

# 2009 SMP National Conference Break-out Session

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# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

### Objectives

- Explain the Office of Inspector General
- Timeline of the SMP Program
- What role the OIG plays?
- Why the OIG continues to work with the SMPs since the start of the program.
- Questions

# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General:**

- The mission of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as mandated by Public Law 95-452, as amended, is to protect the integrity of the Department of Health and Human Services programs as well as the health and welfare of beneficiaries served by those programs.
- The statutory mission is carried out through a nationwide network of audits, investigations and inspections.

# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General:**

- One of the four components within the Office of Inspector General is the Office of Evaluations and Inspections (OEI)
- OEI conducts national evaluations to provide HHS, Congress and the public with timely useful and reliable information on significant issues
- These evaluations focus on preventing fraud, waste and abuse and promoting the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of departmental programs.
- The Annual OIG SMP Memorandum Reports is provided through this office.
- Our website address is: <http://oig.hhs.gov>

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## Break-out Session

### Historical Timeline

- 1997- Congress Authorized the Healthcare Anti-Fraud, Waste and Abuse Community Volunteers Demonstration Program with the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act to provide resources for assisting efforts to curb losses to the Medicare program.
- Legislation developed by Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa.
- Program provided funding to recruit retired professionals to serve as educators and resources in assisting Medicare beneficiaries to detect and report fraud, waste and abuse in the program— referred to as the Harkin Projects or Senior Medicare Patrol Projects
- In May 1997, the funds were awarded to 12 organizations.
- The 12 organizations consisted of two area agencies on aging, six state units of aging and four private aging organizations.

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## Break-out Session

### Historical Timeline (cont.)

- In 1999, the program expanded and additional grantees were awarded each subsequent year.
- As of 2008, the projects had 57 SMPs located in each of the 50 states as well as D.C., Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
- In 2008, the 57 SMPs received a total of \$9.3 million from AoA.

# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

### Historical Timeline (cont.)

#### OIG Role:

- The Senate Report (P.L. 104-368) directed the funding of the program and also directed the OIG to develop performance measures to assess the performance of the projects.
- In response, the OIG assisted by the original 12 projects developed output and outcome measures.
- The OIG has continued its partnership with AoA by using these performance data to track the efforts of the projects.
- The OIG issued a report on the first year performance data of the projects in February 1999. Reports on the performance measure were released each subsequent 6-month period until 2006.

# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

### Historical Timeline (cont.)

#### OIG Role:

- Additionally, in December 2003, OIG and AoA continued their partnership by discussing ways to update the performance measures. At that point, AoA also requested that savings documented for Medicare and other savings be separated out and asked for a new way of comparing the data for the two past reporting periods.
- In December 2005, AoA officially requested that the OIG continue to collect and report on the performance data for the SMPs.
- OIG agreed to collect performance measure data every 6 months but to report the data on an annual basis.
- Starting in 2007, AoA developed a new automated management system called SMARTFACTS.
- In January 2009, OIG begin directly retrieving the SMP OIG reports for 2008 performance year including documentation that was uploaded.

# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

OIG does the following 5 tasks for SMP Program:

1. collects the performance data from the projects;
2. answers questions from them;
3. conduct general checks of the data;
4. verify documentation about money saved and,
5. prepare a memorandum report.

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## Break-out Session

### **Why does the OIG Continue to do this work?**

#### **Reasons:**

- AoA staff continues to be interested in OIG preparing the report. AoA finds the information valuable and uses the data in their request for HCFAC funding on an annual basis.
- AoA staff is very appreciative of our work
- Provides valuable technical assistance and general guidance to the projects and to AoA about identifying and reporting fraud.
- Act as partners with AoA, CMS and other entities on this important initiative.
- Provides AoA with needed support and credibility to this program to help it make it more effective.
- Memorandum report is published, displayed on the OIG website and provided to key congressional committees, including the Senate Special Committee on Aging, the Senate Finance Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee.

# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

### Why does the OIG Continue to the work? (Cont.)

#### Reasons:

- Our work with the SMPs has been recognized in publications by AoA, the Bureau of National Affairs and the Technical Resource Center
- Specifically, in a December 2008 article entitled “SMART FACTS: Beyond the OIG Report, the Director , National Consumer Protection Technical Resource Center says the following:
  - *“SMART FACTS is a powerful tool in creating OIG reports. And rightly so: OIG reports prove the value”*

# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

### Why does the OIG Continue to the work? (Cont.)

- As IG Daniel Levinson stated in the letter to AoA Assistant Secretary in March 2006,
  - *“OIG is happy to continue the partnership and assist the Administration on Aging with its efforts to evaluate and improve the performance of the SMP program”*

# 2009 SMP National Conference

## Break-out Session

### **OIG Role Continues:**

- As stated earlier, OIG will produce a report for the entire 2009 performance period.
- Similar Format as report released in May 2009.
- Next report published in Spring 2010.

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Questions?