History of Older Americans Act Program Development

Presenter: Sandy Longworth
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- **1965** – President Johnson signs the Older Americans Act (OAA); and
  - created AoA and State Units on Aging (SUAs).

- **1972** – Amendments authorized:
  - national nutrition program for the elderly; and
  - national network of congregate nutrition projects.
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- **1973** – Amendments authorized:
  - federal grants to 57 states/territory agencies for statewide planning and coordination;
  - create Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs);
  - established interstate funding formula based on a state’s relative share of persons age 60 and over;
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- **1973** – Amendments (cont.)
  - established intrastate funding formula for awarding AAA grants;
  - established multi-purpose senior center grants.

- **1975** – Amendments authorized Title V, a senior community service employment program, administered by the US Department of Labor.
1978 – Amendments:

- required LTC ombudsman services;
- funded home delivered meals; and
- provided variety of community-based supportive services under the Act.
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- **1984 – Amendments:**
  - prioritized Title III legal, access and in-home services; and
  - increased state flexibility in fund transfer allocation.

- **1988 – Amendments:**
  - allowed states to submit a two, three or four year State Plan;
  - funded non-medical in-home services to frail elders;
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- **1988** – Amendments (cont.)
  - established preventive health services programs;
  - mandated offices of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman; and
  - stressed the advocacy role of AoA, the States and Area Agencies on Aging.
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1992 – Amendments:

- authorized a separation of elder rights programs into Title VII; and
- elevated the Administration on Aging Commissioner to Assistant Secretary within the US Department of Health and Human Services.
2000 – Amendments:

- amended the Title III funding formula to include a FFY 2000 hold harmless and a guaranteed growth factor of 20%;
- required assurance that special needs of older individuals residing in rural areas will be taken into consideration in State Plans;
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- **2000** – Amendments: (cont.)
  - increased the flexibility of the states to transfer funds (up to 40%) between Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals Programs;
  - maintained the flexibility of the states to transfer funds (up to 30%) between Supportive Services and Nutrition Services Programs;
2000 – Amendments: (cont.)

● established the National Family Caregiver Support Program to aid families in caring for their frail elderly relatives and for grandparents caring for grandchildren and other related children;

● recognized cost sharing;
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- **2000** – Amendments: (cont.)
  - amended the Title V funding formula to include a FFY 2000 hold harmless “level of effort” and 30% guaranteed growth factor; and
  - required state governor to submit an annual state senior employment services plan.
2006 – Amendments:

- authorized all levels of the network to actively promote the development of consumer-centered systems of LTC and emphasized the use of three-pronged strategy that:
  - empowers individuals to make informed decision about their care options through ADRCs;
2006 – Amendments:

- enables older people to live healthier lives through the use of evidence-based disease and disability prevention programs; and

- provides more choices to individuals through the use of flexible service models, including consumer directed care options.
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- **2006** – Amendments: (cont.)
  - provided support for state and community planning to address the long-term care needs of the baby boom generation;
  - provided greater focus on prevention and treatment of mental illness;
2006 – Amendments: (cont.)

- expanded the Nation Family Caregiver Support Program services to older adults caring for children of any age with a disability, individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, and grandparents or relative caregivers, age 55 and over, caring for children of any age;
2006 – Amendments: (cont.)

- changed the Title III funding formula by updating the “hold harmless” from FFY 2000 to 2006 and by phasing out the guaranteed growth provision over 5 years, ending in FFY 2011;
- increased focus on civic engagement and volunteerism;
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2006 – Amendments: (cont.)

- added older individuals with limited English proficiency and those at risk of institutionalization to targeting provisions; and
- focused SUA and AAA planning for baby boom population.
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- **2011** – Reauthorization Themes
  - Tension between congressional directives for mandatory services and state/local needs; and
  - (Consolidation, simplification, flexibility vs. legal requirements)
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- 2011 – Reauthorization Themes
  - Tension between requirements to develop a “comprehensive / coordinated” system but with limit control over non-OAA funded programs (SHIP, HCBS waivers, APS).
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2011 – Reauthorization Policy Issues

- preparing for the baby boom population;
- altering current programs for changing older populations; and
- balance universal participation vs. special populations.
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- 2011 – Reauthorization Policy Issues
  
  - balancing requests for new programs vs. increased appropriations for core services;
  
  - impact of new programs on funding for existing programs;
  
  - What is most needed – new programs, expanded authority, and/or increased funding?
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2011 – Reauthorization Policy Issues

● OAA funding has not kept pace with inflation and increase in seniors.

● Will leveraging of non-OAA funds continue?

● 2011 is the first year aging baby boomer will turn 65, and with scarce resources, this will pose challenges for aging infrastructure.
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NYSOFA Recommendations for OAA Reauthorization:

- increase core funding for OAA programs;
- fully fund ADRCs and evidence-based programs as part of core services;
- adequately fund transportation services;
- develop an operational web-based data reporting and analysis system;
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- Reauthorization Recommendations (cont.)
  - Fund legal services under Title VII; and
  - Provide funding for staff training to fully realize the paradigm shift to person centered care.