

RESPONSE FROM ARIZONA HEALTH CARE COST CONTAINMENT SYSTEM



Katie Hobbs, Governor
Carmen Heredia, Cabinet Executive Officer
and Executive Deputy Director

September 26, 2023

LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc.
2002 N Forbes Blvd Ste 108
Tucson, AZ 85745

Dear LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc.,

Pursuant to Laws 2022, Ch. 313, §55, the Arizona Auditor General was directed to engage an independent consultant to examine the current adult protective services system and consider best practices to improve the delivery of services in this state. The Arizona Auditor General hired LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc. to conduct this examination. As one of the entities providing services and facilitating the provision of services to vulnerable adults, AHCCCS was interviewed by LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc. to identify AHCCCS' role and responsibilities in the adult protective services system. AHCCCS has also reviewed excerpts of, and provided input to, the culminating final report draft, *Examining the Delivery of Services to Vulnerable Adults in the Arizona Adult Protective Services System*.

LeCroy & Milligan Associates, Inc., noted one recommendation for AHCCCS agreement in its Report; *'Recommendation 4: Continue to partner with key agencies—DES APS, AHCCCS, and ADHS should continue to find ways to partner in community engagement activities, such as Speak Up AZ!, to educate the public on recognizing and reporting signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults.'*

AHCCCS acknowledges that vulnerable populations are at increased risk of abuse and exploitation and these populations include individuals with disabilities. As relayed in the recommendation, AHCCCS agrees to continue its efforts with DES APS and ADHS to help ensure the health and safety of Arizona's most vulnerable citizens; to find ways to partner in community engagement activities to educate the public on recognizing and reporting signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults; and to foster a society that values and protects vulnerable adults in Arizona.

Sincerely,

Carmen Heredia
Cabinet Executive Officer and Executive Deputy Director

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Recommendation 4: Continue to partner with key agencies—DES APS, AHCCCS, and ADHS should continue to find ways to partner in community engagement activities, such as Speak Up AZ!, to educate the public on recognizing and reporting signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults.

Agency response: The chapter conclusion is agreed to and the audit recommendation will be implemented.

Response explanation: AHCCCS acknowledges that vulnerable populations are at increased risk of abuse and exploitation and these populations include individuals with disabilities. AHCCCS will continue its efforts with DES APS and ADHS to help ensure the health and safety of Arizona's most vulnerable citizens; to find ways to partner in community engagement activities to educate the public on recognizing and reporting signs of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults; and to foster a society that values and protects vulnerable adults in Arizona.