

National Roundtable on Native American Elders

Washington D.C.

January 8, 1993

Issue: Fund Title VI and Native American component of Title VII at the authorized levels

Resolution: Request \$15 million supplemental appropriations to fully fund Title VI at the level authorized by Congress. Request full funding, including variation in service costs, for Title VI and the Native American portion of Title VII for the 1994 and subsequent budgets. Request funding for the Native American section of Title VII in the FY 1994 budget.

Issue: Allow the Assistant Secretary for Aging to designate and provide direct funding to Indian AAAs and to directly fund Tribal Organizations for disaster relief

Resolution: Conduct a study to determine the Tribal interest in direct designation as AAAs, the potential impact on the States, and the level of funding for the AAAs

Recommend language for the 1995 reauthorization of the OAA giving the Assistant Secretary for Aging the authority to directly designate and fund Indian Tribes as Area Agencies on Aging

Issue: Increase service options for Title VI

Resolution: Conduct a study to assess the need to mandate specific service provision under Title VI and develop a legislative proposal to broaden the service options.

Issue: Require state and area agencies to use the eligibility age established by local tribes.

Resolution: Conduct a study of both Indian and non-Indian AAAs focused on the impact, cost, resistances and difficulties in using Tribally established age criteria for Title III services to Native American elders in the specific geographical area

Issue: Mandate that national sponsors under Title V provide positions to Tribal organizations

Resolution: Increase collaboration and coordination between the Secretaries of DHHS and DOL to ensure that Tribal Organizations benefit equally from the Title V program

Issue: Empower the Federal Interagency Task Force on Older Indians to fulfill the mandates of the OAA

Resolution: Promote coordination to enhance services to Native American elders by members of the Federal Interagency Task Force on Older Indians securing commitments from agency officials and identifying barriers in legislation, policy or attitude in promotion collaboration. Develop language for the 1995 reauthorization proposal mandating collaboration among the agencies on the Federal Interagency Task Force on Older Indians

Issue: The need for a Native American Advisory Board in order to have grass roots input and recommendations

Resolution: Establish a Native American Advisory Board and include funding for semi-annual meetings in future AoA budgets

Issue: The need for regional offices to conduct on-site visits to Title VI grantees in order to provide the orientation to new directors, monitoring, and special assistance

Resolution: Develop and issue guidance on the responsibilities of the Regional Offices in relation to the Office for American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian Programs. Provide sufficient travel funds and require Regional Office staff to visit Title VI grantees, giving priority to those programs with new directors and those with specific problems. Incorporate training on program policy, amendments, modifications, program direction and all aspects of program administration and oversight, into Regional Offices program plan for FY 1994 and future years

Issue: Increased accountability from the Regional Offices for the Native American program.

Resolution: Revise the Regional Program Director's job description and performance management plan to reelect her/his responsibilities for the Native American program

Issue: Non-federally recognized tribes and urban Indians are in need of the continuum of aging services targeted to the needs of their elders.

Resolution: "Conduct a study to identify the funding amounts and services provided by Title III to State Tribes and urban Indians. Meet with Title III Central Office staff to explore ways to increase access to Title III program services and develop a policy paper recommending guidelines to be issued to States as criteria to judge efficiency of State plan. Develop legislative proposal, including proposed funding levels, that would add new sections and funding for state recognized Tribes and for Indian urban organizations"

Issue: Annual training is needed by both directors of programs under Title VI and Regional Office staff.

Resolution: Include provisions for a national meeting, annually, to train Title VI directors in the FY 1993 Title IV discretionary Grants announcement.

Issue: Health care needs, including LTSS of Native American elders must be included in all national health plans and the Indian Health Services health care plan.

Resolution: AoA should provide input into the development of the national health care plan by briefing the Secretary, DHHS. AoA should advocate with national Indian organizations concerning health care needs. Assistant Secretary for Aging should be meeting with the Director, IHS endorsing the recommendations of the IHS Workgroup on Aging. AoA should research Civil Rights violations of YPLL's impact on Older Indians. AoA should work with IHS through both the Federal Task Force on Aging and Interagency Task Force on Older Indians. Assistant Secretary on Aging should sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Health Services. AoA should develop a priority area for the discretionary grants program in FY 1994 on community based long term care.

Issue: Title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act

Resolution: "Work with HCFA to encourage designation of Tribal Organizations and Indian AAAs as third-party billers for Medicaid where applicable and feasible. Assess the barriers Native American elders face in accessing state Medicaid programs and advocate at both the state and Federal level to overcome these barriers"

Issue: Title XX of the Social Security Act

Resolution: Assess the current situation on services, including barriers, to older Native Americans from Title XX. Based on findings of the study, develop a position paper for the Assistant Secretary for Aging to discuss with the Secretary of DHHS, and advocate at the state and Federal level to overcome the barriers.

Issue: Foster Grandparents Program from ACTION

Resolution: Develop a MOU with ACTION to review the current program and develop initiatives to improving access to Native Americans

Issue: Title 16 (b) (2) of the Urban Mass Transportation Act. DoT

Resolution: Develop a MOU with the DOT to review the current programs available to tribal organizations and develop initiative for improving access to these programs.

Issue: Programs for housing and home repairs

Resolution: Develop a MOU with BIA, HUD and FHA to jointly conduct a study to assess the issues relation to housing and home repairs. Results of the study and discussions between the agencies should be addressed by the Federal Interagency Task Force on Older Indians

The Assistant Secretary for Aging should meet with the appropriate directors in BIA, HUD and FHA to discuss issues regarding housing and home repairs for elderly Native Americans and solicit their support in coordinating and streamline these programs

Issue: Adult protective services

Resolution: Since all the agencies represented on the Interagency Task Force for Older Indians are involved in issues potentially related to elder abuse, this Task Force should develop an agenda to promote coordination and advocacy for preventing elder abuse

Issue: Energy assistance

Resolution: Develop a MOU with the Office of Community Services to review the status of LIHEAP and recommend ways of increasing Tribal participation in the program