

**HB**

**279**



*Alaska State Legislature*  
Representative Andrea Doll  
*House District 4*

**Sponsor Statement**  
**HB 279 Commission on Aging Duties and Powers**

House Bill 279 conforms the statutory duties and powers of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) with existing conditions.

In 2003, Governor Murkowski issued Executive Order #108 which moved the ACoA from the Department of Administration to the Department of Health and Social Services. Several functional changes, including ACoA's grant-making authority, were also modified in the executive order.

In 2007, ACoA went through a Legislative Audit sunset review. As part of that review, the auditors recommended amending the statute to conform with the conditions set forth in XO 108.

The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) consists of eleven member including three commissioners, the chair of the Pioneers' Homes Advisory Board and seven public members appointed by the governor. Six of seven public members must be older Alaskans, and all serve four year terms. The commission is staffed by an executive director with a staff of three. ACoA advocates for state policy, public and private partnerships, and citizen involvement to better enable Alaskans to age successfully in our homes, in our communities or as near as possible to our communities and families. The commission works to ensure that seniors live with dignity and respect and have an opportunity to receive services to promote and enhance their physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional health.

The Commission was established under AS 44.21.200 in 1982 and is now housed in the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services. The ACoA collaborates with the Department, provider agencies and the public to develop the Alaska's State Plan for Services as well as funding formulas to allocate pass-thru grant funds received from the federal government. The ACoA also collaborates with the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for project and program development, and makes funding recommendations as required by Alaska Statutes.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## LEGISLATIVE BUDGET AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Division of Legislative Audit



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July 3, 2007

Members of the Legislative Budget  
and Audit Committee:

In accordance with the provisions of Title 24 and Title 44 of the Alaska Statutes (sunset legislation), we have reviewed the activities of the Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA). The attached report is submitted for your review.

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING SUNSET REVIEW

July 3, 2007

Audit Control Number

06-20054-07

This sunset review was conducted as required by AS 44.66.050 and under the authority of AS 24.20.271(1). Alaska Statute 44.66.050(c) lists criteria to be used to assess the demonstrated public need for a given board, commission, agency, or program, subject to the sunset review process. Currently, under AS 44.66.010(a)(4) the commission terminates on June 30, 2008. If the legislature takes no action to extend this date, the commission would be allowed one year in which to conclude its administrative operations.

In our opinion, ACoA is helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and productive lives. We recommend the legislature adopt legislation extending ACoA's termination date to June 30, 2016.

The audit was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government audit standards. Fieldwork procedures utilized in the course of developing the findings and discussion presented in this report are discussed in Objectives, Scope, and Methodology.

Pat Davidson, CPA  
Legislative Auditor

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Objectives, Scope, and Methodology .....	1
Organization and Function .....	3
Background Information.....	5
Report Conclusions.....	7
Findings and Recommendations.....	9
Analysis of Public Need .....	11
Appendix A.....	19
Agency Response	
Department of Health and Social Services .....	31
Alaska Commission on Aging .....	33

## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The legislature should consider amending state law to reflect the Alaska Commission on Aging's (ACoA or commission) current mission.

The grant administration responsibilities for ACoA, as defined in state law,<sup>1</sup> are no longer performed by the commission; rather, these duties are now being done by the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (DSDS)

Executive Order 108 established DSDS within DHSS on July 1, 2003. This new division assumed all policy, program, and administrative responsibilities for grant administration previously performed by ACoA in the Department of Administration (DOA). Further, this executive order reestablished ACoA within DHSS. ACoA retained all the policy, program, and administrative responsibilities it had previously performed within DOA, with the exception of those grant administration functions assigned to DSDS. However, Alaska statutes were not updated to accurately reflect these changes.

The following current Alaska Statutes are not being performed by ACoA:

1. AS 47.45.240(a) *The commission shall: (7) with the approval of the commissioner of health and social services, set policy for the administration of federal programs subject to state control as provided under 42 U.S.C. 3001-30058ee (Older Americans Act, as amended); (8) with the approval of the commissioner of health and social services, set policy for the administration of federal programs as provided under AS 47.65.*
2. Sec. 47.65.010. *Older Alaskans service programs. An amount to carry out the provisions of AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 may be appropriated annually by the legislature. The amount appropriated shall be fully distributed by the Alaska Commission on Aging to sponsors of older Alaskans service programs in accordance with the provisions of AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050.*
3. Sec. 47.45.230. *Executive director.... (2) administer, with the approval of the commissioner of health and social services, federal programs subject to state control as provided under 42 U.S.C. 3001 - 3058ee (Older Americans Act), as amended; and (3) administer, with the approval of the commissioner of health and social services, state programs as provided under AS 47.65.*

As a result, ACoA has not accomplished some of its statutory duties and responsibilities as currently written. The ACoA chairman and DHSS commissioner should pursue changes to Alaska statutes so that they are reflective of ACoA's current role.

