

REMARKS OF
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR AGING
ADMINISTRATION ON AGING
TO THE
MINNESOTA AGE ODYSSEY CONFERENCE
AUGUST 24, 2004
ST. CLOUD CIVIC CENTER
ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

This text is the basis of the oral remarks of the Assistant Secretary for Aging. It should be used with the understanding that some material may be added or omitted.

Introductory Remarks

(slide one)

- Good Morning!
- It's a pleasure to join you today at the *Age Odyssey: A Timeless Journey* conference. It's exciting to see so many of Minnesota's consumers and professionals in attendance!
- Judging from the agenda, this conference will offer you many new tools and resources to take back to your communities, particularly in the area of promoting greater balance in long-term care.
- I want to thank the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Board on Aging for extending an invitation to Commissioner Morrissey and I to join you today.
- We took the opportunity this morning to visit the Whitney Senior Center here in St. Cloud and were so impressed with their partnership over the past 20 years with a local program serving developmentally disabled adults. It is just this kind of partnering between aging and disability networks that we hope to encourage all across the country.
- We look forward to the Town Hall Listening Session this afternoon which will give us the opportunity to hear directly from you about what we can do at the Administration on Aging and the

Administration on Developmental Disabilities to strengthen the long-term support services system to benefit people with disabilities of all ages. If you have not yet signed up to offer comments, please do so.

- During this luncheon plenary, Commissioner Morrissey and I would like to talk to you about the efforts of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support the President's New Freedom Initiative to tear down the barriers that prevent older people and people with disabilities from living safely and independently in their homes and communities.

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Promoting Balance in Long-Term Care

- In support of the President's New Freedom initiative, the Department of Health and Human Services is working closely with communities and families to promote full access to community life for people with disabilities.
- As a result, over the last few years we've seen an historic turning point in Federal long-term care policy from institutional to home and community based services.
- For example, the President's FY 2004 budget funds a number of State systems change projects and demonstration projects that

promote home and community based long term support options including \$31 million through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for Real Choice Systems Change grants.

- And these efforts are producing results. As this chart shows long-term support expenditures for home and community-based services has steadily been increasing while those for institutional care are decreasing.
- In 2003, spending on home and community-based services increased by over \$1 billion from 2002 while spending on institutional care decreased by the same amount.
- As new initiatives are implemented we expect this movement towards community-based care to continue to increase.

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AoA Vision

- The Administration on Aging is launching several initiatives to support the establishment of a more balanced, consumer-oriented system of care.
- These initiatives support our vision for long-term care. AoA's vision promotes:
 - Easy access to the full range of long term supports

- Affordable choices and options promoting dignity and independence
- Consumer control and involvement in the design and delivery of programs and services
- Information that empowers people to make informed decisions
- And, of course, AoA's vision also includes support for family caregivers and assurances that people are getting the highest quality of care.

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Aging and Disability Resource Center Initiative

- One of my first priorities at AoA in promoting greater balance in long-term care was to begin to streamline access to an often confusing and complicated long-term support system.
- Last year, in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services we launched the Aging and Disability Resource Center Initiative to make it easier for states to eliminate barriers to community living by minimizing confusion and supporting informed decision-making regarding long-term support services for people with disabilities and their family caregivers.

- Through Resource Centers, consumers can make one contact to access the full array of services they need to remain in the community.

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- Aging and Disability Resource Centers streamline access to long-term care by:
 - Ensuring that they are highly visible and trusted community resources through targeted marketing and outreach campaigns and accurate information delivery.
 - Empowering consumers to make informed decisions by providing them the assistance they need to fully understand their own unique needs, the supports available to meet those needs, and information on how those supports work.
 - By providing access to services through a single intake, assessment, and eligibility determination process.

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- As you can see from this map, 24 states – including Minnesota – are now in the process of developing and implementing Aging and Disability Resource Center programs.

- The President's FY 2005 budget includes funds for both AoA and CMS to award Resource Center grants to at least an additional 18 states bringing the total to 42.

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- As Commissioner Morrissey will discuss shortly, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities has also launched a "one-stop" initiative – the Family Support 360 program.
- As this map indicates, 11 states - including Minnesota - have had the opportunity to work together on our respective "one-stop" initiatives to enhance access to services for both the elderly and people with developmental disabilities.

Collaboration

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- People with disabilities of all ages have the same needs for services and supports.
- The New Freedom Initiative directs Federal agencies, such as AoA and ADD, to work together to identify our common ground and promote the independence and participation of people with disabilities in the full range of community life.

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- People of all ages with disabilities simply want to exercise choice and maintain control over the support they receive so that they may live as independently and safely as possible.
- AoA and ADD are working together to make that desire a reality.

Closing

- Commissioner Morrissey will now tell you more about how we are working together and the important work the Administration on Developmental Disabilities is doing to assist people to stay as independent as possible.