

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

The following four fundamental responsibilities of an Advisory Council are essentially those that are mandated by the Federal Government in the Older Americans Act for Area Agencies on Aging:

1. Advise the Agency in development and administration of the area plan,
2. Advise the Agency in the conduct of public hearings,
3. Advise the Agency in the representation of the interests of the constituency served by the Agency,
4. Advise the Agency in its review and commentary on all community policies, programs, and actions which affect the constituency.

The Advisory Council members are the most direct links between the constituency served, the providers of direct services and the Agency staff and Agency Board of Directors; therefore the Advisory Council must be the resource to which both the Board of Directors and the Staff can turn for advice, counsel and recommendations. The Council must bring the perspective of the constituency which is served by the Agency. The Advisory Council should be actively involved in all those things that are properly the role of the Council, which may include:

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY:

- The Advisory Council may see that potential and actual clients know about services.
- The Advisory Council may see that the Agency is aware of the effect of its programs on the neighbors and the town as well as on the clients.
- The Advisory Council may see that the Agency is aware of actual or potential problems with the delivery system.
- The Advisory Council may help see that public and private agency programs are closely coordinated so that each can enhance the others.
- The Advisory Council may see that the public has a chance to voice its views through appropriate citizen participation mechanisms.
- The Advisory Council may and should advocate on behalf of the

constituency.

To accomplish all of the above the Advisory Council can develop a Social Issues Committee to provide educational, legislative and informational programs and forums for public participation.

ON BEHALF OF THE AGENCY:

- The Advisory Council can assist in seeing to it that the public and community leaders understand the purpose of the Agency and its needs.
- The Advisory Council can assist in developing local resources to enhance the Agency's programs.
- The Advisory Council can help in developing new resources outside the local area.