

Section 2

“A LOOK AT THE NORTH DELTA AREA ON AGING”

North Delta Regional Planning & Development District was established in 1968 to serve Northeast Louisiana and to promote development of the largely Delta area. The Agency recognized the importance of economic development and has responded by providing necessary resources to perform a variety of activities and provide a solid base for development.

Through communication, planning, policymaking, coordination, advocacy, and technical assistance, the District serves local parish and municipal member governments. As requested, they provide technical assistance to members on a variety of topics. The professional staff and departments of each District serve to fulfill the individual development needs of their constituents.

One of North Delta's established programs is the Area Agency on Aging. On May 5, 1975 Governor Edwin Edwards, signed an Executive Order declaring the North Delta Regional Planning and Development District, Inc. as the “Overseer” for the Area Agency. North Delta was the first regional to receive Area Agency on Aging funds. Through the coordinated efforts of Representative T.W. Humphries and other local legislators, the Planning District was informed of the availability of funds and requirements for operation of the program.

Our primary functions are to provide leadership and advocacy on behalf of all older persons within the geographic area for which the agency is responsible; to determine the need for social services in the planning and service area, and with special attention being given to the needs of low income and minority elderly. The Area Agency on Aging is also responsible for establishing measurable program objectives and priorities for implementation of the area plan; the plan with existing planning grants for inaugurating or strengthening supporting and gap-filling services for elderly persons. The goal of the agency is to identify untapped resources to serve the elderly, and coordination of services to develop a comprehensive system of services for seniors in the community.

North Delta is “overseen” by its Board of Directors that resides within the eleven-parish area. The Area Agency, a subcontractor of the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is advised by the Advisory Council. The Advisory Council communicates and reports to the Board of Directors. The Council also consists of representatives from the seven parish area. Their primary function is to carry out advisory functions which further the Area Agency's mission of developing and coordinating community based system of services. The Council also follows operational procedures established by the Area Agency governing body. The Executive Director of the Planning District and/or Aging Director reports functions and activities of the Area Agency, which has been initially approved by the Advisory Council at the Board of Directors meetings. He also hires the Agency employees with approval of the Board of Directors and Area Agency Advisory Council where applicable. The Director of the Area Agency/Nursing Home Ombudsman Coordinator reports functions of the Agency and approval of Contracts to the Area Agency Advisory Council and Board of Directors for approval. The Director of the Area Agency/Nursing Home Ombudsman Coordinator also supervises the Ombudsman Recruiter, SAMS Coordinator, SenioRx/ADRC Coordinator, and Nutritionist Consultant.

The Area Agency Director and Planning District Executive Director also review activities of subcontractors and other service providers. This established system has much strength with no existing weakness of coordinated efforts. Finally, the Area Agency Advisory Council initially reviews approval of Services and Programs. These programs are:

Titles: III B (Supportive Services)

III C (Congregate Meals)

III C2 (Home Delivered Meals)

III D (Preventive Health)

III E (National Family Caregivers Program)

The Planning District Board of Directors conducts all final approvals for implementation of services.