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<sup>1</sup> AS 47.45.24(a)(7-8), AS 47.65.010-050, and AS 47.45.230

# STATE OF ALASKA

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

## DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

P.O. BOX 110601  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0601  
PHONE: (907) 465-3030  
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October 31, 2007

The Honorable Andrea Doll  
Alaska State Representative  
State Capitol, Room 426  
Juneau, AK 99811-0601

Dear Representative Doll:

Thank you for your letter informing me of your intention to introduce legislation regarding the Alaska Commission on Aging.

It is my understanding that you will be introducing one bill to extend the commission for eight years, and another bill to implement the recommendations of the July 3, 2007 Division of Legislative Audit sunset review.

Regarding the extension, I fully agree with Legislative Audit's conclusion that ACoA "is helping older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and productive lives," and I support the recommendation to extend the termination date to June 30, 2016. I was also pleased to note that the review concluded that ACoA has emerged from the 2003 reorganization as a "respected planner, educator, and advocator for Alaska's seniors."

I have also reviewed your proposed legislation updating statutes to reflect duties no longer performed by ACoA. These duties include responsibility for grant administration, which was assigned to the Division of Senior and Disability Services in the reorganization. I would encourage you to work closely with the Division of Legislative Audit to ensure its recommendations are implemented correctly.

Sincerely,



Karleen K. Jackson, Ph.D.  
Commissioner

cc: Bill Hogan, Deputy Commissioner for Family, Community & Integrated Services  
Sherry Hill, Assistant Commissioner for Public Affairs  
Wilda Laughlin, Special Assistant

1 AMENDMENT

2  
3 by Representative \_\_\_\_\_

4 on HB279/A

5 Page 4, after Lines 13-16

6  
7 delete

8 Sec. 47.45.230. Executive director. The executive director of the commission  
9 shall assist the department with the formulation of

10 [(1) FORMULATE] a comprehensive statewide plan that identifies the  
11 concerns and needs of older Alaskans and present that plan to the commission[;

12  
13 replace with

14 Sec. 47.45.230. Executive director. The executive director of the commission  
15 shall

16 [(1)] formulate and submit to the department a comprehensive statewide  
17 plan that identifies the concerns and needs of older Alaskans and present that plan to the  
18 commission[;

**CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 279(HES)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Offered:**

**Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES DOLL AND KERTTULA**

*Adm*

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the duties and powers of the Alaska Commission on Aging and the**  
2 **Department of Health and Social Services."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **\* Section 1.** AS 47.05.010 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 47.05.010. Duties of department.** The Department of Health and Social  
6 Services shall

7 (1) administer adult public assistance, the Alaska temporary assistance  
8 program, and all other assistance programs, and receive and spend money made  
9 available to it;

10 (2) adopt regulations necessary for the conduct of its business and for  
11 carrying out federal and state laws granting adult public assistance, temporary cash  
12 assistance, diversion payments, or self-sufficiency services for needy families under  
13 the Alaska temporary assistance program, and other assistance;

14 (3) establish minimum standards for personnel employed by the

1 department and adopt necessary regulations to maintain those standards;

2 (4) require those bonds and undertakings from persons employed by it  
3 that, [WHICH] in its judgment, are necessary, and pay the premiums on them;

4 (5) cooperate with the federal government in matters of mutual  
5 concern pertaining to adult public assistance, the Alaska temporary assistance  
6 program, and other forms of public assistance;

7 (6) make the reports, in the form and containing the information, that  
8 the federal government from time to time requires;

9 (7) cooperate with the federal government, its agencies, or  
10 instrumentalities in establishing, extending, and strengthening services for the  
11 protection and care of homeless, dependent, and neglected children in danger of  
12 becoming delinquent, and receive and expend funds available to the department by the  
13 federal government, the state, or its political subdivisions for that purpose;

14 (8) cooperate with the federal government in adopting state plans to  
15 make the state eligible for federal matching in appropriate categories of assistance, and  
16 in all matters of mutual concern, including adoption of the methods of administration  
17 that are found by the federal government to be necessary for the efficient operation of  
18 welfare programs;

