

# Keynote Speech

GET READY FOR THE AGING BOOM

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- Good morning
- Happy Older Americans Month
- Honor to be here
- Commend 3 sponsors-SW Washington Agency on Aging and Disability—Wash State University, Vancouver, and Wash State Council on Aging
- Especially want to thank Klaus for his incredible commitment to this event and to my well being.

- Wonderful to be back in your state—4<sup>th</sup> time since October all for aging readiness forums—I think you are ready.
- As you know I am from the other Washington which is recovering from 1<sup>st</sup> 100 days—

- Relevant time to discuss aging boom. We are in it.
- 1 in 8 of population is an older American—11.2 percent jump from 1997-2007
- 2.5 million celebrated 65<sup>th</sup> birthday in '08
- Life expectancy is 78.1 longest ever-30 years longer than child born in 1900
- 117% increase in those 100+ since 1990, total of more than 81,000

- Relevant place to discuss aging boom in Washington state where —you have more people 60 and over than we have people in D.C.
- 15.3 percent of your five counties population is 60+

- Aging boom—becomes louder in the future especially between now and 2020
- 65+ 35million in 2000/ grows to 55 million by 2020-36% increase just between 2010-2020
- Minority aging 5.7m in 2000. 16% of elderly population grows to 12.9m and 24% by 2020
- 85+ 4.2 million in 2000—6.6 million in 2020

- In SW Washington you see similar trends. Your area plan that I read says 116% growth in those 60+ by 2025, led by Clark County
- 75% growth in very old-led by Wiakiakum County
- 380% increase in Hispanic elderly and also strong growth-Russian and Ukranian
- By 2030,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of your state will be 60+

- Boomers are coming—fueling aging boom. TOGETHER WITH NEW IMMIGRANTS SINCE AMONG THE FOREIGN BORN POPULATION OF THIS NATION ABOUT 20% ARE 55+
- How many boomers in audience? How many in denial about aging?
- 2005 WHCOA theme was Booming dynamics of aging—learned a lot such as:
- 78.5 million boomers those born between 1946-64—twice size of current 65+ population.
- Boomers are 30% of population Nationally and in this state
- 41 percent of households-control 83% of consumer spending value of over \$1 trillion before recession

- Big dates in boomer world.
- 1964 first boomer enters college
- 1969 Woodstock
- 1980 IBM introduces PC
- 1983 mini van
- 1998 Viagra
- 2002 Botox
- 2008—First boomers eligible for early retirement under soc sec

- Not enough to know data and demographics—it is how to understand implications and there are more to identify than time for this am
- More people 65 and over fell below poverty line in 07 than 06 and impact of recession drive more there when 08 data out
- Looking further at today's seniors and economy and the 5 major sources of income-Social Security asset, income, private pension, earnings and government employee pensions only 1<sup>st</sup> and last are relatively secure.

- Growth in 85+ today and future raises long term care issues—especially the need for more home and community based services something well recognized in this state.
- 48% women 75+ live alone raise concerns about elder abuse since average victim is an older woman living alone between 75-80.
- In 2011 first wave of boomers become eligible for Medicare—huge present and future implications—at time when Medicare is fiscally weak. The trustees report on Medicare and Social Security said by 2017 Medicare Part A could be broke
- Must see changes in Medicare to achieve better savings and to modernize it, perhaps happens in Health care reform.

- Social Security trustees also issued their report this week. This is a real wake up call as recession moved up dates—especially the date when outlays equal revenues in Social Security for the first time. That year is now 2016 and the so called date of doom when benefits would have to be cut if no changes are made moved from 2041 to 2037.
- Opens up the larger question about what is retirement in the future:
- —much different than before— more older people will need to work— the boomer generation worried about outliving their money—More older workers are needed for the future as the next generation —gen x is 35% smaller than boomers. Fewer workers can present productivity issues.
- Need to examine job sharing/flex schedules.

- MEDICARE REPORT ALSO NOT GOOD

- Other implications—rise in minority elderly population through 2050. By then, they will be 35% of the elderly population with a 6 fold increase of Hispanics and 10 fold increase in Asian Americans.
- -need to reexamine access to services—types of services—who delivers them and health disparities.
- Another issues in the age boom I have not mentioned—caregivers.
- How many here?---40 million families—grandparents—must shape new policies around aiding family caregiver.

- To be prepared for aging boom is more than just being an aging friendly community. It is a major economic development issue as well--must provide incentives for people to age well—avoid out-migration of younger seniors—loss of tax.
- Issue that is understood locally statewide and nationally. White House Conference on Aging in 2005 noted in a priority resolution.

- Looking ahead nationally—we need to accelerate our examination of aging readiness as a nation—past policies need to be reevaluated—premise of Medicare—sick only program—Medicaid institutional care—seniors only housing—Older Americans Act—limited social and human services needs to be linked to wider world. Re-look and strengthen transportation as a core service more focus on—workforce investment especially the HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE—Overall need to recognize, respect, and respond to diversity.
- New Administration needs to take stock and inventory of models in states and localities who have converted their communities into livable for all ages—and provide support.

- The Aging Boom will impact communities in areas such as:
- Housing
- Health
- Transportation
- Land Use Planning
- Public Safety
- Parks and Recreation
- Workforce Development
- Civic Engagement
- Arts and Culture
- And communities need to create aging friendly communities to promote successful aging in place.

- Aging not aged crucial word in the planning and sustaining of communities in the present and future and all levels of government must be involved in planning.

- In many ways this could be a year of opportunity in further development of elements of national aging policy
- Health care reform/Medicare reform. Some likely reforms may come in chronic care management with greater support for care coordination, also more preventive benefits and reductions in Medicare Advantage subsidies. Whatever is done impacts the aging boom, both current and future.
- Long term care—key advocacy push now is to include long term care supports and services in health care reform. Will be a challenge but chances are improved when savings can be quantified to Medicare and Medicaid. Related to that is talk about expanding 3 existing Older Americans Act programs to build stronger HCBS model. Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Evidence Based disease management programs and enhanced Nursing Home Diversion activities.

- The so-called stimulus bill did add important funds for aging programs including the OAA nutrition and older workers program and \$1 billion for prevention and wellness.
- Important new legislation to promote civic engagement and national service is now law. The Serve America Act will triple the number of slots in key volunteer programs such as RSVP, Foster Grandparents and AmeriCorps. This is a key element of aging well in communities.
- Number of other issues on horizon from major transportation legislation to the renewal of the Workforce investment act both of which need to do more for an aging society.
- Also the Elder Justice Act to address growing problem of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation. We may also see a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition. And the planning for the next renewal of the Older Americans Act, scheduled for 2011 could happen now. Also commend the President's choice of Kathy Greenlee as new Assistant Secretary for Aging.

- Keys to being ready for age boom vary from community to community and state to state. Some like this state and these counties may be laboratories of great ideas.
- Certain basics must be included—policies that promote productive, high quality life with engagement throughout the life span. Strong safety net protections for the poor and vulnerable especially as they age.
- In our 1995 White House Conference on Aging we called it a national community that had economic and health care security and social well being as central features.
- A final key is advocacy—will not benefit from age boom by itself. Need to be involved in influencing policies. Must work with your elected officials at all levels. Be involved. Your being here today indicates you are and will be.