I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2001 The Aging and Long-Term Services Department (ALTSD) established a history of collaborating with New Mexico’s Tribes, Pueblos and Nations. ALTSD consultation and communication policies and procedures have created a foundation that fosters an environment of communication that focuses on the needs of Native American Elders.

The ALTSD Office of Indian Elder Affairs (OIEA) was created in 2004 to manage the Departments efforts as they pertain to the needs of New Mexico’s Indian Elders. The Office of Indian Elder Affairs oversees the Departments advocacy and provision of services on behalf of all Indian elders in New Mexico in a coordinated and effective manner which includes collaborations with tribal program health providers, to strengthen their capacity to deliver a wide range of programs throughout Indian Country. This is accomplished through the N.M. Indian Area Agency on Aging (IAAA) and the Navajo Area Agency on Aging. The Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Director of the Office of Indian Elder Affairs, Gino Rinaldi, serves as ALTSD primary tribal liaison and works in collaboration with other state health and human services departments.

The ALTSD’s Office of Indian Elder Affairs, through its management of the Indian Area Agency on Aging and the Navajo Area Agency on Aging, has worked closely with New Mexico’s 22 federally recognized tribes to support their elderly programs and services. Through these endeavors we have made a significant impact on reducing or eliminating the significant funding reversions that were occurring in the past. Through ardent management initiatives, the OIEA and the AAA’s have worked together to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, that appropriations are being fully utilized to the benefit of New Mexico’s Indian elders.

In March of 2008, the Office of Indian Elder Affairs assumed contract management and reimbursement oversight responsibilities for the Navajo Area Agency on Aging (NAAA). In October 2011 there was a change in the director of the NAAA. As a result of the change, NAAA began an assessment of their New Mexico elderly services operations. As a result of this review, several gaps and vulnerabilities were identified. In addition, a
need to reestablish a stronger collaborative relation with ALTSD, was identified. This has created a more productive environment to address these gaps and vulnerabilities.

Up until this change, the Navajo Area Agency on Aging, reverted an unacceptably high percentage of their General Fund appropriations. This new working relationship has shown positive results as reflected in significantly lower reversion rate of 1.2%. For FY12 the Indian Area Agency on Aging has had no significant reversion.

Under the guidance of the Office of the Secretary, the Indian Area Agency on Aging is now reporting directly to the Director of the Aging Network. This move was designed to provide greater assistance to the IAAA in it’s oversight of the contractual relationships and provide a coordinated effort in the technical assistance and capacity building areas. In addition to the realignment of the IAAA, ATLSD also moved the contractual oversight of the Navajo AAA state funding to the Senior Services Bureau. A staff person is now dedicated to work with the Navajo AAA. This move is in an attempt to address legislative and programmatic concerns, and to expand technical assistance.

II. AGENCY OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND - HHS-TRIBAL Consultation Protocol Document

The New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department is dedicated to promoting the independence and dignity of elders and individuals living with a disability. ALTSD manages state and federal funds to provide services. In addition, they manage state funded capital outlay projects and capital outlay funding for senior programs; the Aging and Disability Resource Center; and support of the Aging Network through, services delivered through the four Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) comprised of six Planning Service Areas (PSA’s). Adult Protective Services and Ombudsman program.

Our Strategic Plan focuses on eight strategic priorities. Collectively these priorities support lifelong independence and healthy aging. These priorities include access to home and community-based services; support of caregivers; support of an individual’s self–direction of their long-term care services; zero tolerance for adult abuse, neglect and exploitation; empowerment of active and healthy lifestyles; support of geriatric behavioral health needs; advocacy for economic security-food, housing, transportation, employment, and promotion of civic engagement.

The Department's Mission is to promote the independence and dignity of adults and persons living with disabilities, and their families, by offering services that support
prevention and intervention, autonomy, health, safety, economic well-being, cultural diversity, community involvement, and personal responsibility, thereby enabling them to live on their own terms in their own communities.

**HHS-TRIBAL Consultation Protocol Document**

ALTSD along with the Department of Health, Human Services Department (HSD) and the Children, Youth and Families Department have an established history, dating back to 2002, in conducting Tribal-HHS Consultation Sessions with New Mexico’s Tribes, Nations and Pueblos.

In 2005, at the annual Tribal-HHS Consultation Session, both the Tribes and HHS Secretaries agreed to the development of written consultation and communication policies that reflected both the Governor’s Statement of Government-to-Government Policy and Executive Order 2005-004. To address this requirement we incorporated the Governor’s Statement of Government-to-Government Policy as it pertains to Executive Order 2005-004 in our interactions with New Mexico’s 22 federally recognized tribes. In collaboration with the other Health and Human Services (HHS) Departments we participated in creating a HHS-Tribal Consultation Protocol document which was considered the policy standard for tribal-state communication and consultation at that time. This document was used as a template for most NM state department protocols that exist today.

During 2006 and into 2007, the NM Tribes and HHS Secretaries identified a state-tribal work group to develop written consultation protocols and a process to facilitate direct and indirect government-to-government communication. The year-long work group process required Tribes and HHS work group members to review the documents with their respective leaders in the spirit of government-to-government consultation and communication.

**III. AGENCY EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT POLICY**

In 2007, ALTSD joined five other state agencies and the 22 tribes in adopting the Tribal-State Consultation Protocols. This document defines and acknowledges a formal and informal method for Tribal-State Consultation and communication at ALTSD. In 2009, the ALTSD adopted a Tribal Collaboration Protocol which is based on the prior consultation protocol that was developed by the HHS Departments in 2007.

