

Tribal Listening Session

Washington D.C.

August 8, 2000

Issue: AoA should solicit and provide an opportunity for input from Tribes regarding development of the annual program budget and budget request to Congress.

Issue: The Federal government needs to recognize the government to government relationship as stated in the Assistance Secretary's letter which quoted the President's Executive order

Issue: AoA should encourage the government to live up to and uphold treaty rights and responsibilities.

Issue: AoA should promote a better understanding of sovereignty and self-sufficiency - the burden of reporting

Issue: AoA should improve communication with the Tribes, including the timeliness of sharing information

Issue: AoA should encourage better access, less paper (Paper Reduction Act), usage of plain language which is consumer friendly, enhanced coordination and data sharing among multiple agencies.

Issue: AoA should ensure effective dissemination of information to Title VI Directors.

Issue: AoA needs to provide national training and related expenses for Title VI Programs. Additionally, on-site technical assistance should be provided to assist in avoiding unnecessary carryover.

Issue: Encourage greater attention to innovative activities and approaches to exercise, nutrition, and wellness.

Issue: Promote demonstrations on new ways to offer eldercare services without fostering dependency.

Issue: Encourage greater education of clients, families, and providers to better understand the range of personal care programs.

Issue: Encourage client education efforts, increasing understanding of health problems, risk and protective factors.

Issue: AoA should seek funding for elder abuse programs

Issue: AoA should encourage States to provide a portion of their allocations of Adult Protective Services funding to tribes

Issue: AoA should promote greater education and understanding about elder abuse.

Issue: AoA should provide disaster relief directly to Tribes, with no minimum and no cap

Issue: AoA should address the inadequacy of funding for Title VI. Tribes cannot provide necessary services or expand services

Issue: AoA should provide direct funding and training for family caregiving issues

Issue: AoA should recruit more Indian people at decision-making levels at AoA.

Issue: AoA should advocate for funds to renovate buildings and facilities for elder's programs. The advocacy should extend to consumer protection to avoid exploitation of seniors.

Issue: AoA should assess whether or not the Government Performance and Results Act will reduce or increase paperwork.

Issue: AoA should provide for a set aside for innovative programs on a competitive basis under Title VI with new money.

Issue: AoA should discourage Tribes from carrying over funds from year to year.

Issue: AoA should assist tribes to identify resources for funding home and community based care services i.e. Day Care, Family Caregiving, Self-Directed care

Issue: Advocate funding of health care services.

Issue: Advocate for greater options for obtaining and paying for health care

Issue: Advocate for specific allocations for long-term care, including facilities, staff and general infrastructure.

Issue: AoA should provide Title III directly to Tribes

Issue: Each tribe should be designed as an Area Agency on Aging

Issue: AoA should not require reporting for services not funded under Title III

Issue: AoA should simplify Title III paperwork burden to be more like Title VI.

Issue: AoA should send a letter to Tribal leaders encouraging tribes to support staff so they can participate in meetings and training sessions

Issue: AoA needs to sponsor and conduct annual training and technical assistance sessions for Title VI Directors and program staff

Issue: AoA should provide timely information on funding and training opportunities.

Issue: AoA should provide technology support for Tribal elder's programs ex. Computers, software and training

Issue: USDA food distribution programs on Indian reservations should have eligibility based on Title VI age eligibility and after consultation with Tribes

Issue: AoA should encourage USDA to simplify and speed-up reimbursement

Issue: Tribes need to be proactive in getting tribal issues on the table for the states and AAAs to address

Issue: AoA should review and enhance coordination with Tribes, National Indian Organizations, and other federal agencies.

Issue: AoA should require states to involve Tribes in the state plan process and to require state plans to show specifically how states will coordinate with tribes.

Issue: AoA should provide leadership in Title III/VI coordination and advocacy to assure state and federal services are available to Indian elders.

Issue: AoA should encourage the interpretation of State/Federal/ local rules to facilitate flexibility in the provision of services

Issue: AoA should work with other agencies to improve preventative clinical services.

Issue: AoA should work to enhance the delivery of health care – diabetes

Issue: AoA should ensure service regulations are appropriate to the unique, local Indian realities "One size does not fit all"

Issue: Encourage a greater number and integration of Veterans Administration Services with AoA, IHS, etc.

Issue: AoA should encourage the development of better transportation systems and roads on reservations

Issue: AoA should continue to recognize and address difficulties in transportation as an access problem.

Issue: AoA should work with HUD to eliminate barriers and enhance access

Issue: AoA should advocate for the recognition of the "unrecognized" homeless elders and the need for shelter homes

Issue: AoA should encourage the development of funding of group homes and other alternative housing options for elders on reservations.

Issue: AoA should promote funding for Indian - specific nursing homes on reservations

Issue: AoA should encourage more Indians to become certified Ombudsmen to protect the rights of elders

Issue: Assist tribes in training staff and in obtaining state Licenses

Issue: Promote hiring culturally appropriate staff to overcome language barriers and respect traditions.

Issue: AoA should use HCFA to provide a new waiver to exempt Tribal members' personal assets from Medicaid eligibility.

Issue: "AoA should work with HCFA to make Medicare and Medicaid regulations and programs more accessible for Tribes"

Issue: Encourage greater incorporation of traditional foods in nutrition programs

Issue: Heighten attention for the need to develop effective consumer protection programs.

Issue: "Encourage greater applied health research that informs education, treatment, and prevention."

Issue: Develop new incentives to recruit and retain health personnel