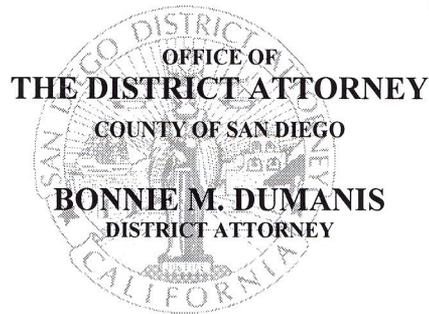


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RESPONSE TO 2010/2011 SAN DIEGO COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT

“In-Home Supportive Services: An Open Door for Abuse and Fraud”

RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury recommends that the San Diego County District Attorney:

11-28: Collaborate with the Health and Human Services Agency to form a County task force/working group consisting of representatives of the Sheriff, local police departments, Adult Protective Services, In-Home Supportive Services and other appropriate agencies to coordinate and evaluate all cases of elder and disabled abuse (neglect, physical, financial) and fraud by staff, caregivers, relatives and consumers themselves.

Response: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted.

As was correctly pointed out in the response from the San Diego County Board of Supervisors to the same recommendation (11-24), a current Memorandum of Understanding is already in place between IHSS and the District Attorney to investigate and prosecute IHSS fraud. The District Attorney is also responsible for providing fraud training for IHSS staff, which is done on an ongoing basis. Public Assistance Fraud Investigators from the District Attorney’s office, IHSS, the State Department of Health Care Services and the Program Integrity Unit meet quarterly to coordinate fraud investigation and prosecution efforts. The Program Integrity Unit has been formed in San Diego specifically to assist with fraud prevention efforts, and includes staff members from the District Attorney and Health and Human Services staff.

In addition, a working group on Elder Abuse which consists of the Deputy District Attorney in charge of the prosecution of Elder Abuse and District Attorney Investigators, Sheriff’s Elder Abuse Investigators, San Diego Police Department Detectives, Attorney General’s Office, Hospital Social Workers, Adult Protective Services, Commission on Aging, RSVP Volunteers, Local Firefighters and EMT’s, Financial Institutions and other local law enforcement (CVPD, El Cajon PD, La Mesa PD, National City PD) meets quarterly to network, provide education and roundtable potential Elder Abuse cases. At the last meeting there were 75 attendees.

Also, in response to the recommendations of the 2010/2011 San Diego County Grand Jury, the District Attorney has identified several communication lapses that have existed among agencies involved with Elder and Disabled care and agencies involved with the investigation and prosecution of abuse and/or fraud. Therefore, the District Attorney has invited representatives

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from Adult Protective Services, IHSS, SDPD, SDSD, Health and Human Services and the State Department of Health Care Services to attend a meeting at the end of this month at the District Attorney's Public Assistance Fraud facility. The purpose of this meeting will be to create a "flow chart" to assist in demonstrating the various roles of each agency and how they interact with each other. Further, this chart will include the confidentiality limitations for each agency. The chart will become a permanent teaching tool for all listed agencies.