

OAA SESSION TUESDAY, MARCH 16th

- Commend process to date—AOA working with colleagues and it is an open process for input.
- 10th reauthorization I have been involved in. As pivotal as any.
- Reauthorization is an opportunity. It is what you do with them that count.
- You should be doing more than just extending an expiring law.
- The opportunity is about shaping its direction and increasing its impact. Commit to what is working well and be honest enough to weed out what is not.
- Should be thinking about signature outcomes. One should be to empower with authority and resources the aging network's distinct role in providing HCBS, including those tied to elder rights.
- Another is to strengthen the core services especially nutrition.
- Begin with funding. Nutrition programs provided \$100 million a year ago from ARRA supported by the President and Congress. It was based on needs of the program. Those needs still exist. If these funds are removed meals will be eliminated or cut. If there are authorization levels set nutrition at the level it reached after ARRA or...
- Tie nutrition more directly to health. Move Title III D health promotion into C as a separate title with its own funding.

Accompany this with increased nutritional expertise (RDs) especially at the federal and state level.

- Ensure nutrition dollars stay in nutrition programs by providing that all transfers out of the nutrition program into Title III B only go to programs that benefit the nutrition program.
- Consider some consolidation of the existing nutrition program but only if it improves local decision making on how nutrition dollars should be spent.
- The link between transportation and nutrition should be reflected with either a new title or a set aside of funds.
- Ensure that meals provided under Title III and VI continue to meet or exceed nutritional standards necessary to contribute to good health.
- Elder justice and elder rights—better integration of Title VII throughout the act but especially in the caregiver and nutrition programs. If we gain passage of EJA, it will be about having AoA play a lead role in its successful implementation. If not done by 2011, OAA may become new vehicle.
- Also continue building the capacity of the ombudsman program and we commend the Assistant Secretary for immediately moving to fill the long vacant national ombudsman position in AoA.
- We need to have the Act help achieve greater accessibility to mental health services including those at risk or who have been victims of elder abuse. This authority was given to AoA in the last reauthorization. Time to get this funded.

- **Promote more care coordination in the Act especially in ADRC's and FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM.**
- **Consider a new Title III program for enhanced I&R since the demand for these services has spiked.**
- **Support the reality that senior centers need to serve a more diverse population, diversify their programs, hire qualified staff and need to build their capacity for new challenges.**
- **Establish and fund an emerging population's resource center for oldest and youngest old, minority elderly, LGBT and others.**
- **Improve and better monitor targeting. Are we reaching and serving those in greatest economic or social need, low income, and minority rural? Let's have better data and put services where the need is. Involve more than area agencies and service providers in state plan development. Include representatives of target populations.**
- **Let's upgrade AoA. Make it on par with other entities within HHS led by an Assistant Secretary.**

We have several options for 2011. We can transform or we can tweak. Many advocates want transformational. Question is what will the economic, policy and political environment accommodate?

It will be about being realistic without being reticent. About having vision but with a viable plan.

We are off to a good start in the reauthorization process. Let's continue to engage all with an interest. Let's avoid being insular when we should be inclusive. We will end up with a better product.