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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Sept. 5, 2014

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DHSS thanks Anchorage Police Crisis Intervention Team for advocacy *Special team helps vulnerable Alaskans in crisis*

ANCHORAGE — Alaska's Adult Protective Services unit today presented its Community Commitment Award to the Anchorage Police Department's Crisis Intervention Team for their commitment to calm, caring, effective support of Alaskans who experience mental illness.

"We give the team members our heartfelt thanks for recognizing and respecting Alaskans' dignity during times of crisis," said Duane Mayes, director of the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, which houses Adult Protective Services. "The additional specialized training they choose to take helps all of us more effectively accomplish our shared mission of keeping vulnerable adults safe."

Crisis Intervention Team officers are a resource for vulnerable adults who are clients of Adult Protective Services; clients in distress can call and know someone with special training will respond.

The award gives a special recognition to the team's coordinator, Officer Wendi Shackelford, for increasing cooperation between Anchorage Police and Adult Protective Services. All Adult Protective Services investigators attend Crisis Intervention Team training, part of which is given by Adult Protective Services managers. Shackelford has also acted as a liaison between Adult Protective Services and other officers beyond the Crisis Intervention Team.

The award was presented during a resource fair in the BP Energy Center. Speakers gave presentations on mental illness and navigating Alaska's support systems. Similar fairs are to be held later in September in Fairbanks and Juneau.

Gov. Sean Parnell has designated September as "Vulnerable Adults Month."

Please call Adult Protective Services, 269-3666 in Anchorage or 1-800-478-9996 statewide, if you believe a vulnerable adult is being harmed, exploited, neglected or is unable to care effectively for himself or herself. Call 911 if a vulnerable adult is at immediate risk. For more information, visit dhss.alaska.gov/dsds/Pages/aps.

For details on the Crisis Intervention Team, visit http://www.muni.org/Departments/police/Pages/Mental_Health.aspx

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