The Older Americans Act & the Aging Network

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Outline

- Context setting
- Older Americans Act Overview
- Aging Services Network
- Aging Services
- The Role of I&R/As
Aging of the U.S. Population

- By 2030, 70 million Americans - twice their number in 2000 - will be 65+. At that point, older Americans will comprise 20% of the U.S. population, representing one in every 5 Americans.
- Currently, 16.4% of the older population is composed of minorities. By 2030, the minority populations are projected to represent 25.4% of the total 65+ Population.
Profile of Older Americans: Health Status

- Older Americans are living longer and healthier lives.

- Limitations on activities of daily living due to chronic conditions increase with age.

- In 1998, 28.8% of 65-74 year olds reported limitations due to chronic conditions, whereas over half (50.6%) of 75+ year olds reported limitations.
Older Americans Act: Foundation of the Aging Network

Older Americans Act of 1965

- Congressionally Initiated
- Constituent Based

Goal

- To provide maximum opportunities for older individuals to live independent, meaningful, and productive lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible
- To protect the rights of vulnerable older persons
Older Americans Act

Key Provisions

- **Title I — Objectives**
- **Title II — Administration on Aging**
- **Title III — Grants for State & Community Programs**
  A. Administration
  B. Supportive Services & Senior Centers
  C.1. Congregate Nutrition Services
       2. Home Delivered Nutrition Services
  D. Disease Prevention & Health Promotion
  E. National Family Caregiver Support Program
Older Americans Act
Key Provisions

- Title IV — Training, Research and Discretionary Projects
- Title V — Senior Community Service Employment
- Title VI — Grants for Native Americans
- Title VII — Elder Rights Protection
Older Americans Act

OBJECTIVES

Title I

- An adequate income
- Best possible physical and mental health
- Housing – independently selected, responsive to special needs
- Comprehensive long term care services
- Employment opportunities
- Retirement in health, honor and dignity
Older Americans Act

OBJECTIVES

Title I

- **Civic, cultural, educational and recreational opportunities**
- Efficient & coordinated community services, especially for vulnerable older persons
- Benefits from research
- **Freedom, independence and the free exercise of individual initiative in planning and managing their own lives.**
OAA: Foundation for the Aging Service System

Two-Fold Mission
- Service System Development
- Advocacy

National Infrastructure
- Federal
- State
- Local

Service Targeting
- Great Social, Economic Need
- Low-Income Minority Populations
- Rural Populations
Administerion on Aging (AoA)

- Lead by the Assistant Secretary on Aging
- Within the Department of Health and Human Services and regionally
- The Federal “focal point” on issues concerning older persons
- Administers grants to states and tribal organizations
- Guides, supports, works with and through the Aging Services Network
Aging Services Network – Comprehensive Service Delivery System

State Units on Aging (56)
- Designated at state level
- Policy, planning & advocacy roles

Area Agencies on Aging (629)
- Designated by the SUA in 42 states
- Planning, coordinating & advocacy roles
Aging Services Network – Comprehensive Service Delivery System

Title VI Native American Aging Programs (244 American Indian & 2 Native Alaskan Programs)

- Title VI - created by 1978 OAA amendments
- Grants to Federally recognized tribes
- Supportive and nutrition services & family caregiver support
Aging Services Network – Comprehensive Service Delivery System

Local Service Providers

• Contract with Area Agencies on Aging
• Provide direct services

Older individuals

• Serve on advisory committees
• Participate in planning
• Volunteering
### Characteristics of AAAs

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<th>Average (mean)</th>
<th>50th Percentile (median)</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budget (in millions)</strong></td>
<td>$9.7</td>
<td>$4.1</td>
<td>&lt;141,000 to &gt;280 million</td>
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<td><strong>Proportion of budget from OAA</strong></td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>35.0</td>
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<td><strong>Proportion of budget from Medicaid</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Providers</strong></td>
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<td>16</td>
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* These numbers reflect only those agencies which get at least some proportion of their budget from Medicaid

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June 2009
The people served by Older Americans Act services in 2006 were more vulnerable than the general 60+ population.

- 27% live in poverty, compared to 10% of the overall 60+ population.
- 35.4% live alone (versus 25.6% of 60+ overall)
- 33% live in rural areas (versus 22.6% of 60+ overall)

Aging Information & Referral/Assistance

- Unique in the field of I&R
- Gateway to complex state and local aging service systems
- Relationships with other aging programs providing information, education, counseling and assistance
ACCESS

- I&R/A – Assistance and linkage to appropriate and available services and resources in the community
- Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs)
  - Build on Information and Assistance programs
  - Focus on access and information on long term services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities
  - 45 states, 198 demonstration sites
- Case management
- Transportation
In-home & community services

- Homemaker/chore
- Personal care
- Home health
- Home repair
- Adult day services
- Housing assistance
- Caregiver Programs
- Employment (Title V)
Elder rights

- Ombudsman Program
- Elder abuse prevention/adult protection
- Legal assistance
- Senior Medicare Patrol
- Pension counseling
- Financial assistance
- State Health Insurance Counseling and Assistance Programs (SHIPs)
AAAs Involved in Long-Term Care Planning

- Information and referral to long-term care services: 94.1%
- Outreach and educational presentations: 89.9%
- Info. about establishing legal directives: 84.2%
- Options counseling through other services: 69.6%
- Elder rights education: 69.4%
- Info. about long-term care insurance: 65.2%
- Options counseling through ADRC: 33.4%
- Participation in AoA's "Own Your Future": 15.6%

June 2009
Lives touched by OAA services

- About 7 million people received services such as transportation and information and assistance on an occasional basis.
- About 3 million people received OAA-funded services such as home delivered meals and home care on a regular basis.
- Support was provided to almost 700,000 family caregivers.
- Nearly 800,000 people at high nutritional risk received nutrition services.

In closing...

“An older person deserves a dream, not just a memory”.

Dr. Arthur S. Flemming