

Bill creates stricter reporting laws for mistreatment of the elderly

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

With recent changes being made in the Adult Protection Services program, approximately 40 people representing law enforcement, school districts, healthcare and social services attended a meeting to discuss how the changes impact the community. The meeting was held Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 20 at the Phillips County Event Center.

Peggy Rogers, manager of the Department of Human Services Adult Protection and Financial Assistance out of Denver, led the meeting.

A Senate bill signed in May essentially did three things: created mandatory reporting for adults at risk of abuse, caretaker neglect or exploitation within 24 hours of discovery; gave money to create a new risk management system for APS caseworkers across the state to input case information; and gave counties new money for clients and for staff.

At the beginning of July, \$2.7 million was allocated to Colorado counties based on amount of caseload work for the purpose to hire new staff. Several workers across the state are experiencing large caseloads. The national recommended average caseload for an APS worker is around 25 cases, while some workers in Colorado, especially in metro areas, have double the load.

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