19 (9) adopt regulations, not inconsistent with law, defining need,  
20 prescribing the conditions of eligibility for assistance, and establishing standards for  
21 determining the amount of assistance that an eligible person is entitled to receive; the  
22 amount of the assistance is sufficient when, added to all other income and resources  
23 available to an individual, it provides the individual with a reasonable subsistence  
24 compatible with health and well-being; an individual who meets the requirements for  
25 eligibility for assistance shall be granted the assistance promptly upon application for  
26 it;

27 (10) grant to a person claiming or receiving assistance and who is  
28 aggrieved because of the department's action or failure to act, reasonable notice and an  
29 opportunity for a fair hearing by the department, and the department shall adopt  
30 regulations relative to this;

31 (11) enter into reciprocal agreements with other states relative to

1 public assistance, welfare services, and institutional care that are considered advisable;

2 (12) establish the requirements of residence for public assistance,  
3 welfare services, and institutional care that are considered advisable, subject to the  
4 limitations of other laws of the state, or law or regulation imposed as conditions for  
5 federal financial participation;

6 (13) establish the divisions and local offices that are considered  
7 necessary or expedient to carry out a duty or authority assigned to it and appoint and  
8 employ the assistants and personnel that are necessary to carry on the work of the  
9 divisions and offices, and fix the compensation of the assistants or employees, except  
10 that a person engaged in business as a retail vendor of general merchandise, or a  
11 member of the immediate family of a person who is so engaged, may not serve as an  
12 acting, temporary, or permanent local agent of the department, unless the  
13 commissioner of health and social services certifies in writing to the governor, with  
14 relation to a particular community, that no other qualified person is available in the  
15 community to serve as local welfare agent; for the purposes of this paragraph, a  
16 "member of the immediate family" includes a spouse, child, parent, brother, sister,  
17 parent-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law;

18 (14) provide education and health-related services and referrals  
19 designed to reduce the number of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and the number of  
20 induced pregnancy terminations in the state;

21 (15) investigate reports of abuse, neglect, or misappropriation of  
22 property by certified nurse aides in facilities licensed by the department under  
23 AS 47.32;

24 (16) establish state policy relating to and administer federal  
25 programs subject to state control as provided under 42 U.S.C. 3001 - 3058e  
26 (Older Americans Act of 1965), as amended, and related federal regulations;

27 (17) administer the older Alaskans service grants under  
28 AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 and the adult day care and family respite care grants  
29 under AS 47.65.100.

30 \* Sec. 2. AS 47.30.036 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 47.30.036. Duties of the board.** The board shall

- 1 (1) preserve and protect the trust corpus under AS 37.14.009;
- 2 (2) coordinate with other state agencies involved with programs
- 3 affecting persons in need of mental health services;
- 4 (3) review and consider the recommendations submitted under
- 5 AS 44.29.140(2), AS 47.30.666(6), AS 47.45.240(a)(8) [AS 47.45.240(a)(10)], and
- 6 AS 47.80.090(13);
- 7 (4) adopt bylaws governing its meetings, selection of officers,
- 8 proceedings, and other aspects of board procedure;
- 9 (5) make an annual written report of its activities to the governor and
- 10 the public and notify the legislature that the report is available; and
- 11 (6) fulfill its obligations under AS 47.30.046.

12 \* Sec. 3. AS 47.45.230 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 47.45.230. Executive director.** The executive director of the commission

14 shall

15 [(1)] formulate and submit to the department a comprehensive

16 statewide plan that identifies the concerns and needs of older Alaskans and present

17 that plan to the commission [;

18 (2) ADMINISTER, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE

19 COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, FEDERAL

20 PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO STATE CONTROL AS PROVIDED UNDER 42 U.S.C.

21 3001 - 3058ee (OLDER AMERICANS ACT), AS AMENDED; AND

22 (3) ADMINISTER, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE

23 COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE PROGRAMS

24 AS PROVIDED UNDER AS 47.65].

25 \* Sec. 4. AS 47.45.240(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) The commission shall

27 (1) subject to review by the department, approve a comprehensive

28 statewide plan that identifies and addresses the concerns and needs of older Alaskans

29 and, with reference to the approved plan, prepare and submit to the governor and

30 legislature an annual analysis and evaluation of the services that are provided to older

31 Alaskans;

1 (2) make recommendations directly to the governor and the legislature  
2 with respect to legislation, regulations, and appropriations for programs or services  
3 that benefit older Alaskans;

4 (3) encourage the development of municipal commissions serving  
5 older Alaskans and community-oriented programs and services for the benefit of older  
6 Alaskans;

