APPENDIX H - SUMMARY OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING 2008-2012 AREA PLANS

Background:
All 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), which cover the 67 individual counties in Pennsylvania, are required to develop a four-year plan. These plans were required for submission of a draft version by April 15, 2008. The final approved version of the individual Area Plans will be signed and submitted to the PA Department of Aging by June 1, 2008. Each plan was constructed to be a planning tool for the AAA. The content of the plan was to include an overview of the agency, goals/objectives, strategies, outcomes and performance measures.

Overview Summary:
The Agency Overviews were to contain not only specific information about the AAA itself and its organizational structure, but also information about the demographics on the population that the AAA services and within the county(s) of service in general. Specific attention was to be detailed on those demographic trends that are or would be affecting the population that the AAA services within the community. The Overview also addressed the challenges, critical issues and opportunities that were specific to each AAA's county(s).

A review of the individual plans and a comparison of the individual plans to each other and to the State Plan produced the following:

Critical Issues/Trends:

- Over 50% of the AAAs reported that the 85+ population is and will continue to experience the greatest percentage of growth followed closely by the "boomer" generation that will be entering into the service system over the next several years.

- Over 38% of the AAAs reported that the number of elderly living alone as they continue to age will also rise. In line with this will be the continued trend for a higher percentage of women living alone than men.

- Only 30% of the AAAs specifically identified an increasing trend in below poverty income for the county consumers. However, many did address that there are more consumers who will be making above poverty guideline income, though their cost of living expenses will minimize the consumer's income to provide for all their needs.

- Over 40% of the AAAs identified increases in the percentage of culturally diverse populations within their communities and specifically within their targeted consumer age groups. The minority population growth trends were identified with the Latino, African American, Asian and newly immigrated Eastern European populations.

Common Barriers/Needs:

- 100% of the AAAs identified stagnant state funding as a barrier to services for the consumers in their regions. While consumers in need and their needs for services will grow, the AAAs identified the need to pursue alternative means to assist consumers in addition to current funding.

- 56% of the AAAs identified that there is not enough information for the communities they serve about the services that are available to consumers and their caregivers.

- 42% of the AAA identified current public and shared ride transportation services as a barrier to access for consumers. Limits by the local carriers to distance and types of rides available prevent full access by consumers to services.

- 35% of the AAA identified insufficient affordable housing and also the need to maintain pre-1950 built homes that are falling into disrepair as physical and financial barriers for consumers.

Goals/Objectives/Strategies:
The AAAs' goals, objectives and strategies provided an overall plan for areas of need that the AAA would address as identified through the demographic information and analysis for each county, feedback from town/county public meetings and surveys conducted with stakeholders in their service areas. When compared with the State Plan's goals, objectives and strategies, the following was identified:

- 87% of the AAAs had identified "Empowering older Pennsylvanians and their families, including those from diverse communities, to make informed decisions on their health care and long-term care living options" as a goal for the AAA.

- 90% of the AAAs had identified " Enabling older Pennsylvanians to remain in the setting of their choice, improve their quality of life, and to take individual economic responsibility via the development of needed infrastructure and provision of home and community-based services, including supports for family caregivers" as a goal for the AAA.

- 77% of the AAAs had identified "Empowering older Pennsylvanians, including those form diverse communities, to stay active and healthy" as a goal for the AAA.

- 71% of the AAAs had identified the need to "Ensure older Pennsylvanians, including those from diverse communities, are free from abuse, neglect, exploitation and abandonment" as a goal for the AAA.

These four goals are in line with the primary goals that have been developed for the State Plan also. It is at the local level that the AAAs distinguish their specific strategies to reach the overall goals set. This has frequently included increased collaborative partnerships or the development of new collaborations with other community resources that provide services to and interface with the same targeted consumer populations.

The majority of the specific area plans also included other goals that were reflective of the needs assessment and feedback from their stakeholders as areas they need to try to address. These included transportation service improvements, increases in collaborative partnerships for housing

resources and pursuit of alternative funding sources to supplement state funding (i.e. grants, partnerships, diversification).

Of note, there were some alternative or innovative strategies that were identified by AAAs. These objectives/strategies included:

- Partnership with county Tax Claim office to prevent active program consumers who are homeowners from default on their taxes
- Relationship with local Office of Housing and Community Development, housing counselors, agencies and legal services to link seniors with unaffordable mortgages to resources to renegotiate their mortgages.
- Development of a Wellness Center via United Way grant targeting minority population
- Development of Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs)
- Replicate “Coming of Age” program in local county
- Reestablish a caregiver mentoring program
- Caregiver Institute to train caregivers
- Increase use of and access to internet and technology via Senior Centers
- Partnerships with community programs to develop more “Seniors Center without walls” programs.
- “Green” goal to implement recycling procedures at all Senior Centers.
- Identify and assist in developing or income producing avenues to enable Senior Centers to be self supporting
- Develop private care management services within agency organizational design.