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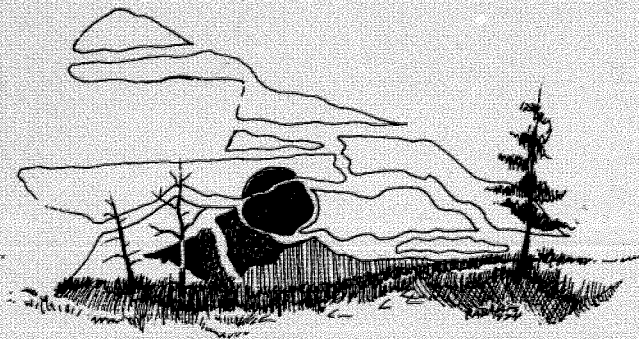
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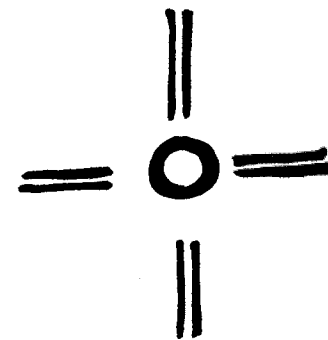
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**The New Mexico Commission on Aging
Annual Report, 1975**





SPANISH PROVERB:

TAMBIÉN EL VIENTO ES VIEJO...

PERO...

TODAVÍA SOPLA.

A Letter to the Governor

January 1, 1976

The Honorable Jerry Apodaca
Governor of New Mexico
Office of the Governor
Executive-Legislative Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503



Dear Governor Apodaca:

The Commission on Aging is pleased to submit to you this annual report which describes some of the services available to older New Mexicans.

Because of increased state and federal financial support, the network of programs for the elderly in New Mexico is expanding. At this time over 2,200 meals are served daily throughout the state at 47 different sites. More than 25,000 older citizens regularly participate in these nutrition projects and in other senior center activities.

Through your support and the cooperation of the State Legislature, the Commission has served as the advocate for older New Mexicans. I want to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the commissioners, staff, and statewide program personnel.

Sincerely,


ROBERT A. MONDRAGON
Director

For: Commissioners:
Clifford Whiting, Chairman
Alice G. Converse, Secretary
C. E. Carmichael
Joe M. Sanchez

RAM:BAS:prm

A Message from the Director



"I love you more today than yesterday,
but not as much as tomorrow."

These words describe the way we feel about
the accomplishments of the Commission as
we enter the year of the Dragon, 1976.
Much has been done...but more remains...

Mid-year witnessed the reins of the Agency being passed from K. Rose Wood, dedicated and enthusiastic advocate of senior citizens, to me. With the help of Governor Apodaca's Commission and its appointed Advisory Council, I will attempt to continue to blaze the trail of progress for the elderly of the State of New Mexico in this Bicentennial year.

The priorities continue to be identified as those of health, income, housing, transportation, and nutrition.

Realistically, these problems will be alleviated but not solved through the help of programs made possible through the Older Americans Act, the actions of the Governor and the legislature, as well as through the initiative of local government entities and community organizations.

To what do we look forward? Total involvement by Commission, Council and staff. Improved communication with Area Agencies, nutrition projects, and all other independent programs and projects serving the state. Close coordination with Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP), Home Education Livelihood Program (HELP), the New Mexico State Housing Authority, the Health and Social Services Department, especially Title XX, the Division of Human Resources, the Employment Security Commission, and any other entity involved in serving those among us who find themselves in the afternoon of their lives.

Buena suerte to all, y que Dios vaya con nosotros.

PLANNING FOR OLDER NEW MEXICANS

Purpose of the Commission

The Commission was created by the 1969 State Legislature to establish and maintain a comprehensive statewide program for the elderly. It operates under provisions and subsequent amendments of Title III (community services) and Title VII (nutrition) of the Older Americans Act.

Since 1969 the state program has seen continued expansion to carry out three major functions for program development: 1) statewide planning, coordination, and evaluation; 2) grants management; and 3) community development of comprehensive areawide services for the elderly.

Commissioners

There are presently four Commission members. They are:

Chairman: Clifford Whiting, Albuquerque
Secretary: Alice Converse, Clovis
Members: C. E. Carmichael, Santa Fe
Joe M. Sanchez, Albuquerque

One Commission seat is temporarily vacant until an appointment can be made by the Governor. The seat was held by Arthur E. Day of Silver City.



Clockwise from upper left are Joe M. Sanchez, Clifford Whiting, C. E. Carmichael, and Alice Converse.



Staff

Roberto A. Mondragón, Director
William S. Vigil, Planner/Director
Joe L. Martinez, Program Coordinator/Field Representative, Southern Rio Grande
Edythe Pierson, A.C.S.W., Social Worker/Field Representative, Eastern Plains
Jeanne Roth, R.D., Nutritionist/Field Representative, Metro AAA and Mid Rio Grande
Arthur Baca, Employment Specialist/Field Representative, Northcentral New Mexico
Lucinda Ray, Research Analyst/Field Representative, Southeast New Mexico
Marjorie Goetz, Nursing Home Ombudsman/Field Representative, Northwest New Mexico
Barbara Strelke, Information Officer/Field Representative, Southwest New Mexico
Pete Roybal, Accountant/Auditor
Priscilla Martinez, Executive Secretary
Chris Garcia, Secretary

In September, Gertrude Dodds retired from her position as Administrative Assistant with the Commission.

Since November, 1975, three new persons have joined the Commission staff. Barbara Browde, director of the Gerontology Center at the University of New Mexico, is working on a part-time, contract basis in training and grants management. Maria Costa and Ignacio Moquino, Jr., are working for the Commission through the Concentrated Employment and Training Act (CETA) program under the auspices of the Metro Nutrition Project and the All Indian Pueblo Council.