As per our Goal for FY12 we successfully expanded our efforts to continue to provide enhanced technical support and program oversight. We have placed an emphasis on the programs nutritional component and reporting requirements. We effectively expanded our efforts to reach out to Tribal programs to offer referral, information and assistance for Long-Term Care Services through our Aging and Disability Resources Center (ADRC).
In addition, ATLSD has expanded its training efforts to developing insight into the needs of Native American Elderly.

We have been a part of the state Medicaid redesign dialogue, as it will have broad based effects on the States Native Americans, both tribal and non-tribal. We have also attempted to serve as a conduit for IAAA providers serving tribal elders.

IV. CURRENT AND PLANNED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS/ALASKA NATIVES.

A. ALTSD has created and staffed an Office of Indian Elder Affairs. Currently the Office of Indian Elder Affairs through the Aging Network Division, manages the Indian Area Agency on Aging (PSA 6) and senior services grant contractual related components of the Navajo Area Agency on Aging (PSA 5) state elderly services grant. In addition to operational funding, oversight of tribal Capital Outlay Process are the responsibility of the Aging Network Division.

B. ALTSD has designated two Native American Planning & Service units, the Indian Area Agency on Aging and the Navajo Area Agency on Aging.

C. The ALTSD has also participated and collaborated with the New Mexico Indian Council On Aging Elder Forums and quarterly meetings, these forums bring together seniors and aging related organizations to discuss senior concerns and issues as they relate to senior services in addition we attend public hearings, planning sessions and tribally related summits to keep abreast of current elder concerns and issues. The ALTSD in collaboration with other state and federal agencies has conducted outreach and training to Tribal Elderly programs concerning Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. ALTSD is working with the National Indian on Aging Conference, to be held in Albuquerque.

D. Native American Elderly Program Contractor Funding Amount.

*In FY 13 there was a more than 6% increase in state general funds to the states tribal elder programs*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Native American Elderly Programs</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acoma Pueblo</td>
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<td>Jicarilla Apace Nation</td>
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E. Indian Area Agency on Aging and its contractors, and the Navajo AAA, submitted 4 year area plans to ALTSD for review and integration into Statewide Area Plan.

F. Office of Indian Elder Affairs attend a broad range of meeting concerning health care for seniors and Native Americans

G. Through the ALTSD’s Office of Indian Elder Affairs, Indian Area Agency on Aging and in collaboration with our Consumer and Elder Rights Division ALTSD has increased the amount of Health Insurance and Benefits counseling at local tribal elderly centers and health fairs.

V. **TRAINING and EMPLOYEE NOTIFICATION.**

Of ATLSD’s senior management 50% participate in the State Personal Office (SPO) cultural sensitivity training. During FY 13 the remaining 50% will attend. In addition, mid-level managers will be encouraged to attend, especially those working directly with
tribal communities. Our designated Native American Liaison will provide updates to the management team on SPO’s progress in rolling out the training program,

The ALTSD will identify and notify those staff members that work with Tribal communities of the requirement for them to complete SPO’s cultural sensitivity training as soon as it is fully re-operational again.

VI. Key Names and Contact Information.

ALTSD has assigned Gino Rinaldi and Ray Espinoza as Tribal Liaisons, Rachel Rhoades is also available to assist tribal elderly programs with their requests, as well as DeAlva Calabaza concerning capital outlay issues. Rebecca Martinez is designated the Navajo liaison

Contacts:

Deputy Cabinet Secretary and Acting Director Office of Indian Elder Affairs
Gino Rinaldi
2550 Cerrillos Rd.
Santa Fe, NM  87505
1-866-451-2901

Director; Indian Area Agency on Aging, Tribal Liaison Contract:

Raymond Espinoza
2550 Cerrillos Rd.
Santa Fe, NM  87505
Ph- 505-231-1228

Indian Area Agency on Aging; Program support:

Rachel Rhoades
2550 Cerrillos Rd.
Santa Fe, NM  87505
Ph 505-629-8544

Capital Outlay Contact:

DeAlva Calabaza
2550 Cerrillos Rd.
Santa Fe, NM  87505
Ph 505-476-4876
Navajo Area on Aging Contact

Rebecca Martinez; Program Manager:
2550 Cerrillos Rd.
Santa Fe, NM  87505
Ph 505-629-8544

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<td>ALTSD-OIEA/IAAA</td>
<td>Contract Management, Technical Support, Tribal Liaison.</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<td>Ray Espinoza Ph 505-231-1228</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Pueblos Apache Tribes</td>
<td>ALTSD-OIEA/IAAA</td>
<td>Contract Administration, Prevention Programs, Reimbursements and Stats.</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Rachel Rhoades Ph 505-629-8544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Pueblos Apache Tribes and Nations. Navajo Nation</td>
<td>ALTSD-Community Advocacy Bureau</td>
<td>Benefit Counseling</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Anthony Romero Ph 505-476-4936</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Pueblos Apache Tribes and Nations. Navajo Nation</td>
<td>ALTSD-Fiscal, Division, Capital Outlay Unit</td>
<td>Capital Outlay Contracting, and Reimbursements</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Active</td>
<td>Bernadine Salazar &amp; DeAlva Calabaza Ph. 505-476-4778</td>
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VII. Appendices.

A. Copy of Agency Organizational Chart.