7 (4) employ an executive director who serves at the pleasure of the  
8 commission;

9 (5) help older Alaskans lead dignified, independent, and useful lives;

10 (6) request and receive reports and audits from state agencies and local  
11 institutions concerned with the conditions and needs of older Alaskans;

12 (7) [WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF  
13 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, SET POLICY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION  
14 OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO STATE CONTROL AS PROVIDED  
15 UNDER 42 U.S.C. 3001 - 3058ee (OLDER AMERICANS ACT), AS AMENDED;

16 (8) WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSIONER OF  
17 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, SET POLICY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION  
18 OF STATE PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED UNDER AS 47.65;

19 (9)] give assistance, on request, to the senior housing office in the  
20 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation in administration of the senior housing loan  
21 program under AS 18.56.710 - 18.56.799 and in the performance of the office's other  
22 duties under AS 18.56.700; and

23 (8) [(10)] provide to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, for its  
24 review and consideration, recommendations concerning the integrated comprehensive  
25 mental health program for persons who are described in (d) of this section and the use  
26 of the money in the mental health trust settlement income account in a manner  
27 consistent with regulations adopted under AS 47.30.031.

28 \* Sec. 5. AS 47.45.240(b) is amended to read:

29 (b) To accomplish its duties, the commission may

30 (1) review, evaluate, and comment upon state programs concerned  
31 with the problems and the needs of older Alaskans;

1 (2) collect facts and statistics, and make studies of conditions and  
2 problems pertaining to the employment, health, housing, financial security, social  
3 welfare, and other concerns that bear upon the well-being of older Alaskans;

4 (3) provide information about public programs that would be of  
5 interest or benefit to older Alaskans;

6 (4) appoint special committees, which may include persons who are  
7 not members of the commission, to complete necessary studies;

8 (5) promote community education efforts regarding the problems and  
9 concerns of older Alaskans;

10 (6) contract for necessary services;

11 (7) consult and cooperate with persons, organizations, and groups  
12 interested in or concerned with programs of assistance to older Alaskans;

13 (8) advocate improved programs of benefit to older Alaskans; and

14 (9) recommend [SET] standards for levels of services for older  
15 Alaskans for programs administered by the department [COMMISSION; AND

16 (10) ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY FOR THE  
17 ADMINISTRATION OF AS 47.45.200 - 47.45.290 AND TO COMPLY WITH  
18 FEDERAL LAW].

19 \* Sec. 6. AS 47.45.290 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

20 (3) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services.

21 \* Sec. 7. AS 47.65.010 is amended to read:

22 **Sec. 47.65.010. Older Alaskans service programs.** An amount to carry out  
23 the provisions of AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 may be appropriated annually by the  
24 legislature. The amount appropriated shall be fully distributed by the department  
25 [ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING] to sponsors of older Alaskans service  
26 programs in accordance with the provisions of AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050.

27 \* Sec. 8. AS 47.65.020 is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 47.65.020. Grants for community service programs.** Not less than 60  
29 percent of the amount appropriated by the legislature for older Alaskans service  
30 programs under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 shall be allocated annually by the  
31 department [COMMISSION] as community program grants to sponsors of older

1 Alaskans service programs. Payments shall be made on the basis of applications  
2 submitted to the department [COMMISSION] by sponsors of community programs.

3 \* Sec. 9. AS 47.65.030 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 47.65.030. Pilot project grants.** (a) The balance of the amount  
5 appropriated for older Alaskans service programs under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 not  
6 allocated under AS 47.65.020 shall be allocated annually by the department  
7 [COMMISSION] as grants to support pilot projects for the benefit of older Alaskans  
8 under this section.

9 (b) The department [COMMISSION] shall adopt standards for pilot project  
10 grants and, after adoption of the standards as regulations, in accordance with AS 44.62  
11 (Administrative Procedure Act), shall apply the standards to determine eligibility of  
12 applicants for pilot project grants. In awarding pilot project grants, the department  
13 [COMMISSION] shall

14 (1) enter into agreements with the project sponsor to operate one or  
15 more of the selected pilot projects consistent with the standards adopted;

16 (2) monitor and evaluate, in a written report, each pilot project; the  
17 report must include

18 (A) a description of the project and of the persons served by it;

19 (B) the problems presented by the persons served by the  
20 project;

21 (C) a description of the problems most effectively handled by  
22 the project; and

23 (D) an estimate of projected cost of operation of the project for  
24 the next three succeeding years.