Since September the majority of staff members are combining their professional specialties with field assignments. While general planning and evaluative skills are exercised during field visits, specific skills, whether they be in nutrition, employment, information, or social work, are emphasized while "in house."

One staff position, that of Nursing Home Ombudsman, was funded from July 1, 1975, as a model project through the Administration on Aging. The New Mexico ombudsman program is part of a nationwide activity to work as liaison in behalf of residents of long term care facilities.

The Commission, with the support of the Division of Human Resources, will be connecting a toll-free information and referral line in the Agency offices in early 1976. Senior citizens, residents of nursing homes, concerned friends and relatives of older New Mexicans will be able to call in their questions and complaints. The nursing home ombudsman program will benefit from this direct contact.

Advisory Council

During the past year, two advisory councils were consolidated in the spirit of organizational efficiency and economy. They were the 13-member statutory advisory council and the 17-member federally required nutrition advisory committee.

The restructuring of the Advisory Council to one 15-member unit was completed in November, 1975. Recommendations were submitted from Area Agencies on Aging and local nutrition projects. Members of the new Advisory Council include low-income and minority participants in senior centers and nutrition projects from each district in the state and persons who are involved through governmental and private agencies in providing social, health and educational services. Some of the members of this Council previously served on the former advisory bodies.

The Advisory Council reviews and comments on all project applications made for funds provided under Title III and VII of the Older Americans Act. The Council also advises the Commission regarding program policy, activities, and legislative needs.

On November 20, 1975, the reorganized Council met for the first time in joint session with the Commission to review eight Title VII applications. Seven project applications, including two new projects, were approved for a total expenditure during the upcoming funding of \$632,556.

Members of the Advisory Council are:

Otho Armstrong, Roswell	A. M. Thomson, Alamogordo
Lila Dotson Clovis	Herman Grace, Santa Fe
Calixto Garcia, Central	Loma McDermott, Santa Fe
Ernesto Candelaria, Albuquerque	Andy Padilla, Albuquerque
Dan Chavez, Albuquerque	Gretchen Plagge, Santa Fe
Lucio Tellez, Las Cruces	Viola Fisher, Santa Fe
Anna Ortiz, Springer	E. P. Medina, Santa Fe
Bessie Smith, Shiprock	

We wish to thank those persons who served on the former State Advisory Council and Advisory Nutrition Council during the past year. With their input and concerned efforts, the Commission was able to move closer toward

comprehensive planning that is based on needs assessment and local, participant involvement.

Members of these advisory bodies were:

(The State Advisory Council on Aging)

Lt. Governor Eddie Jojola, Isleta Pueblo
Hosea Wilson, Central
Anna M. Ortiz, Springer
A. M. Thomson, Alamogordo
Loma McDermott, Santa Fe
L. W. McClelland, Albuquerque
Ray Crespin, Las Vegas
Mildred Stuver, Albuquerque
Helen Demuth, Carlsbad
Herman Grace, Santa Fe
Zene C. Hemphill, Albuquerque
Jasin Edwards, Santa Fe

(State Advisory Nutrition Committee)

Grace McCallum, Albuquerque
Viola Fisher, Santa Fe
Margaret Ann McCarthy, Albuquerque
Rodger Sandoval, Ft. Defiance
Professor Gerald Boyle, Albuquerque
R. A. "Bert" Quelle, Albuquerque
Ruth Ritter, Shiprock
Albert Vallejos, Las Vegas
Mary Olguin, Taos
Gretchen Plagge, Santa Fe
Travis Wood, Roy
Dr. Mary Lou Day, Las Cruces
Andy Padilla, Albuquerque
Muriel Kirshmeier, Albuquerque
Barbara Menzie, Albuquerque
Dr. Madeline Nasby, Albuquerque

A Brief History of Area Agencies on Aging

In 1972, 73, and 74 the Commission became responsible for establishing Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's). Funded by special grants from the Administration on Aging (a part of H.E.W.), the AAA's provide the local direction for administration of programs. They are in excellent positions to develop comprehensive, coordinated delivery programs for a specific proportion of the elderly within given geographic districts.

Private and public agencies, such as Councils of Government, may serve as grantees for the AAA's and employ staff through Administration on Aging funds specifically for the purpose of carrying out the planning, coordination, and evaluation prescribed by federal regulation.

Each AAA has developed an annual Area Plan for approval by the State Agency. The AAA, together with its federally required Area Advisory Council, surveys the needs of older persons, assesses needs in terms of existing resources, and coordinates services to meet needs. The AAA is subsequently responsible for the development, processing, and administration of grants or contracts for supportive and gap filling services in keeping with the priority needs of the Area. Approved programs are eligible for funding on a match basis of 90% federal and 10% local. The AAA sub-contracts for the delivery of services with existing or potential service agencies. However, it may also provide services if there are not other agencies or organizations able to do so.

In the six Planning and Service Areas in which there are Area Agencies on Aging, Title III applications are submitted directly to the AAA and not to the State Office.

AAA's presently are serving the following Planning and Service Areas (PSA's):

- McKinley AAA.....PSA 1
(San Juan and McKinley Counties)
- Northcentral N.M. AAA.....PSA 2
(Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, Mora,
San Miguel, Santa Fe, Sandoval, and
Los Alamos Counties)
- Metropolitan AAA.....PSA 3A
(Bernalillo County)
- Eastern Plains AAA.....PSA 4
(Union, Harding, Quay, Guadalupe,
De Baca, Curry, and Roosevelt Counties)
- Southeastern N.M. AAA.....PSA 6
(Lincoln, Chaves, Lea, Eddy, and
Otero Counties)
- Southern Rio Grande AAA.....PSA 7
(Socorro, Sierra, and Doña Ana
Counties)

There are six counties not served by Area Agencies on Aging. They are Valencia, Torrance, Catron, Grant, Luna, and Hidalgo Counties. These areas work directly with the State Office to plan and implement senior citizens' programs.

