Aligning your Scientific Inquiry with Public Policy: Recommendations from Experts in Policy and Aging

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The Three P’s

1. Politics

2. Procedure

3. Policy
Keys to Success in Speaking Truth to Power

• Monitor major media/information sources

• Expand your media/information sources

• Link your work to current policy trends

• Connect with advocates championing your area
Acknowledgements
Placement Process
Daily Activities
Academics in Policy Making

• What is your expected level of engagement?

• What is your methodological skill set?

• What is important to you?
Political Professors in the Academy

• What is academic “service”?

• What is the departmental culture and climate?

• Do you want to conduct research relevant to policy, or real policy research?
Parting Advice

• Go Ahead…

• Politics is not religion…

• It’s really no different than…
Brian W. Lindberg, MMHS

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A View from 16th and K Streets

What I will cover:

1. Remember the Wisdom of Gretchen and Brian (K)
2. Administrative Advocacy
3. A Few Lessons from Aging Advocacy
• As important as legislative advocacy is…
• Think of the components of policy:
  – Federal law
  – State law
  – Administrative and agency interpretations that implement the law
  – Judicial interpretations of the law
• After legislation is passed, state or federal administrative agency must implement the law
Administrative Advocacy

- Implementation of the law takes the form of:
  - Regulations
  - Guidance from agencies
  - Consumer materials: notices, explanations, etc.

- As experts and advocates, make sure your interpretation of the law matches the way the agency enacts the law. This is administrative advocacy.
Administrative Advocacy

• What you can do:
  – Stay informed:
    • Become involved in a coalition with other groups with a similar mission and share intelligence.
    • Attend webcasts and briefings to stay current on the status of regulations.
    • Track proposed rules and regulations (for example, read the Federal Register, sign up for the agency’s mailing list or follow them on Twitter).
Comment on proposed regulations:

- An agency is not required to respond to the comments submitted by advocates.
- If you collaborate with other groups, you may strengthening your voice. Your can draw an agency’s attention and influence the final regulation.

Meet with or Write to the agency and voice your view and concerns.
Lessons Learned

1. Balance research findings and data with compelling stories.
2. Find a Member or staffer that takes ownership of the issue…a leader.
3. Bipartisanship is best.
4. Work with partners and coalitions.
Lessons Learned

5. It is all about relationships.
6. Persistence pays off and wear out some shoe leather.
7. Hill staff are soooo busy – they need issue summaries and concise information.
8. Timing is everything.
Lessons Learned

9. Credibility is everything.
10. Propose a solution (not just more research).
Questions?

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  – Translate and disseminate research findings
  – Promote/advocate for education/awareness on aging across disciplines
  – Foster application of research into policy development

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