As indicated in Section 473.2 of the Social Services Law and Section 457.7 of Department regulations, the delivery of PSA requires the coordination and utilization of community resources. These resources, including personnel from medical, psychiatric, nursing, legal and law enforcement groups, public service agencies, advocacy groups, church councils and other public and private service agencies, constitute the PSA service delivery network. The Department has recently implemented several initiatives to support the provision of PSA as a community-based service responsibility. These initiatives have included the development of model service delivery agreements with other providers such as the Office for Aging and agencies serving mentally retarded or developmentally disabled adults. Efforts are underway to develop working protocols with police agencies and district attorney's offices. We have also developed training courses that focus on the linkage between PSA and other community service providers. This year we are providing joint training for staff from the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) and PSA concerning issues of mutual interest. We are also developing model training materials for hospital-based staff on the issue of adult abuse and neglect.

We hope that these efforts to educate other service providers have resulted in an increase in appropriate referrals and improved coordination among agencies providing services to impaired adults. To assist us in evaluating
the impact of these initiatives and to gather information to plan for future interagency initiatives, the Office of Housing and Adult Services will be sending, under separate cover, a brief survey form to the Director of Services in each district. Your cooperation in this effort will be appreciated. If there are any questions regarding the survey, your staff may contact Kathleen Crowe at 518-432-2985 or OFISlink USERID ROF017.

Frank Puig
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Services and Community Development