



Presentation to the House Committee on Human Services

Health and Human Services Commission

June 23, 2004



TEXAS

Health and Human
Services Commission

Governor's Executive Order on Adult Protective Services

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Overview of Governor's Executive Order

- Executive Order RP33 was issued on April 14, 2004, in response to reports in the El Paso area that indicated serious fundamental and systemic problems within the APS program.
 - The order directs the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) to oversee the systemic reform of the APS program of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).
 - Specific actions and outcomes required under executive order:
 - Systemic reform;
 - Administrative & organizational reform;
 - Review of case files;
 - Increased use of technology;
 - Partnering with law enforcement & local communities; and
 - Review of statutes.

HHSC Response

- In mid-April 2004, HHSC deployed a team to El Paso to begin case reviews of more than 1200 cases involving 200 clients.
 - The case review focused on cases with referrals in the last two years and that had more than three total referrals to APS.
- HHSC also began an examination of operational, policy, and other aspects of the APS program.
- On May 19, 2004, HHSC produced a 30-day preliminary findings report.
- Pursuant to RP33, HHSC will issue a 90-day report and a final 180-day report.

Preliminary Findings

- The report indicated serious deficiencies exist in most all aspects of the APS program.
- Findings in initial report are preliminary and contain recommendations for immediate corrective action.
- Subsequent reports will address additional findings, review other areas of the state reporting similar issues, and contain more comprehensive recommendations.
- Recommendations in subsequent reports are likely to be longer-term solutions and may include recommendations for statutory changes.

Current Activities

- HHSC has established workgroups of stakeholders to further evaluate and make recommendations on specific areas of the APS program.
- The findings and recommendations of these workgroups will be included in the 90-day report to the Governor.
- The workgroups will focus on the following four areas for review:
 - **Program review**
 - Implementing new technological tools
 - Reviewing staffing
 - Re-evaluating resource allocation
 - Records retention requirements

Current Activities

➤ Policy review

- Training needs
- Development of a new assessment tool

➤ Community relations review

- Law enforcement
- Courts
- Advocates
- Community

➤ Case review

- El Paso (completed)
- Ft. Worth (began on June 14th)
- Statewide (to begin on July 7th)