

## For Immediate Release

August 15, 2013

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### **Kansas State Plan on Aging under Older Americans Act Receives Federal Stamp of Approval**

TOPEKA – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Secretary Shawn Sullivan announced Thursday that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Community Living has approved the agency’s State Plan on Aging under the federal Older Americans Act for federal fiscal years 2014 through 2017.

“The new State Plan on Aging for Older Americans Act services is a solid outline of where we want to go and how we want to get there,” Secretary Sullivan said. “Kansas’ population as a whole is aging, and already nearly 20 percent of Kansans are older than age 60. The programs we oversee to maintain and enhance the quality of life for older adults need to become stronger and more efficient as this trend continues.”

A key element of the new State Plan on Aging is KDADS’ ongoing reform and modernization of the state’s system of delivering long-term services and supports, which includes the successful implementation of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) statewide.

The ADRC is the single entry point for older adults and persons with disabilities in Kansas to connect with local experts who can help them choose a long-term care option and provide information about the long-term supports and services available in our state. A wealth of information about the ADRC is available on the KDADS website, [www.kdads.ks.gov](http://www.kdads.ks.gov).

Other Kansas priorities reflected in the plan include improving person-directed options for care and services, promoting the availability of a wide array of high-quality services and supports, and helping Kansans to enjoy healthier, more active lives through education, prevention and intervention. The plan also puts emphasis on defending seniors’ rights and reducing abuse, neglect and exploitation.

“This new plan focuses on ways to empower older adults and family caregivers in obtaining the appropriate supports needed to maintain independence,” said KDADS Aging Commissioner Craig Kaberline. “The plan was developed in consultation with a variety of stakeholders across the state including seniors, advocacy groups and care providers. I believe it will serve Kansas well over the next four years.”

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*The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services’ mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence, while providing the right care at the right time in a place called home.*