The Comprehensive Services Amendments

NUTRITION

Because of the high priorities given by older people across the nation for better nutrition and the need for companionship, a separate title, Title VII, was written into the 1973 Amendments to the Older Americans Act. Title VII, the Nutrition Program for the Elderly, seeks to end the isolation of elderly persons and to improve their health through better nutrition. This dual purpose is accomplished by serving daily meals in a group setting, usually at a multipurpose senior center site. A minimum of 100 meals per day, five days per week, is served by each project. The minimum size of a Nutrition Project is a county.

In November of 1973, New Mexico initiated its first Title VII project. Serving the Albuquerque area, the Metropolitan Nutrition Project began with a goal of 450 daily meals. During the last few years the statewide Nutrition Program for the Elderly has expanded to eight projects, serving meals at 47 different sites. The 1976 meal goal reflects a 60% increase over the preceeding year, or 540,000 total meals to be served in New Mexico.

These meals are served in communal settings, varying in size, locale, and atmosphere. Older New Mexicans are sitting down to lunch together in Santa Fe Mid High, Santa Clara Pueblo, and at Eastside in Las Cruces--in community centers, public schools and senior centers throughout the state.

A random look at the present 47 Title VII supported meal sites shows their diversity and individuality.

What they share is their goal to provide companionship as well as nutritionally balanced meals. A limited number of home delivered meals is also part of the projects, although this is not the emphasis.

An important aspect of all Title VII programs is the variety of social services offered to participants, such as transportation, counseling, nutrition education, shopping assistance, and recreation.

LOW-INCOME AND MINORITY

All of the various services supported through Title III and Title VII received a literal "shot in the arm" with the passage of the 1973 Comprehensive Services Amendments to the Older Americans Act. On the state and local levels these amendments encourage the development of coordinated service delivery systems that link already existing programs with gap-filling services to form an "omni" or "umbrella" service program for older

New Mexicans. The direction was toward the support and delivery of essential services, rather than "fun and games" pastimes. These twin goals of providing essential services in a comprehensive fashion will continue to mold planning activities in 1976.

Another important aspect of the 1973 amendments--and for New Mexico one of major consequence--focused on increasing services to low-income and minority elderly.

The directives of present planning at the Commission aim to meet the priority needs of this group of people, to solve income, transportation, and health problems, as well as to meet educational, social and spiritual needs.



The 1976 State Plan

Commission Director, Roberto Mondragón, looks on as Governor Jerry Apodaca signs the 1976 State Plan.

Good planning depends on many things--on new ideas and innovation, on research, foresight, and patience. All of these qualities, to one degree or another, motivate and inspire the people who mold policy and programs to benefit the elderly in New Mexico.

On the State level, the Commission State Plan is the primary expression of overall planning. Required by federal regulations, it describes agency activity one year in advance by carefully outlining measurable objectives,

action steps designed for systematic achievement of those objectives, and resource allocation plans.

A review of the planning processes for the 1976 State Plan shows that this planning document is the result of the concerted effort of commissioners, advisory council, director and staff, program personnel throughout the state, and the general public.

Complete and summary copies of the draft of the plan were sent a month before the scheduled public hearing of September 2, 1975 to the 5-member Commission, the State Advisory Council, all Area Agencies on Aging, the State Planning Office, all Title VII projects and their advisory councils, Title III projects not under an Area Agency, the 56 Mayors' Committees on Aging, and numerous senior citizen organizations.

On September 2, a day long public hearing was held in Santa Fe. Attended by approximately 80 persons--nearly half of whom were senior citizens--the hearing provided a forum for the exchange of ideas and the revision of drafted objectives and action plans.

From this hearing and the formal review by the Commission and State Advisory Council on September 5, objectives dealing with the following major areas of concern were decided upon:

OBJECTIVE #1 calls for an interagency agreement with the Social Services Agency of the Department of Health and Social Services, the state agency responsible for administering Title XX funds under the Social Security Act. This objective is a direct response to Administration on Aging planning on the national level which requires State Commissions to work closely with Title XX. An agreement between the Commission and Social Services in regard to Title XX will ensure that older persons, particularly the low income and minority, receive at least a proportionate share of services provided by Title XX funds.

ACTION

The Joint Powers Agreement between the Commission on Aging and the Social Services Agency was signed on December 15, 1975. It is a major step toward a coordinated effort to satisfy the social service needs of the elderly and low income of New Mexico. Already concrete steps are being taken to implement this agreement through the allocation of Title XX funds to support senior programs in adult day care, protective, and health support services.

OBJECTIVE #2 deals with other interagency agreements and "linkages" at the state level with the Bureau of Revenue, the New Mexico State Housing Authority, the Office of Manpower Administration, the Highway Department, the Department of Education, the Inter-Church Agency, and the State Health Agency of the Department of Health and Social Services.

As a result of the 1975 State Plan interagency agreements had been executed with nine state and three federal agencies that provide services to the elderly. The State Agency considers agreements a continuing priority in 1976 on the area as well as state level.

ACTION As of December 30, 1975 the Commission on Aging entered into agreements with the Bureau of Revenue, the New Mexico State Housing Authority, and the Inter-Church Agency.

OBJECTIVE #3 states that the Commission will increase by 60% the number of daily meals currently being served to older New Mexicans.

ACTION As of December 31, 1975 a number of important steps have been taken to reach this goal. The number of meals served on and near the Navajo Reservation through the Northwest New Mexico Nutrition Project has increased since August, 1975. Existing Title VII projects have been evaluated and two new projects serving Sandoval and Otero counties have been granted funds to initiate programs. Furthermore, the number of meals provided through other sources, notably Title III and State funds (through SB 394) has been greatly increased.

OBJECTIVE #4 states that "the Commission on Aging will promote and encourage the development of employment and training opportunities to increase the income of older New Mexicans."

