

For Immediate Release

June 23, 2014

For more information, contact:

Angela de Rocha
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
785-806-7482

KDADS' Senior Medicare Patrol Awarded Grant to Continue Training and Outreach Efforts

TOPEKA – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging has awarded the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) a one-year grant of \$168,277 to continue its Kansas Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) program outreach and training efforts.

The Kansas SMP project educates Kansas Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries and others about health care billing errors, fraud, abuse and consumer scams.

“The Senior Medicare Patrol helps seniors learn how to recognize and report these kinds of crimes. Older adults need to be aware of the risks and know the signs that indicate someone is trying to scam them,” KDADS Secretary Kari Bruffett said. “If you know what to be on the lookout for, criminals can’t take advantage. If something doesn’t pass the smell test, report it.”

KDADS collaborates with local groups to recruit individuals and train them as volunteer educators. Currently there are about 40 volunteers working out of 10 community organizations across the State of Kansas. Together with their partner organizations, these volunteers make up a statewide network of fraud experts who educate beneficiaries and other members of the community. The trained volunteers give presentations, provide individual assistance and participate in health and senior fairs in their communities.

Fraud occurs when individuals, providers or organizations deliberately deceive others in order to gain some sort of unauthorized benefit or service. Medicare and Medicaid fraud generally involves deliberately billing for services that were not received or billing for a service at a higher rate than authorized. Health care abuse occurs when providers supply services or products that are not medically necessary or that do not meet professional standards.

Examples of fraud and abuse include:

- Billing Medicare for services not received or needed
- Providers representing themselves as being part of, or endorsed by the federal or state government
- Overcharging for services and equipment/incorrect billing, such as billing for a more expensive procedure than the one provided
- Using someone else's Medicare identification number
- False claims
- Offering free services or equipment then charging Medicare for what was provided

To find out more about the Kansas Senior Medicare Patrol program call 785-296-0377 or 800-860-5260.

To report suspected cases of Medicaid fraud or abuse, please call the Kansas Attorney General's office at 866-551-6328 or 785-368-6220.

More information on specific kinds of fraud is available at:

http://www.kdads.ks.gov/SeniorServices/SMP/smp_index.html.

###

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.