



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration on Developmental Disabilities

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO : Directors, State Administering Agencies
Chairpersons, State Planning Councils
Executive Directors, State Planning Councils
Directors, State Protection and Advocacy Agencies
Directors, University Affiliated Programs and
Satellite Centers

SUBJECT : Memorandum of Understanding between the
Administration on Aging and the Administration on
Developmental Disabilities

LEGAL AND
RELATED
REFERENCE : Public Law 100-175, The Older Americans Act
Amendments of 1987. Public Law 100-146, The
Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of
Rights Act Amendments of 1987.


INFORMATION : This memorandum transmits a Memorandum of
Understanding (MOU) between the Administration on
Aging (AoA) and the Administration on Developmental
Disabilities (ADD) of the Office of Human
Development Services, Department of Health and
Human Services. The purpose of the MOU is to
improve the coordination of the programs related to
older persons who have a developmental disability.

Under the agreement, AoA and ADD will jointly develop and implement activities to:

- Promote better understanding between the National Network on Aging and the Developmental Disabilities Network of programs serving older persons with disabilities.
- Improve services to older persons with developmental disabilities.
- Demonstrate, at the national level, a commitment between AoA and ADD to improve services to older persons with developmental disabilities.

The new agreement provides a framework for AoA and ADD to work together to promote the independence, productivity and integration of older persons with developmental disabilities into the mainstream of society.

INQUIRIES TO : Raymond Sanchez, Director
Program Development Division
Administration on Developmental
Disabilities
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Will Wolstein
Acting Commissioner
Administration on Developmental
Disabilities

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The Administration on Aging
and
The Administration on Developmental Disabilities

INTRODUCTION

The Administration on Aging (AoA) was created under the Older Americans Act of 1965 and is the only Federal agency devoted exclusively to the concerns and potential of America's older population. AoA serves as the visible advocate on behalf of the elderly within the Department of Health and Human Services and with other Federal agencies and national organizations administering programs affecting older people. The major goal of the Administration on Aging is to help older people live more meaningful, independent, and dignified lives in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) is the lead agency within the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for planning and carrying out programs which promote the self-sufficiency and protect the rights of the nearly four million Americans with developmental disabilities. The major goal of ADD is to work in partnership with State governments, local communities and the private sector to increase the social and economic integration of individuals with developmental disabilities into the fabric of society.

The purpose of this agreement is to improve the coordination of programs administered by AoA and ADD which relate to the welfare of older persons with developmental disabilities.

BACKGROUND

It is estimated that 2 out of every 1,000 older adults have a developmental disability. The total number of elderly persons in the United States who are developmentally disabled is estimated to be as high as one-half million persons. These older persons are in double jeopardy. Their problems are complicated by long-standing physical or mental impairments and they frequently need individualized housing, day-care, and other supportive services. Assistance, through the provision of appropriate services, to this priority older population can be made available and accessible within the community through a comprehensive, coordinated, community-based service system. This system of services should be designed to enable older persons with developmental disabilities to attain and maintain emotional well being and independent living.

The Older Americans Act now contains many requirements for services to elderly disabled people and cooperation with agencies and organizations regarding the developmentally disabled. For example, the Act requires the State Agency on Aging to establish and operate an Office of the State Long Term Ombudsman. This Office is required to coordinate ombudsman services with the protection and advocacy systems for individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness established under Part A of the Developmentally Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act and under the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1986.

With respect to the needs of elderly persons with severe disabilities, the Act requires State plan assurances for the coordination of planning, identification, assessment of needs, and services with State agencies primarily responsible for disabled, including severely disabled, persons. The State plan must also contain an assurance that the State will work with these agencies to develop collaborative programs to meet the needs of older individuals with disabilities.

There is a need for the AoA and ADD to undertake the development of collaborative activities to improve the coordination of programs administered by AoA and ADD which promote the independence and well-being of older persons with developmental disabilities.

SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

The immediate objective of this agreement is for AoA and ADD to discuss, and develop action plans for, joint initiatives which improve the coordination of AoA and ADD programs and activities in order to improve services to older persons with developmental disabilities, promote the integration of these individuals into the mainstream of society, and promote a better understanding of programs serving elderly and disabled persons between the National Network on Aging and the Developmental Disabilities Network.

Under this agreement, AoA and ADD agree to jointly develop and implement initiatives in support of the goals and objectives outlined below and to undertake the development of other collaborative activities which promote the independence and well-being of older persons with developmental disabilities.

GOAL I

Promote a better understanding of programs serving elderly and disabled persons between the National Network on Aging and the Developmental Disabilities Network.

OBJECTIVES

1. To increase best practice and other information sharing/exchange between the Network on Aging and Developmental Disabilities Network.
2. To stimulate linkages between the Ombudsman and Protection and Advocacy Programs.
3. To explore potential linkages between the Aging Resource Centers and University Affiliated Programs.
4. To encourage the development of memoranda of understanding between the State Developmental Disabilities Councils and State Agencies on Aging.

GOAL II

To demonstrate a commitment at the national level between the Administration on Aging and the Administration for Developmental Disabilities regarding serving older persons with developmental disabilities.

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide policy guidance to National Network on Aging and the Developmental Disabilities Network on serving older persons with developmental disabilities.
2. To promote training of Network on Aging and Developmental Disabilities Network staff and others regarding the abilities and unmet needs of older persons who are developmentally disabled.
3. To increase collaboration and linkages between national organizations and Federal, State, and local agencies serving the older persons who are developmentally disabled.
4. To jointly develop a priority area on elderly persons with developmental disabilities for the discretionary funds announcements.

GOAL III

Improve services to older persons with developmental disabilities.

OBJECTIVES

1. To identify the unmet needs of older persons with developmental disabilities.
2. To facilitate the provision of quality services in intermediate care facilities which meet the needs of older persons who are mentally retarded.
3. To promote training of health care professionals to provide services to older persons with developmental disabilities.
4. To promote training of family caregivers on how to care for older persons with developmental disabilities.
5. To promote the successful integration of older persons with developmental disabilities in aging network programs (mainstreaming those elderly persons who are developmentally disabled as participants and volunteers at senior centers and nutrition sites).

ADMINISTRATION OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Administration on Aging and Administration on Developmental Disabilities jointly agree to:

1. Designate staff to be responsible for administering all aspects of this agreement; and
2. Designate staff of AoA and ADD to meet regularly to review the progress of the joint agreement and to identify new joint initiatives.

PERIOD OF AGREEMENT

This agreement is effective upon signature and shall continue in effect until terminated by either party.

AUTHORITY

The Economy Act of 1932, as amended (31 U.S.C. 1535)

MODIFICATION OR CANCELLATION PROVISION

This agreement may be modified or amended by written agreement of both parties. Requests for modification and amendments to the agreement may be initiated by either party through written notification to either party.

COSTS

To be determined upon the completion of specific action plans for dissemination activities and/or research and demonstration projects.

ACCEPTANCE AND SIGNATURE OF EACH APPROVING PARTY

Joyce T. Berry
Joyce T. Berry, Ph.D.
Acting Commissioner on Aging
Administration on Aging
U. S. Department of Health
and Human Services

6/27/89
Date

Will Wolstein
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Acting Commissioner
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U. S. Department of Health
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