

## **National Background Check Program State of Kansas**

### *Program Abstract*

Kansas' criminal record check program for Long Term Care came into existence as a result of legislation passed in 1997. Since that time Kansas has been working to reduce the potential risk for its elderly and disabled people to be abused or exploited by the workers who provide their direct care. Today, the Health Occupations Credentialing (HOC) program of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) uses many of the original name-based identifiers and manual processes to conduct criminal record checks. For example, HOC utilizes a manual research method which consists of faxed and telephone correspondence with Kansas District Courts to determine the outcome of many cases. Automation and interfaces with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's "Rap Back" program would eliminate the manual process. HOC has identified that this innovation, and others, can be addressed by implementing many of the new advances developed in information technology and criminal justice over the last decade.

By using fingerprints as the personal identifier; implementing a new web-based workforce automation and registry checking system; integrating this automated background check system with the state's licensure software; and automating the use of background check information from the FBI, KBI and authorized state databases many of the identified issues will be eliminated.

By participating in the National Background Check Grant Program, Kansas background checks would become further automated and fingerprint-based. The KDADS proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requests funding to develop its upgraded, automated, multi-agency criminal background check system for long term care. **A central goal of the program is to create the Kansas National Criminal Information System (KNCIS) as a fully automated workforce and background check system that is self-sustaining, helps to maintain work force strength and, where possible, reduces the cost burden on facilities to maintain a LTC environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.**

Some of the outcomes of the proposed KNCIS include, but are not limited to: faster processing time, elimination of unnecessary costs and paper correspondence; improved program compliance; enhanced privacy and security safeguards; independent dispute/appeals process; increased accuracy of the searchable information; and providing the most up-to-date information for employers and the state.

Although the current HOC criminal record check program is well established, with the requirements and processes well known and understood by the adult care industry in Kansas, it is, nevertheless, essential that updates and changes continue to be made to provide an advanced, effective and precise system able to protect vulnerable populations at the highest standard possible.