Income and employment are two high priority needs of older New Mexicans. To help alleviate pressing income and employment needs, the Commission, primarily through the help of its employment specialist, is working with various manpower agencies, the Bureau of Revenue, the Interim Legislative Committee on Health and Aging, and the sponsors of the Concentrated Employment and Training Act (CETA) to increase employment and income for the elderly, particularly the low income and minority.

ACTION As of December 31, 1975 a number of gains have been made. Legislation designed to employ outreach workers to contact older persons eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and for the low income tax rebate has been prepared and promoted by the Commission. Two such outreach workers, paid through CETA funds, have been secured for Taos-Rio Arriba Counties.

A Low Income Tax Rebate and Medical Tax Credit Training Seminar, presented by the Bureau of Revenue with the cooperation the Commission on Aging, the Employment Security Commission, the Division of Human Resources, and the Health and Social Services Department, was held on December 9, 10, and 11 in seven different communities around the state.

Attending the seminars were volunteer tax aide workers, members

of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), and persons involved in all levels of programming for the elderly. These sessions provided information and instruction on the low income tax rebate and the medical tax credit for which the majority of elderly are eligible.

OBJECTIVE #5 provides for implementation of the provisions of the inter-agency agreement between ACTION and the Commission on Aging, which was signed in November, 1974.

ACTION The State Office for ACTION coordinates activities of 12 Retired Senior Volunteer Programs (RSVP) in 12 of New Mexico's 32 counties. These programs are working closely with on-going and planned Title III and VII programs. The intent of objective #5 is to insure the further coordination of volunteer services throughout the State.

On December 12th, the monthly meeting of the Commission was held in Roswell. The afternoon session included a joint agenda with the state RSVP directors.

OBJECTIVE #6 is aimed at increasing the administrative capacity of the State and local program network and at closing the communication and coordination gaps which might exist between the State Agency and the local programs.

ACTION Many steps have been taken to accomplish this objective. There have been weekly Commission staff meetings and quarterly meetings with the State Advisory Council, the directors of Area Agencies on Aging, nutrition project directors, and Title III program directors not covered by Area plans. These meetings have increased communication on all levels of administration.

Commission staff members have also been assigned to each Planning and Service Area. These field representatives have personally visited with Area Agency personnel and have observed project activity at least once a month. Technical assistance and evaluation have increased because of these close ties established between the State Agency and local programs.

In addition to these actions, several training sessions for Area Agency directors, Title VII project directors, Title III directors not under Area plans, and Area Agency Advisory Councils will begin in January, 1976 in collaboration with the Institute of Applied Research Services (IARS).

OBJECTIVE #7 states that "the Commission on Aging will involve Native

Americans actively in planning and decision-making processes in order to increase service delivery to elderly Native Americans."

Because Native Americans are culturally unique and because the Commission recognizes their special needs, it has selected this objective as a high priority during the Plan year.

ACTION One important step taken to accomplish this goal is the appointment to the State Advisory Council of two Native American representatives, one from the All Indian Pueblo Council and one representing the Navajo Nation. Another step is the addition of a Native American to the Agency staff. The latter was accomplished with Concentrated Employment and Training Act (CETA) funds under the auspices of the All Indian Pueblo Council. Hopefully this position can be made permanent during the next fiscal year. In addition, the Commission has stressed the need for Native American representation on advisory councils on the Area Agency level in order to reach and serve Native American elders more effectively.

SUMMARY: Achieving these seven objectives is the goal of the Commission in 1976. The 1976 State Plan is designed to satisfy these objectives, to promote action and concrete results which will directly benefit the elderly of New Mexico.



SERVICES FOR OLDER NEW MEXICANS

Title III: Community Services

The principal objective of Title III programs under the Older Americans Act is the establishment of a comprehensive and coordinated service delivery system at the sub-state or local level. The range of social services provided helps older persons to meet their needs and to live in their own homes and communities as long as possible.

The community projects funded by the New Mexico Commission on Aging under Title III encompass a broad range of activities, serving as the focal point for many social services. The Community Services Projects currently being funded are:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AREA SERVED</u>
*Senior American Nutrition (PSA #1) and Development Services	Farmington	San Juan County
Gallup Indian Community Center (PSA #1)	Gallup	McKinley County
Thoreau Senior Center (PSA #1)	Thoreau	Thoreau
Colfax County Senior Program (PSA #2)	Raton	Colfax County
*Wagon Mound Senior Citizens (PSA #2)	Wagon Mound	Mora County
Taos/Rio Arriba Senior Citizens (PSA #2)	Espanola	Taos/Rio Arriba Counties
Sandoval County Senior Citizens Program (PSA #2)	Bernalillo	Sandoval County
*Las Vegas/San Miguel Center (PSA #2)	Las Vegas	San Miguel County
Santa Fe County Senior Citizens (PSA #2)	Santa Fe	Santa Fe
Senior Citizens Law Office (PSA #3A)	Albuquerque	Bernalillo County
Self Help Community Fund (PSA #3A)	Albuquerque	Bernalillo County
Mobile Outreach Van (PSA #3A)	Albuquerque	Bernalillo County
Information & Referral (PSA #3A)	Albuquerque	Bernalillo County
SOS Winter Alert (PSA #3A)	Albuquerque	Bernalillo County
**Clovis Meals Program (PSA #4)	Clovis	Clovis
Friendship Center for Older People (PSA #4)	Clovis	Clovis
*Melrose Senior Citizens Center (PSA #4)	Melrose	Melrose & surrounding area
Community Senior Center, Inc. (PSA #4)	Texico	Texico & surrounding area