25 \* Sec. 10. AS 47.65.040(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) Except as provided in (f) of this section, a sponsor receiving a grant under  
27 AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 shall contribute to the total cost of the program or project.  
28 The contribution may be in cash or in-kind services. The amount of the sponsor's  
29 required contribution is determined by the application of the following formula:  
30 average per capita full and true value of all property in the municipality or community  
31 in which the project or program takes place divided by the average per capita full and

1 true value of all property in the state, and then multiplied by the contribution  
2 percentage to the estimated total program or project cost as determined by the  
3 department [COMMISSION] at the time of approval of a grant application. However,  
4 the amount of the sponsor's contribution may not amount to more than 10 percent of  
5 the total program or project cost.

6 \* Sec. 11. AS 47.65.040(c) is amended to read:

7 (c) If an application is submitted for a program or project in a municipality or  
8 community for which no average per capita full and true property value determination  
9 has been made,

10 (1) if the population of the municipality or community is 750 or more,  
11 the department [COMMISSION] shall request the state assessor to compute the  
12 average per capita full and true property value of that municipality or community and  
13 report it;

14 (2) if the population is less than 750, the department  
15 [COMMISSION] may substitute for the average per capita full and true value of  
16 property in the municipality or community an amount equal to the average per capita  
17 full and true value of property in the smallest municipality for which that amount has  
18 been determined by the state assessor.

19 \* Sec. 12. AS 47.65.040(e) is amended to read:

20 (e) The grant awarded by the department [COMMISSION] may not exceed  
21 the estimated total program or project cost as determined by the department  
22 [COMMISSION] less the contribution by the sponsor determined in accordance with  
23 this section.

24 \* Sec. 13. AS 47.65.040(f) is amended to read:

25 (f) When awarding a grant to support a pilot project under AS 47.65.010 -  
26 47.65.050, the department [COMMISSION] may waive all or part of the sponsor  
27 contribution required under this section if waiver is in the public interest. The  
28 department [COMMISSION] shall adopt regulations establishing standards for  
29 granting waivers under this subsection.

30 \* Sec. 14. AS 47.65.050 is amended to read:

31 **Sec. 47.65.050. Administrative requirements.** (a) Payments received by a

1 sponsor under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050 may be used only to meet costs of services  
2 that [WHICH] the department [COMMISSION] has determined directly benefit  
3 older Alaskans. A payment may not be made by the department [COMMISSION]  
4 under this section unless the department [COMMISSION] determines that the  
5 sponsor

6 (1) meets accepted standards of fiscal accountability for public funds;

7 (2) can demonstrate, when requested, the actual cost of services that it  
8 is providing for the benefit of older Alaskans; and

9 (3) agrees to make available, upon request, all fiscal information  
10 relating to service for which payments are provided under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050.

11 (b) The department [COMMISSION] may not make payments to a sponsor  
12 whose program includes family respite care services or home care services unless the  
13 sponsor has agreed to request criminal history record information as permitted by P.L.  
14 105-277 and AS 12.62 for the individual who will provide the services within 10  
15 business days after the individual is hired to provide the services and review the  
16 information within five business days after receiving it.

17 \* Sec. 15. AS 47.65.100(a) is amended to read:

18 (a) In addition to administering grants for adult day care programs and family  
19 respite care services for older Alaskans under AS 47.65.010 - 47.65.050, the  
20 department [COMMISSION] may make grants under this section from funds  
21 otherwise available to it for adult day care programs and family respite care services  
22 for frail older persons and other similarly disabled adults.

23 \* Sec. 16. AS 47.65.100(b) is amended to read:

24 (b) In order to fund grants under this section, the department  
25 [COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL  
26 SERVICES] may seek and enter into contracts or grants with any party, including  
27 reimbursable service agreements with other state agencies.

28 \* Sec. 17. AS 47.65.100(c) is amended to read:

29 (c) The department [COMMISSION] shall, by regulation, set fees for  
30 services provided under this section. The fees must be based on a sliding scale formula  
31 that takes into account the client's income.

1 \* **Sec. 18.** AS 47.65.100(e) is amended to read:

2 (e) The department [COMMISSION] may not award a grant under this  
3 section for family respite care services or for adult day care services that include home  
4 care services unless the grantee has agreed to request criminal history record  
5 information as permitted by P.L. 105-277 and AS 12.62 for the individual who will  
6 provide the services within 10 business days after the individual is hired to provide the  
7 services and review the information within five business days after receiving it.

8 \* **Sec. 19.** AS 47.65.290(3) is repealed and reenacted to read:

9 (3) "department" means the Department of Health and Social Services;