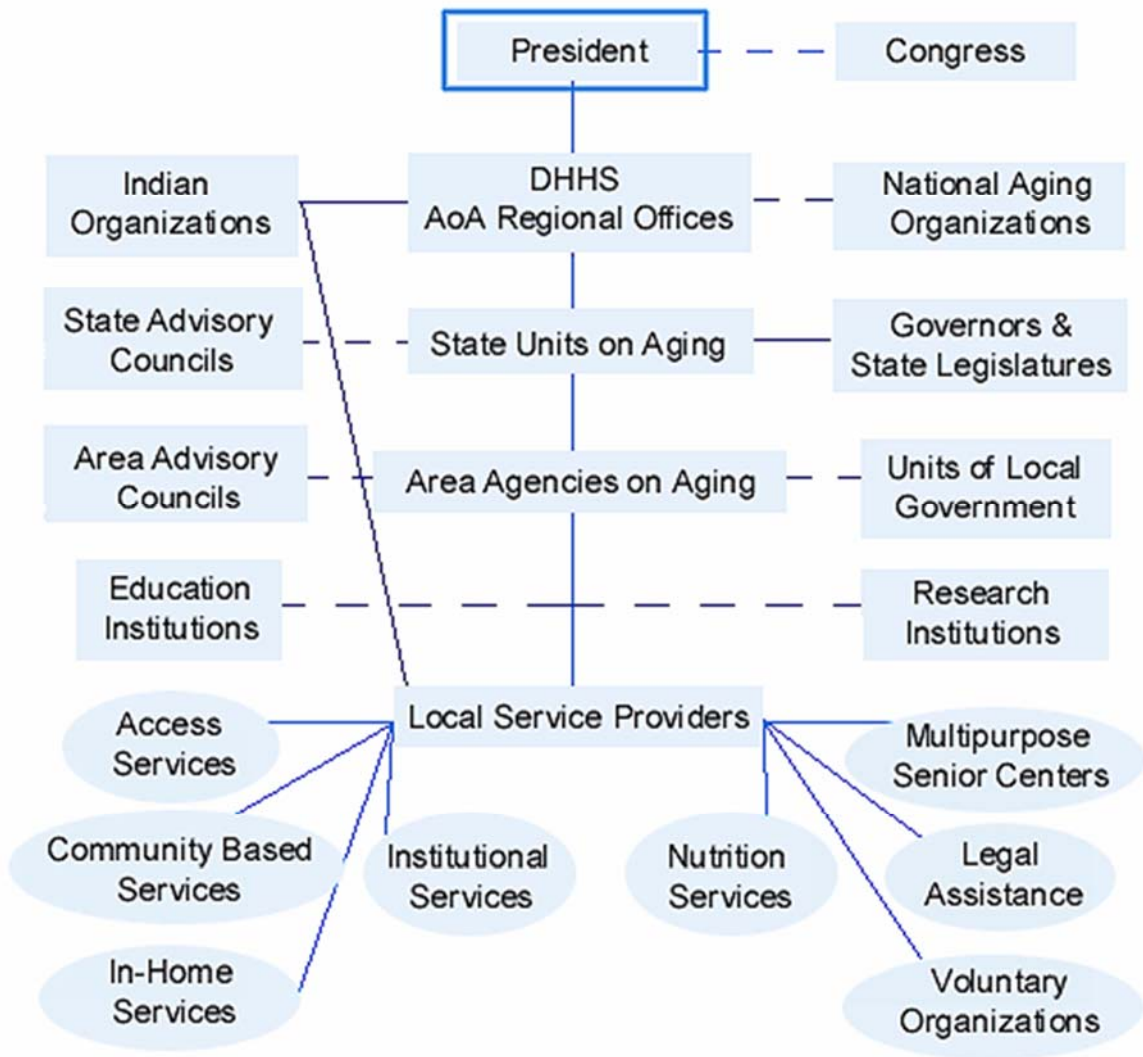


# The Aging Network



## **ADMINISTRATION**

The Administrative office for the PSA 2 AAA is located in Yreka, California. The relatively small number of staff (three full time positions and one part-time position) works extremely hard to administer approximately \$2,200,000 of funding and to uphold the following mandates directed by the OAA & OCA which are monitored through the California Department of Aging:

### **Section 1321.53 Mission of the area agency:**

a) The Older Americans Act intends that the area agency on aging shall be the leader relative to all aging issues on behalf of all older persons in the planning and service area. This means that the area agency shall proactively carry out, under the leadership and direction of the State agency, a wide range of functions related to advocacy, planning, coordination, inter-agency linkages, information sharing, brokering, monitoring and evaluation, designed to lead to the development or enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community based systems in, or serving, each community in the planning and service area. These systems shall be designed to assist older persons in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities as long as possible.