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AREA SERVED</u>
Senior Hot Line (PSA #4)	Clovis	Curry, DeBaca, Guadalupe, Harding, Quay, Roosevelt and Union Counties
"I Still Care" (PSA #4)	Clovis	Curry County
McAlister Senior Citizens Center (PSA #4)	McAlister	Rural Quay County
Senior Wheels (PSA #4)	Clovis	Clovis
DeBaca County Senior Citizens	Fort Sumner	DeBaca County
**Guadalupe County Senior Citizens (PSA #4)	Santa Rosa	Guadalupe County
Harding County Medical Project (PSA #4)	Roy	Harding County
*Tucumcari Meals Program (PSA #4)	Tucumcari	Tucumcari
Tucumcari Northside Senior Center (PSA #4)	Tucumcari	Northern area of Tucumcari
San Jon Senior Citizens (PSA #4)	San Jon	San Jon
Logan Senior Citizens Center (PSA #4)	Logan	Logan
Union County Senior Citizens Center (PSA #4)	Clayton	Union County
JOY Senior Centers (PSA #6)	Roswell	Roswell
Hospitality House (PSA #6)	Artesia	Artesia & North Eddy County
Lovington Multi-Purpose Senior Center (PSA #6)	Lovington	Lovington & North Lea County
Otero County Older Americans Program (PSA #6)	Alamogordo	Otero County
Lincoln County Senior Citizens (PSA #6)	Ruidoso	Lincoln County
Las Cruces Senior Recreation Center (PSA #7)	Las Cruces	Las Cruces

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AREA SERVED</u>
*Sierra County Senior Citizens (PSA #7)	Truth or Consequences	Sierra County
*Socorro Senior Citizens Center (PSA #7)	Socorro	Socorro County
Central Senior Citizens Project (PSA #5)	Central	Central & surrounding area
Torrance County Senior Citizens Program (PSA #3)	Estancia	Torrance County
*West Valencia Senior Citizens Program (PSA #3)	Grants	West Valencia County

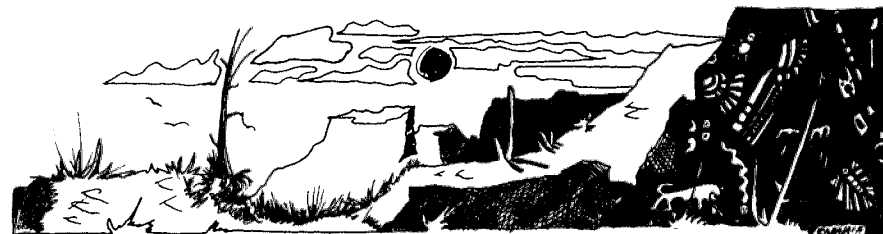
*Project includes Title III funded meals program.
 **Project is no longer being supported by Title III funds, as of December 31, 1975.

Title VII: Nutrition Program for the Elderly

The Nutrition Program for the Elderly aims to end the isolation of older persons and to improve their health through better nutrition. The program establishes strategically located congregate meal sites where older people can enjoy nutritious meals and companionship while receiving additional social services. As of December 31, 1975, eight Nutrition Programs for the Elderly are, or will soon be, in operation:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AREA SERVED</u>
DOÑA ANA HOT MEALS PROGRAM (PSA #7)	LAS CRUCES	DOÑA ANA COUNTY (Sites: Las Cruces, Anthony, Placitas, La Union, San Miguel, Butterfield Park, Doña Ana, and Vado)
JOY SENIOR NUTRITION PROJECT (PSA #6)	ROSWELL	CHAVES COUNTY (Sites: Roswell and Hagerman)
SANTA FE COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS (PSA #2)	SANTA FE	SANTA FE (Sites: Santa Fe, Agua Fria, Pojoaque, Sombrillo, Chimayo, Cerrillos)

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AREA SERVED</u>
TAOS/RIO ARRIBA SENIOR CITIZENS PROGRAM (PSA #2)	ESPAÑOLA	TAOS/RIO ARRIBA COUNTIES (Sites: Taos, Questa, Taos Pueblo, Ranchos de Taos, Vadito, Dulce, Chama, Tierra Amarilla, Española, Dixon, El Rito, Truchas, San Juan Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo)
METROPOLITAN NUTRITION PROJECT (PSA #3A)	ALBUQUERQUE	BERNALILLO COUNTY (Sites: Isleta Pueblo, Los Padillas, Armijo, Mountain View, Casa de los Vecinos, Duranes, Tijeras, Martineztown, Baptist Center, Canoncito)
McKINLEY COUNTY NUTRITION PROGRAM (PSA #1)	GALLUP	McKINLEY AND SAN JUAN COUNTIES, INCLUDING NAVAJO RESERVATION (Sites: Gallup, Shiprock, Crownpoint, Tohatchi, Jones Ranch)
SANDOVAL COUNTY EOC NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS (PSA #2)	BERNALILLO	SANDOVAL COUNTY (Sites: Bernalillo, Corrales, Rio Rancho, Cuba, Peña Blanca)
OTERO COUNTY NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY (PSA #6)	ALAMOGORDO	OTERO COUNTY (Sites: Alamogordo, Tularosa)



Service Coordination

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM (RSVP)

Volunteer programs administered by ACTION and coordinated with the Commission are proving successful in both the provision of needed community services and the personal satisfaction of older persons volunteering their time and talents.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), planned, organized and operated on the local level, offers adults a recognized role in the community through volunteerism.

Hundreds of retired men and women are working at least four hours a week in schools, hospitals, libraries, day-care centers, nursing homes, and numerous other public service stations. Other RSVP volunteers help fellow older persons in their own homes. Volunteers are provided with accident insurance, as well as out-of-pocket expenses such as transportation and meals when requested.

As a consequence of this volunteer program, Title III and Title VII programs are more effectively achieving their objectives for the benefit of their target population.

