

2013 Tribal Consultation on Aging and Long-Term Care

Oneida Tribe of Indians in Wisconsin

Issue: Allocations are based on a formula, but they don't every change for the tribes. There is no allocation for Elder abuse and Alzheimer's from Title III.

Resolution: The formula is set out- it's by the statute in the Older Americans Act that dictate how funds are allocated. There is an aspect of the formula that deals with growth and gets renegotiated through Congress. The best way to address reallocation is to do it during a time of growth. Unfortunately, the programs are not growing

Issue: Allocating funds to tribes from States

Agency/ Policy Lead: ACL/AoA, Cynthia LaCounte

Resolution: We would like to bypass the states so we can allocate dollars to tribes. However, we aren't sure that would work. We are considering other things we can get from states. It would be nice to lay out all the possibilities on how we can better fund tribes.

Issue: Funds are not acceptable as they may not be using the increase in funds

Resolution: We will follow up on that as we need to work with the states to figure out their plan so funding goes out to the communities. We will follow up with Wisconsin

Athabascan Tribe in Fairbanks

Issue: Salmon regulations changed and its unaffordable to keep up with the regulations

Resolution: We need to bring this up to the department of interior, but we aren't sure on how else to help

Hopi

Issue: We have become dependent on the services provided instead of our cultural practices allowing families to walk away from their responsibilities. The systems in place are not providing support to the families.

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Yvette Robideaux

Resolution: The Affordable Health Care act reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Acts so that gave new authority to tribes to manages the programs to provide long-term care in home and community based services, assisted living, and hospice services.

NEIJI

Issue: We are working on putting together an elder abuse code. We would like to partner with ACL/AoA as we learn more about different types of Elder abuse.

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Dr. Bruce Finke

Resolution: Indian Health Services has a set of policies that help guide the work on the federal side in the federal programs. What is interesting, is that there really is no strong national policy around elder abuse/ neglect.

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Issue: Caregivers need some sort of income when they are willing to help take care of aging family members.

Resolution: States are willing to pay a family caregiver because it is a better outcome and less expensive than going into a nursing home.

Confederate Tribes of Umatilla

Issue: Hearing aids needed for the Elderly. Paperwork should be easier for those who need to apply

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Dr. Bruce Finke

Resolution: We should see where this would fit into an existing contract. Otherwise, reallocating funds from current contracts

Issue: Increase in contracts to pay for hearing aids

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Yvette Robideaux

Resolution: There has been about a 46% increase in contracts. It would be worth looking into where hearing aids are prioritized. Half the contracts amount are for life and limb priority 1. Tribes have the authority to set an amount of 2% in the contract for preventative. I would think about what prevention means and possibly put it towards that.

Sauk-Suiattle Tribe

Issue: Caregivers need to have compensation as it is expensive to take care of elderly people.

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Yvette Robideaux

Resolution: We understand that you need more funding, but now it's a difficult climate these days for funding. And we will continue to work for it, but at this time we know that the buck gets stretched.

Issue: Adult Protective Services (APS) might try to kick the caregiver out of the house and the relative will need to come up with an alternative way to be taken care of.

Resolution: APS cannot come in and just kick anyone out of the house. They will make assessments and recommendations. The best thing that APS can do is come in and work with the family and tribal community to help this individual

Issue: Mother has dementia and may need HCBS to help her continue to live in her own home

Resolution: Depending on her assessment, she may be eligible for Medicaid HCBS to support her. This person needs a comprehensive assessment and a plan of care to help this person live independently for as long as they can.

Issue: There are more elders than there is funding.

Northwest Regional Council

Issue: Even though there are HCBS available throughout the state there are some unintentional inadvertent barriers. Such as training for caregivers to get HCBS which is never held at a reservation and is a two-week training course.

Resolution: We will need to follow up with CMS regional office in regard to the CMS programs. I would like to look at what we can make for those that are in need of the 90-hour training and what they look at in terms of long-distance education and internet.

Issue: Funding for those that need the training and include travel

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Dr. Bruce Finke

Resolution: Minnesota legislated that care management, resource assessment, allocation of resources and care management, allocation of resource assessment, allocation of resources and care management from the countries who has responsibility in Minnesota. The legislation gives the tribes the ability to do the work to build the infrastructure to work.

Umatilla Tribe

Issue: With a 30% increase of spending, that will increase our needs but unfortunately, we will be decreasing our staff which means decreasing the quality of services

Resolution: One of the hardest things to do is the executive branch is talk to members of Congress or talk to someone at the State to let them know this is a huge problem. Most of the time the response is, well no one has talked to us about it prior, so it doesn't seem like much of an issue to them. Talk to Congress and let them know.

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

Issue: Our people do are proud and do not ask for assistance.

Issue: The Dept. of Health and Human Services office is not responsive to tribes.

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Yvette Robideaux

Resolution: Communications need to be improved especially around benefits.

Issue: Area on Aging will not help unless they can do something over the phone. They have no public hearings.

Issue: Indian Health Services is not helping people get the insurance coverage they need to get better.

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Yvette Robideaux

Resolution: The reason why services get denied is because there are not enough funds. File an appeal because sometimes the decisions can be overturned. The solution is more funding

Sauk-Suiattle

Issue: IHS will not help those who live a distance away from the reservation. Why are we limited to distance when there are tribal members that live a distance away from the reservation? We follow all the rules on everything else.

Agency/ Policy Lead: I H S, Yvette Robideaux

Resolution: We had a tribal consultation on how to deal with the fact that we don't have enough contract heal service funds to pay for everybody. But that was intended to make sure that the funds benefited people locally. When funds are limited, then its limited by residence

Three Affiliated Tribes

Issue: Due to the oil boom, there are many people who have received one payment. This means that they are ineligible for the Part D extra help.

Issue: Benefits coordinator are unresponsive which leaves people coming to the Tribal office. Many people don't know what they have already and that means that they may not be eligible for other funds.

Issue: Mentally ill folks can be scary when caregivers go to help them. There should be some kind of training for those people.

Absentee Shawnee

Issue: Elders are being elected by the states as they have no support and those that do want to help usually have careers to attend to. We need to provide more at home care.

Resolution: Going to DC will not do the job, you should be advocating in your state with state officials. Politicians know a lot about the system even more than the

Pueblo of San Felipe

Issue: Taking elders from their homes has an impact on how fast they deteriorate

Issue: Budgets are very tight so every little bit of funding helps