(b) A comprehensive and coordinated community based system described in paragraph (a) of this section shall:

1. Have a visible focal point of contact where anyone can go or call for help, information or referral on any aging issue;
2. Provide a range of options;
3. Assure that these options are readily accessible to all older persons: The independent, semi-dependent and totally dependent, no matter what their income;
4. Include a commitment of public, private, voluntary and personal resources committed to supporting the system;
5. Involve collaborative decision-making among public, private, voluntary, religious and fraternal organizations and older people in the community;
6. Offer special help or targeted resources for the most vulnerable older persons, those in danger of losing their independence;
7. Provide effective referral from agency to agency to assure that information and assistance is received no matter how or where contact is made in the community;

8. Evidence sufficient flexibility to respond with appropriate individualized assistance, especially for the vulnerable older person;
9. Have a unique character which is tailored to the specific nature of the community;
10. Be directed by leaders in the community who have the respect, capacity and authority necessary to convene all interested persons, assess needs, design solutions, track overall success, stimulate change and plan community responses for the present and for the future.

c) The resources made available to the area agency on aging under the Older Americans Act are to be used to finance those activities necessary to achieve elements of a community based system set forth in paragraph (b) of this section. For the purpose of assuring access to information and services for older persons, the area agency shall work with elected community officials in the planning and service area to designate one or more focal points on aging in each community, as appropriate. The area agency shall list designated focal points in the area plan. It shall be the responsibility of the area agency, with the approval of the State agency, to define "community" for the purposes of this section. Since the Older Americans Act defines focal point as a "facility" established to encourage the maximum collaboration and coordination of services for the older individuals, special consideration shall be given to developing and/or designating multi-purpose senior centers as community focal points of aging. The area agency on aging shall assure that services financed under the Older Americans Act in, or on behalf of, the community will be based at, linked to or coordinated with the focal points designated. The area agency on aging shall assure access from the designated focal points to services financed under the Older Americans Act. The area agency on aging shall work with, or work to assure that community leadership works with, other applicable agencies and institutions in the community to achieve maximum collocation at, coordination with or access to other services and opportunities for the elderly from the designated community focal points. The area agency may not engage in any activity which is inconsistent with its statutory mission prescribed in the Act or policies prescribed by the State under **Section 1321.11**.

The Area Agency provides leadership within the communities through various platforms such as: local Commissions on Aging, hospitals and healthcare centers, mental health departments, public health, public guardian, healthcare, local county supervisors, service providers, social services, family resource centers, adult protective services, local law enforcement, professional organizations, agencies serving the adults with function impairments, Triple A Council of California (TACC), the California State Legislature(CSL), and the PSA 2 AAA Advisory Council.

The Area Agency receives funding from the OAA through the California Department of Aging (CDA), and local county match funds from each of the five counties serving our Joint Powers Agreement.

## **Advisory Council and other Relationships**

The Area Agency plays a pivotal and fundamental role in the provision of services as the “link” between the older adults, and adults with functional impairments, and the funding streams. To accomplish the forging of this link, the voice of the people must be heard at the Area Agency level through the Advisory Council, as well as contracted service providers. Concerns are then addressed through the direct provision of services or the collaboration with a network of social services and is translated to the California Department of Aging through the implementation of the mandates as set forth by the OAA & OCA.

The PSA 2 AAA Executive Director’s role with the Advisory Council is to serve as a leader and to offer direction in their mission to be the “grassroots voice” of our older adults and adults with functional impairment in the PSA 2 AAA. The Advisory Council is composed of four representatives from each of the five counties served. The majority of Advisory Council members are aged 60+, have leadership experience, and represent the populations in which we serve. The members bring a voice, from their own experience, from our “targeted populations” which include minorities, low-income, caregivers, aged 75+, and functionally impaired. This relationship provides a grounding “link” which connects the needs of our populations to the Area Agency.

The PSA2AAA Executive Director sits on the Older Adult Policy Council (OAPC), which links the Shasta County department heads and community leaders to a team that is empowered to produce change on an as-needed basis. This provides yet another effort which can implement change based upon the needs of our populations.

The PSA 2 AAA Executive Director sits on the Siskiyou Alliance Against the Abuse of Aging and At-Risk Adults (SA6) in Siskiyou County, which was formed to take a multi-disciplinary approach to elder abuse. The organizations involved are committed to establishing and maintaining an effective coalition which identifies goals and develops strategies to increase awareness of and effectiveness in battling elder abuse in Siskiyou County.

It should also be noted if other such organizations were to develop in the other four counties, it is the intent of PSA 2 AAA to become likewise involved.