



In 1977, the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) was established by statute (K.S.A. 75-5901 et seq.) as a cabinet-level agency to help older adults in the state maintain their security, dignity and independence. In 1997, the Medicaid Nursing Facility Program and the Home and Community Based Services for the Frail Elderly Medicaid Waiver were transferred to KDOA from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Then on July 1, 2003, the Adult Care Home Licensure, Certification and Evaluation Program was transferred from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to KDOA.

On July 1, 2012, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) came into being as a result of Governor Sam Brownback's executive reorganization order that merged the former Department on Aging with the Disability and Behavioral Health Services Division (formerly administered by the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services) and elements of the Health Occupations Credentialing Division (formerly administered by the Department of Health and the Environment).

The agency administers services to older adults; administers behavioral health, addiction and prevention programs; manages the four state hospitals and institutions; administers the state's home- and community-based services programs under KanCare, the state's Medicaid program; and directs health occupations credentialing.

KDADS is mandated by the federal Older Americans Act (OAA) (42 U.S.C. Section 3001, et seq., as amended) to serve as the state unit on aging and administer programs under the Older Americans Act. KDADS is the state's focal point for aging information, and coordinates services to meet the needs of seniors.

KDADS' mission is to "foster an environment which; promotes security, dignity, and independence, while providing the right care, at the right time, in a place called home".

KDADS administers many of its programs through grants and contracts with providers, including the 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Each AAA serves as a designated Planning and Service Area; they not only administer federal, state and local programs, but also ensure the needs of each area are met. Each AAA has local advisory board that helps direct them to serve the community more effectively. Employees of the AAA are not state employees, but are employed by each AAA's governing body, which is either a local governmental entity or nonprofit organization.

KDADS also works with other state agencies such as the Kansas Department for Children and Families, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Kansas Insurance Department and with entities such as Kansas State University, University of Kansas, Wichita State University and other partners to maximize the variety and scope of services provided.

The goals of KDADS are to continue to deliver quality Older Americans Act services; to keep older adults and persons with disabilities at home and independent as long as possible; to keep them safe by ensuring that those who provide their care are qualified and tested; to support an integrated and coordinated Medicaid system to help those the agency serves; and to provide Kansans who need behavioral health services with appropriate care so they can live productive and fulfilling lives.