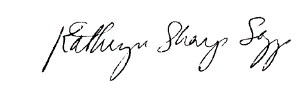
APS-19-04

June 3, 2019

**MEMORANDUM FOR DIVISION OF SENIOR & DISABILITY SERVICES**

**ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES STAFF**

From: Kathryn Sharp Sapp, Bureau Chief 

Division of Senior and Disability Services

Bureau of Policy & Staff Development

Subject: Suicide Prevention

An enhancement to the Adult Protective Services (APS) Policy manual has been made to include a policy on suicide prevention. Suicide is a major public health concern and is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States. Given the prevalence of the concern, there is a great likelihood that suicide has touched the lives of staff in some way, whether it be professionally or personally. For this reason, DSDS has developed a policy and is currently offering a training on suicide prevention so that staff are better equipped to assist clients, co-workers, and even loved ones who are struggling and contemplating suicide.

Suicide is preventable and there are multiple treatments available. Knowing the risk factors, what to look for, and how to talk about it has the potential to save lives. The suicide prevention policy directs staff to ask questions and ensure assistance is provided when suicidal behaviors or statements are identified. This includes those we serve as well as coworkers. The safety and wellbeing of staff and clients are the foundation of DSDS’ mission.

**NECESSARY ACTION:**

1. Review this memorandum with all APS staff.
2. Review new chapter 1705.60: Suicide Prevention
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: Amanda Veltrop at [APSPolicy@health.mo.gov](mailto:APSPolicy@health.mo.gov) or by calling 573-526-5391.

**APS Manual Revisions:**

1. APS Policy 1705.60: Suicide Prevention – New