

agencies, is disclosed by the provider or agency in a form that identifies the person without the informed consent of the person or of his or her legal representative, unless the disclosure is required by court order, or for program monitoring by authorized Federal, State, or local monitoring agencies.

(b) A State agency is not required to disclose those types of information or documents that are exempt from disclosure by a Federal agency under the Federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

(c) A State or area agency on aging may not require a provider of legal assistance under this part to reveal any information that is protected by attorney-client privilege.

§ 1321.52 Evaluation of unmet need.

Each State shall submit objectively collected and statistically valid data with evaluative conclusions concerning the unmet need for supportive services, nutrition services, and multipurpose senior centers gathered pursuant to section 307(a)(3)(A) of the Act to the Commissioner. The evaluations for each State shall consider all services in these categories regardless of the source of funding for the services. This information shall be submitted not later than June 30, 1989 and shall conform to guidance issued by the Commissioner.

Subpart C—Area Agency Responsibilities

§ 1321.53 Mission of the area agency.

(a) The Older Americans Act intends that the area agency on aging shall be the leader relative to all aging issues on behalf of all older persons in the planning and service area. This means that the area agency shall proactively carry out, under the leadership and direction of the State agency, a wide range of functions related to advocacy, planning, coordination, inter-agency linkages, information sharing, brokering, monitoring and evaluation, designed to lead to the development or enhancement of comprehensive and coordinated community based systems in, or serving, each community in the planning and service area. These systems shall be designed to assist older

persons in leading independent, meaningful and dignified lives in their own homes and communities as long as possible.

(b) A comprehensive and coordinated community based system described in paragraph (a) of this section shall:

(1) Have a visible focal point of contact where anyone can go or call for help, information or referral on any aging issue;

(2) Provide a range of options;

(3) Assure that these options are readily accessible to all older persons: The independent, semi-dependent and totally dependent, no matter what their income;

(4) Include a commitment of public, private, voluntary and personal resources committed to supporting the system;

(5) Involve collaborative decision-making among public, private, voluntary, religious and fraternal organizations and older people in the community;

(6) Offer special help or targeted resources for the most vulnerable older persons, those in danger of losing their independence;

(7) Provide effective referral from agency to agency to assure that information or assistance is received, no matter how or where contact is made in the community;

(8) Evidence sufficient flexibility to respond with appropriate individualized assistance, especially for the vulnerable older person;

(9) Have a unique character which is tailored to the specific nature of the community;

(10) Be directed by leaders in the community who have the respect, capacity and authority necessary to convene all interested persons, assess needs, design solutions, track overall success, stimulate change and plan community responses for the present and for the future.

(c) The resources made available to the area agency on aging under the Older Americans Act are to be used to finance those activities necessary to achieve elements of a community based system set forth in paragraph (b) of this section. For the purpose of assuring access to information and services for older persons, the area agency