**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 form 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