

Tohono O'odham Testimony - Listening Session

Norman, OK

May 6, 2015

Issue: Retirement Security is minimal, in terms of employment benefits, as the reservation economy is poor and well-paying jobs are scarce

Issue: Healthy Aging, also challenge by the economy, is further hampered by limited knowledge of the works of the health care delivery systems on and off the reservation, limited accessibility to healthy foods, and other healthy aging supports

Issue: Elder Justice is now possible with the Adult Protective Services legislation and program services authorized and operating on the reservation

Issue: There is a lack of financial resources - fuel costs alone can limit travel to medical appointments

Issue: Healthcare services are far away. Patients are spending time and money to travel to receive treatment.

Issue: Limited and undependable transportation. There is no public transportation and many families do not have a car.

Issue: Not sufficient trained and certified caregivers and there is no respite services on the reservation.

Issue: There is limited understanding of traditional medicine by healthcare team members.

Issue: There is not enough supportive housing options on the reservation. Many of the homes need repair and rehabilitation.