EXHIBIT 14
DATE Fri Feb 4 2005
HB

Mr. Chairman / Madam Chairman
And Members of the Committee.

My name is Nancy Gibson and I am the Executive Director of the Belmont Senior Citizen's Center in Butte, MT.

First of all let me thank you for giving us an opportunity to tell you about Adult Protective Services in our community.

The Adult Protective Services Team, which I am a member, meets once a month. By the end of the meeting I have a sinking feeling. In the heart of Butte Montana there are adults on drugs hurting their family members, adults with disabilities that are being abused by caregivers or other persons with disabilities, mothers that are being robbed by their own children, fathers with Alzheimer's disease locked outside while their caregiver son goes to the bar. In this meeting the ugliness of Butte is exposed, now nobody likes to think his or her community has ugliness because we want our communities to be where people care for each other. And so you see at that table of the Adult Protection Team people who care and want to help the ugliness go away. Charlie Rebein came to Butte three years ago and told us we had to work together to help Butte and if you sit at that table that is exactly what you will find, service organizations working together because we have found you can do more together that you can as one individual organization.

But the truth is, while the ugliness is apart of Butte, Bill Williamson is in the heart of these ugly situations that involve adults in crisis. Bill Williamson who is Adult Protective Services in Butte Silver Bow County. Bill is known for his concern for adults who require intervention, prevention or services available in our community. Just one phone call to Bill and we know he will make a visit as soon as he can to assess the needs for that individual. For this position one must have assessment skills for while we who make the call may think the situation calls for removal from their home or a change in their living conditions, Bill sees the situation as it really is, explaining to us that these adults, if they are not in danger to themselves or others, have the right to live as they

chose. Yet if they are in danger Bill takes the steps necessary to help them get all of their needs in order.

I would also like to speak to you today about contingency funds. You see the Belmont Senior Center receives contingency funds each month for one of our employees. We have an Elder Care Specialist located at the Belmont Senior Center. When Tami started three years ago in Butte, Marsha Burnett saw a need for another person to help Bill Williamson with his heavy caseload. Therefore we sent Tami for the Adult Protective Services Training.

I wish you all could come to Butte and see what this young woman has done with this position. When we first started this position with a grant from APS we thought she would make a few house calls, sit at her desk and give information and assistance and perform ship duties like helping seniors understand their Medicare bills and perform some community education trainings.

Tami decided to make this position much more. So once she took the above trainings she took the ombudsman training. With these trainings and much footwork she is touching seniors and adults in the community where they hurt or have a fear. We asked Tami to help with the Medicare Prescription Program that all the seniors understand so well, ha! This has lead to the Belmont being inundated with seniors who do not understand the Internet, to enroll and understand what this new program is and if it will be a benefit to them.

The other day a couple came in to visit with Tami because they heard she knew about the finances of placing a loved one in the nursing home. Tami's first question was not about finances but did they tell you where to place your loved one or did you get a say in the placement? That one question empowered this couple to ask other questions about the placement of their loved one. Not only did that couple walk out of the Belmont knowing how the finances would work for a nursing home care but they were empowered to make sure their loved one received the best care.

You see Tami's job and Bill's job are not just about helping seniors, adults and persons with disabilities through difficult times but empowering them to get more information. To ask questions to live their lives with their choices not my choice or the communities choice.

APS is prevention, intervention, service and education but in Butte Montana it is Tami and Bill going into the ugly part of our community and giving those in need hope that maybe they too can leave the ugliness behind.

Please continue to allow the APS funding and the contingency funds to flow into Butte and other communities in our great state.