RSVP Programs in New Mexico, as of December, 1975:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RSVP DIRECTOR</u>
Alamogordo	Tomasa D'Arezzo 511 Tenth Street Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310
Albuquerque	Julio Martinez 122 Amherst, N.E. Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106
Belen	Sandra Schauer City Hall, 503 Becker Avenue Belen, New Mexico 87002
Gallup	Lucy Martin Senior Center, Basement County Courthouse Gallup, New Mexico 87301
Las Cruces	Patsy A. Yates P. O. Box 760 Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001

LOCATION

RSVP DIRECTOR

Las Vegas

Beatrice Kemm
1624 Parkview
Las Vegas, New Mexico 87701

Los Alamos

Betty Ehart
P. O. Box 488
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87544

Roswell

Charles W. Wells
131 West Walnut Street
Roswell, New Mexico 88201

Santa Fe

H. M. (Mike) Valentine
P. O. Box 276
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Socorro

Aurora (Lola) Mendoza
311 McCutcheon
Socorro, New Mexico 87801

Taos

Joe F. Chavez
P. O. Box 811
Taos, New Mexico 87571

Truth or Consequences

Wally Nauman
City Hall, 615 Sims Street
T or C, New Mexico 87901

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM

Another ACTION program, the Foster Grandparents Program, provides low income elderly with the opportunity to supplement their meager incomes by helping children and young adults who have special needs in health, education, welfare, and related areas. In New Mexico the Foster Grandparents Program is located at the Los Lunas Hospital and Training School. Currently there are more than 80 foster grandparents working at this institution.



Millie Farmer, Foster Grandparent from Los Lunas.

HELP

The Home Education Livelihood Program is a non-profit community development corporation operating in rural, economically depressed areas throughout the state of New Mexico. The Senior Opportunities and Services (SOS) Division of HELP was organized in 1968 to assist the rural elderly population by providing needed social services in the areas of manpower, information and referral, transportation, consumer education, and nutrition.

Additionally, SOS has been particularly effective in recovering benefits for the elderly and disabled such as Social Security payments, survivors benefits, disability claims and in providing paralegal assistance and representation at hearings. Provision of such services makes it possible for the elderly to continue active lives in their own communities.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A number of state agencies, governmental bodies, and volunteer private organizations are recognizing common goals to benefit older New Mexicans.

The following are among the state agencies and governmental bodies that are developing and acting on working agreements or working closely with the Commission:

- Department of Hospitals and Institutions
- Educational Retirement Board
- Employment Security Commission
- Health and Social Services Department
- Veterans Service Commission
- Division of Human Resources
- Office of Manpower Administration
- Motor Vehicle Department
- State Department of Education
- Albuquerque Legal Aid Society
- Navajo Nation
- All Indian Pueblo Council
- Jicarilla Tribal Council

Other volunteer organizations with New Mexico divisions that are associated with the Commission:

- American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)
- National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE)
- National Retired Teachers Association (NRTA)
- New Mexico Retired Education Employees Association (NMREEA)
- AARP-NRTA Joint Legislative Committee
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)



LEGISLATION FOR OLDER NEW MEXICANS

1975

In anticipation of the 1975 State Legislative session, in late 1974 members of the Commission selected five priority areas for state funding. These areas included requests for: 1) an appropriation request of \$1,000,000 for State funds to strengthen Area Agencies on Aging, expand comprehensive programs, and establish a Center on Gerontology at the University of New Mexico; 2) tax benefits for low-income elderly, including sales tax exemption on medical related products and services, increased income tax credits, and property tax relief; 3) development of an Industrial Placement Program for older and handicapped persons; 4) improvement of residential care for the elderly; and 5) continuation of the Interim Legislative Committee on Health and Aging.

Other measures which the Commission supported were the generic substitutions of brand-named drugs bill; reduced tuition for senior citizens at state supported institutions of higher learning; probate code revision; and measures to prohibit mandatory retirement of public employees because of age.

SB 394

The legislature acted positively on a number of these requests. The most significant was the passage of SB 394, which appropriated \$450,000 for services in a number of areas, including nutrition, transportation, outreach, escort, recreation, and health and homemaker services.

Unfortunately, administrative funding for the Area or State levels was not provided by this bill.

Other legislation provided an increase in the low-income tax credit and a \$5 medical rebate credit. In addition, the extension of the Interim Legislative Committee on Health and Aging was assured.

1976

The 1976 legislative package to be introduced on behalf of the elderly deals with several critical issues. Some of these are revisions of earlier legislative requests; others focus on newly defined needs of the elderly of the State.

The legislative package, including bills on income improvement, continuing education, utility rates, residential care, and program and administrative funds, will be introduced by the Interim Legislative Health and Aging

Committee. Following is an overview of these measures.

INCOME IMPROVEMENT

This legislation will provide funds to hire full-time outreach workers to help eligible senior citizens complete the paper work for Social Security, Supplemental Security, and tax credit benefits, including the low income tax rebate and the new medical tax credit.

In addition, they will provide an employment referral service by contacting persons over 60 who are employable, especially those needing 1, 2, or 3 quarters of coverage in order to qualify for Social Security benefits.

In many cases, the outreach workers will be older New Mexicans who need additional quarters of coverage to qualify for Social Security. They might also be Social Security recipients who would be earning extra money.

The request by the Commission on Aging for salaries and fringe benefits to implement this income improvement package is \$300,000.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

The continuing education bill will provide free tuition or a tuition waiver at state supported institutions of higher learning for persons 60 years of age and over.

Many older citizens reach retirement and find the need and desire to continue their formal education. However, for many people on fixed incomes, formal education is a luxury. Although cost-per-credit at state supported institutions is lower than at private schools, often this tuition price is prohibitive and necessarily becomes a low priority for older citizens.

The Commission recommends the following measures to remedy this situation: 1) pass legislation that would provide free tuition or a tuition waiver to residents of New Mexico who are 60 years of age or over for course work taken for credit at state supported institutions of higher learning, or prepare as a Joint Resolution a constitutional amendment that would make it possible for differential tuition for persons over 60.

