with adults.
2. It is recommended that an individual from the banking community be invited to join the adult protection team. The Cody DFS office has a model program related to financial exploitation which would be beneficial for this office to investigate.
3. It is essential that DFS continue to monitor the trends for adult protection due to the aging population to ensure adequate staffing to meet the needs of the community.
4. It is recommended that the state DFS office continues to investigate options to best meet the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and work with other agencies/organizations to accomplish this goal.