

RESOLUTION

Area Agencies on Aging Identified as Access to all Long Term Care Aging Services

A RESOLUTION TO: Enhance the existing infrastructure of the 28 area agencies on aging (AAAs) to serve as access centers for long-term care aging services within the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

WHEREAS, since 1974 Area Agencies on Aging have provided leadership in the development and coordination of the local service delivery infrastructure as mandated by the Older American's Act, and have served as the front door to services for older adults in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Area Agencies on Aging have successfully demonstrated implementation of an array of other state coordination mandates targeting elderly and persons with disabilities including implementation of regional access plans in response to SB 374, 76th Legislature, Community Care Resource Coordination Groups, 2-1-1 and Texas Real Choice demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, in 24 states, Area Agencies on Aging are responsible for access to aging services, funded by both Medicaid and the Older Americans Act, whereby service plans are unbiased, free from conflict of interest, and incorporates both formal and informal supports to ensure cost efficiencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 11th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 80th Texas Legislature, authorize the 28 Area Agencies on Aging to serve as the access center for long-term care aging services within the Department of Aging and Disability Services, responsible for implementation of care coordination for long term care aging resources, ensuring timely access and cost savings for the State Medicaid program.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of September, 2006, by the Human Services Committee.

Adalaide Cash Balaban, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this 14th day of September, 2006, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Charlotte Parks, Speaker

ATTEST:

Carlos Higgins, Secretary