UTILITY RATES

Present utility rate structures for gas and electricity penalize the individual user of relatively small quantities and at the same time encourage wastefulness by large users.

The Commission sponsored legislation concerning utility rates and energy consumption is similar to legislation enacted during the 1975-76 regular

session of the California Legislature. The California Act is known as the Miller-Warren Energy Lifeline Act.

Under this legislation, the Public Service Commission would designate a lifeline volume of gas and a lifeline quantity of electricity which is necessary to supply the minimum energy needs of the average residential user for the following end uses: 1) space and water heating; b) residential lighting; c) cooking and food refrigeration.

This lifeline rate would not be increased until such time as the rates for utility customers (industrial and commercial) exceed the lifeline rate by 25 percent or more. Thereafter, in establishing electrical and gas rates, the Commission would maintain a lifeline rate differential of at least 25 percent.

RESIDENTIAL CARE

The Commission recognizes that boarding home care is a serious and complex problem. It is complicated for the operator and the client by rising prices. Often boarding home clients require services over and above "room and board," services for which they do not and can not pay. This presents a real financial hardship for the operators.

This legislation is a protective and preventive measure. It would provide that the Health and Social Services Department increase payments by \$3.00 per day for recipients of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who live in boarding homes. This increase would be passed on to the boarding home operators, on the condition that the operators would provide more than room and board for these clients, that they in fact would provide services commensurate with the payment increases and the clients' needs.

This is a feasible answer to one residential care problem. The increase in SSI benefits for a relatively small number of recipients in boarding homes and the passing on of these benefits to the boarding home operators could mean the difference between reasonable care at equitable prices and expensive care in state supported intermediate care facilities and nursing homes.

PROGRAM AND ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS ON THE AREA LEVEL

The Commission on Aging, as the major advocate for the elderly, is responsible for coordinating an entire network of programs for the elderly in New Mexico.

There are presently six Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's) which administer programs on the local level and nearly 100 individual project sites.

This Commission bill for program and administrative funds would increase

both the number of and present level of financial support for the AAA's.

The request for funds for administration is \$150,000. The program funds request is \$450,000.

With this increased administrative and service capacity, the Commission and the AAA's will be able to expand and intensify the attack on urgent problems facing older New Mexicans, including poverty, transportation, nutrition, health, and social problems.

Other Activities Since July 1, 1975

In addition to those activities of the Commission on Aging and its staff which have been noted previously in this report, several forums, meetings, and other events of the latter part of 1975 deserve mention.

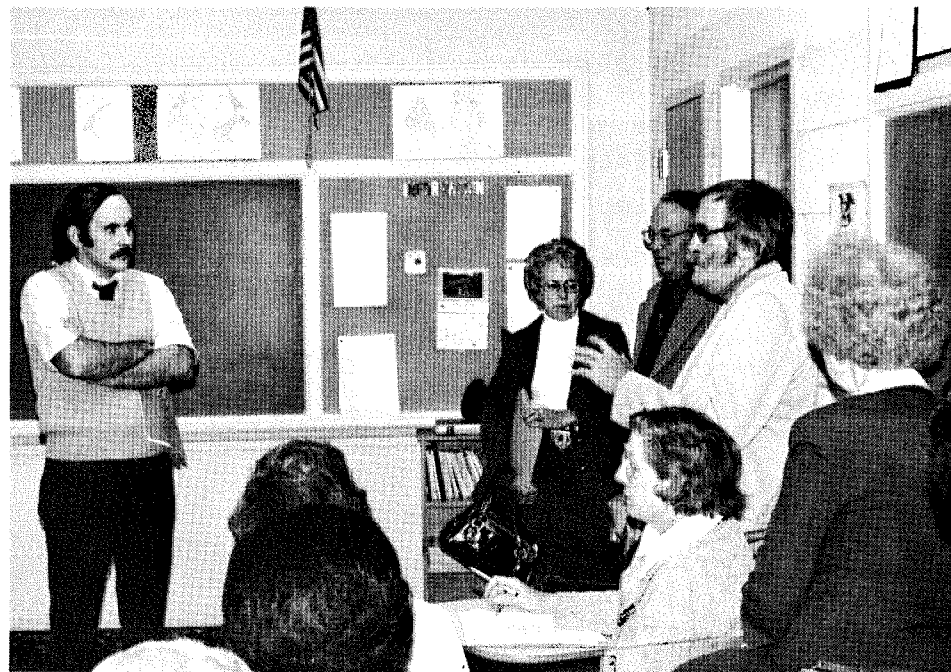
During the month of July, two forums sponsored by the Commission on Aging were held in Albuquerque. At both of these forums, the Commission was honored to have Dr. Arthur Flemming, U. S. Commissioner on Aging, as the special guest speaker. The first was the State Forum on Aging held on July 16 and which included working sessions in the areas of housing, nutrition, and transportation. Position statements in these three areas and others were adopted by the forum participants. A highlight of the forum was the dinner and presentations honoring Mrs. K. Rose Wood on the occasion of her retirement as Commission director. The Forum on the needs of the Indian elder was also convened on July 17 featuring speakers and participants from Indian tribes throughout New Mexico. The major outcome of the forum, besides sharing problems and solutions, was a group of recommendations for action to improve the life of the Indian elder.

On August 1, Roberto Mondragón became director of the Commission.

The first meeting of the directors of all of the projects in New Mexico's aging network took place on August 22 in Santa Fe. Brief reports presented by each project director provided a better understanding of the services and programs around the state. Such meetings will be scheduled for twice a year in the future.

August also brought the retirement of Mrs. Gertrude Dodds, Administrative Assistant for the Commission.

