



INDIANA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Prosecutors Address Needs of Indiana's Endangered Adults

INDIANAPOLIS (September 16, 2015) – Three Indiana prosecutors addressed the legislature's Interim Study Committee on Corrections and Criminal Code concerning protection of endangered adults.

Today in Indiana, the state is divided into 18 multiple-county hub Adult Protection Services units led by one prosecuting attorney in each hub. Hub prosecutors Karen Richards of Allen County, Chris Gaal of Monroe County and Patrick Harrington of Tippecanoe County described the services they provide, as well as the needs of endangered adults that could be better met with sufficient staff, including additional investigators, data intake clerks, follow-up monitors and deputy prosecutors.

"Indiana is in a unique position," said Allen County's Karen Richards, "because prosecuting attorneys run Adult Protection Services hubs." The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) is the funding source for the hubs. "There are presently 27.5 investigators and 18 hubs directors – many of whom work as investigators," she said. "These individuals respond to 40,000 calls in the state, 10,000 of which calls result in a full investigation."

"The entire state's budget appropriation of \$2.4 million for APS is roughly half of the amount budgeted by Marion County for animal care and control (\$4.2 million)," she said.

Added Monroe County's Chris Gaal, "Indiana's APS program is overworked, understaffed and underfunded." He listed four areas that need to be addressed to meet APS needs in the state:

- Insufficient staff, particularly investigators who serve as APS' "boots on the ground."
- Lack of services for emergency placement of endangered adults.
- Lack of uniformity in response to needs, some of which would be solved by a standard operating procedure training manual once adequate staff resources are in place.
- No built-in potential for growth of services that will be required by the approaching "silver tsunami" as today's baby boomers age.

Patrick Harrington of Tippecanoe County testified, "This is the generation that trusts people and this makes them a victim of those who would take advantage." Additional needs are access to psychiatrists, assisted living facilities and training across agencies. He also urged that a permanent study committee on adult protection services be formed to create 1, 3 and 5-year budget plans and to review budget needs prior to each legislative budget session.

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About the Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council: The IPAC is a non-partisan, independent state judicial branch that supports Indiana's 91 prosecuting attorneys and their chief deputies. It is governed by a 10-member board of directors of elected prosecuting attorneys. The IPAC assists prosecuting attorneys in the preparation of manuals, legal research and training seminars. It serves as a liaison to local, state, and federal agencies, study commissions, and community groups in an effort to support law enforcement and promote the fair administration of justice.