Achieving Collaboration Between Mental Health and Aging Services Through Coalition Building

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- Eve Byrd, MSN, MPH, Georgia Coalition on Older Adults and Behavioral Health
- Michael O'Donnell, Illinois Coalition on Mental Health & Aging
National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging

- Established in 1991

- Over 80 diverse national organizations and state and local coalition members

- Goal: Work collaboratively towards improving the availability and quality of mental health preventive and treatment services to older Americans and their families.

- Key Functions:
  - Go-to-resource on mental health and aging issues
  - Networking
  - Education
  - Policy analysis and recommendations
  - Public speaking
  - Technical assistance
Rising to the Challenge of Providing Mental Health Care for Older Adults

- Imperative that we take advantage of efforts to advance an integrated, comprehensive care system responsive to the unique BH needs of older Americans.

- Mental health needs of older adults have been neglected. The result: Unnecessary suffering for millions of older adults and their family caregivers.

- With major health policy shifts happening, we have a unique and timely opportunity to promote and maximize greater access to services and integration of care.
Older Adults Mental Health Challenges

- Failure to promote aging well
- Limited access
- Lack of home and community based services
- Inadequate and uneven quality of service
- Limited support for families
- Fragmentation mental health, health, and aging services
- Lack of bi-lingual and culturally competent care
- Lack of inadequate workforce
- Lack of knowledge about mental health
- Failure to address social/economic issues
- Funding problems
- Lack of planning
State and Local Mental Health and Aging Coalitions: Meeting the Challenge

- Partnership between interested organizations and individuals to improve and increase mental health and substance abuse care for older adults

- Members include public and private aging, mental health, substance abuse and health care systems, representatives from consumer, family and caregiver organizations, advocacy groups, professional organizations, higher education, the faith community, and other interested agencies and organizations

- Scope of Activities:
  - Networking
  - Education
  - Training
  - Resource Coordination
  - System Planning
  - Policy Analysis
  - Advocacy
State Mental Health and Aging Coalitions Across the Country
Recent NCMHA State Mental Health and Aging Coalition Projects
Geriatric Mental Health Advocacy Toolkit

- **Purpose**: Provided state mental health and aging coalitions with the resources needed to build effective advocacy campaigns for geriatric mental health at the state level
Enhancing Older Adult Behavioral Health in State Long-term Care Rebalancing

- Develop a national learning community with select state coalitions to enhance the capacity to address older adult behavioral health in state long-term care

- Project Components:
  - Conduct a needs assessment
  - Establish a virtual community approach to foster mutual learning, strategy development, and recommendations
  - Provide technical assistance to the coalitions on implementation
Local Systems Starting Points

- Develop working relationships across systems—especially informally

- Develop cross-system “coalitions” or “alliances”
  - Local planning
  - Collaborative program development
  - Advocacy for policy change

- Establish cross-systems networks to handle tough cases

- Develop initiative to optimize funding
Need Help?

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National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging:
www.ncmha.org
Georgia Coalition in existence for decades raising awareness through networking and educational activities.

In 2014,
GEORGIA COALITION ON OLDER ADULTS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Building Capacity to Care for Older Adults with Behavioral Health Disorders
  - A staff lead appointed in each agency
  - Quarterly agency leadership meetings
- Coalition Informs and Prioritizes Activities:
  - Listserv 90+
  - Average of 28 participate in every other month meetings, 6 call in
  - Strong Consumer/ Family member involvement
COALITION INFORMS AND PRIORITIZES ACTIVITIES:

2014 - 2015,

- Cross Training for Aging and Behavioral Health Networks
  - Systems informed of commitment on part of the state agencies!
- Access to Services: Aging and Disabilities Resource Connection, Medicaid Waivers, Public Mental Health System
- RECOVERY in Older Adults
- Evidence-Based Care of Older Adults
COALITION INFORMS AND PRIORITIZES ACTIVITIES:

2015 – 2016,

- Public friendly direction to care: **Universal Website Button**
- **Decision-Making Capacity** conversation with Probate Judge/Courts
- **Atlanta Area Older Adult and Behavioral Health Care Collaborative**
  - Focus on coordination of care across systems
- **Facilitating Regional Collaboration between Aging (Medicaid Waiver, AAA) and Public Mental Health Providers**
  - **Outcomes:** Business Associates Agreements, Regional Care Coordination Coalition, Mental Health First Aid trainings, waiver recipients will have identified BH provider, ADRC services will be noted in BH care plans
GEORGIA COALITION ON OLDER ADULTS AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

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MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING COALITIONS

Mike O’Donnell, President
Illinois Coalition on Mental Health & Aging
ILLINOIS COALITION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING (ICMHA)

• Mission - to improve access to behavioral healthcare and supportive services for older adults with mental health concerns in Illinois.

• Statewide, non-profit organization

• Founded in 2000

• Governed by Board of Directors

• Members: 32 organizations and 38 individuals

• Representative of aging and behavioral health professionals, consumers, and Illinois regions
ADVOCACY

• Older Americans Act Reauthorization

• Mental Health Reform legislation, e.g., Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act

• Federal appropriations for behavioral health care for older adults

• Assess impact of FY16 State Budget Impasse on senior programs and behavioral health

• Analyze proposed FY17 State Budget
TRAINING AND EVENTS

• Members can post notices about training and events on our website: www.ilcmha.org

• ICMHA partners with AMITA Health to cosponsor three training workshops annually on aging and behavioral health topics (free of charge to ICMHA members in Chicago area)

• ICMHA has provided mini-grants of $500 to support regional trainings and conferences
ICMHA website provides links to resources on behavioral health and aging, including:

- Public Policy
- Clinical Research
- Evidence-Based Interventions and Best Practices
- Public Awareness Campaigns
- Prevention Strategies
- Workforce Development
ICMHA CONTACT INFO

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Questions & Answers

Type your question into the chat box on the lower left-hand side of your screen.

For reference, the recording of this webinar will be available shortly on www.ncoa.org/cha.