Most of the September activities focused on the State Plan public hearings and draft revisions. However, a meeting of the RSVP state directors, held in Taos on September 11th was attended by the Commission director who presented an overview of the Commission and stressed the need for close Commission on Aging cooperation with New Mexico ACTION programs.



Joe Canepa, director of the Albuquerque Senior Citizens Law Office, listens to questions at the Pre-retirement Seminar.

Efforts coordinated with other agencies produced important programs in October. Together with the State Personnel Office and the Public Employees Retirement Association, the Commission on Aging presented the second Pre-Retirement Seminar for state employees on October 23. Meetings sponsored by the New Mexico Inter-Church Agency, held in Angel Fire on the 27th and 28th, and Las Cruces on the 29th, focused on the role of churches in the lives of the elderly.

Perhaps the most significant meeting was held on October 10 between the Social Services Agency (Title XX Unit) and the Commission staff and program directors. As a result of this meeting, work was begun around the state which has led to an allocation of \$450,000 from Title XX of the Social Security Act for services for older New Mexicans.

On December 5 and 6, the first New Mexico Housing Conference was convened in San Miguel in Dona Ana County. Sections of the conference were devoted to housing for the elderly, and Commission staff members participated as panelists and speakers.

The final Commission meeting of the year was held in Roswell on December 12. This meeting was the first in an effort to have closer contact with the programs throughout the state. The afternoon was a joint session with state RSVP Directors, enabling both groups to learn more about programs for older New Mexicans.

RELATED PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY

The table below gives an idea of the number of related programs that are funded by various federal, state, and local sources. The activities of these programs touch the daily lives of the elderly in New Mexico by subsidizing social services, transportation, nutrition, and volunteer services.

These figures do not present the whole picture. Other governmental and private service agencies are working for older New Mexicans in the areas of housing, health, employment, residential care, income improvement, and social services. Title XX funds not reflected in the table, totalling over \$300,000, are being used by community organizations around the state for programs that offer services for the elderly. The resources which are available to these agencies, whether in the form of CDA funds, Title XX grants, or local tax dollars, will help mold future planning for community supported programs for the elderly.

The State Commission on Aging welcomes the exchange and coordination of information, resources, and services with all related programs and agencies.

FUNDING SOURCES FOR RELATED PROGRAMS, AS OF DECEMBER, 1975 (All amounts in thousands of dollars)

Item	Federal	State	Local	Total
1. Department of Finance & Administration (Commodities Division)	38.0	-	-	38.0
2. Title XX (Social Security Act funds for the elderly in 4 PSA's)	450.0	*	*	450.0
3. CDA (Community Development Act) funds--Albuquerque meal sites	325.0	-	-	325.0
4. HELP (Home Education Livelihood Program): Senior Opportunities Services				207.1
A. Title X	79.0	-0-	-0-	
B. Title XX	57.1	-0-	19.0	
C. CSA	39.0	-0-	13.0	
5. Federal Highway Administration				417.0
A. UMTA (19 Projects)	182.0	-0-	-0-	
B. RMTA (McKinley, Taos/Rio Arriba)	235.0	-0-	-0-	
6. ACTION:				
A. RSVP (12 County Programs)	218.3	-0-	57.3	275.6
B. Foster Grandparents (Los Lunas)	159.1	-0-	56.1	215.2
7. AARP (Senior Community Services Aides)	130.0	-	-	130.0
TOTAL	1,912.5		145.4	2,057.9

*(Match can be from SB 394 or Local Cash or In-Kind)

REVENUES

COMMISSION FUNDING SOURCES (All amounts in thousands of dollars)

1974-75

<u>Item</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. HB-300	122.4	40.8	-0-	163.2
2. Title III (Senior Centers)	620.7*	-0-	119.1	739.8
3. Title VII (Nutrition)	493.0	-0-	76.9	569.9
4. Title IV-A (Training)	31.2	-0-	3.3	34.5
5. Model Projects (Title III)	118.1	-0-	-0-	118.1
6. S.S.I. Alert	75.4	-0-	-0-	<u>75.4</u>
				1,700.9

*(Includes 90.1 of State Agency Administration Passed on to AAA's)

COMMISSION FUNDING SOURCES (All amounts in thousands of dollars)

1975-76

<u>Item</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. HB-300	149.1	45.7	-0-	194.8
2. Title III (Senior Centers)	545.2*	-0-	252.3	797.5
3. Title VII (Nutrition)	742.5	-0-	107.4	849.9
4. Title IV-A (Training)	20.0	-0-	-0-	20.0
5. SB-394 (State Program \$)	-0-	450.0	45.0	495.0
6. Nursing Home Ombudsman	18.0	-0-	-0-	<u>18.0</u>
				2,375.2

*(Includes \$10,900 of State Agency Administration Passed on to AAA's)

In Summary

This report has attempted to picture the activities and services of the State Commission on Aging. Like any portrait in pictures or words, a viewer or reader can glimpse only certain aspects of the total scene. With the Commission as the subject, such a portrait must seek a many dimensioned presentation, for the subject is an agency that functions on many levels in various ways.

As you have seen, the Commission on Aging is the State agency designated to act on behalf of older New Mexicans. Its network of activities and responsibilities extend from the state office to area and local programs and personnel.

This annual report would be lacking if it didn't applaud all the people who work for the elderly, as employees of the State Agency, as personnel on the area and local project level, and as Advisory Council members and volunteers with the various service programs in New Mexico. And this portrait would be a lifeless snapshot if it neglected the most important dimension--the thousands of senior citizens, ancianos, older New Mexicans. Their days are more fulfilling and exciting because they share their meals with friends or work on projects at community senior centers.

A portrait of the Commission, in a sense, should be a montage of young and old people around the state whose work and lives show the dignity and delight of reaching old age.



Grace Sarah Matthews, a resident of Socorro Village Senior Citizens Retirement Center and a participant in the Socorro Senior Center, will be 88 years old on January 21, 1976.

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