♦ Older adults with mental illness are not receiving appropriate specialty care even though treatment works!!

♦ The treatment success rates for mental health disorders often surpass those of other medical conditions like heart disease

Early identification, referral, and treatment are vital to accelerate recovery and prevent further harm

What can we do?
⇒ Increase public awareness
⇒ Promote professional training
⇒ Facilitate access to treatment
⇒ Reduce financial barriers
⇒ Increase supply of mental health services & providers
⇒ Support public policies that advance these efforts

Want to Help?
Contact Us!
In 2005 the Iowa Coalition on Mental Health and Aging (ICMHA) initiated a process to expand and improve the delivery of specialty mental health services to older Iowans. The members of the coalition represent primary care, hospital, long-term care and specialty mental health providers; aging, health and mental health program administrators; policy leaders from the Legislature, the Governor’s office and state departments such as Elder Affairs and Human Services; and researchers and analysts. The coalition membership also includes older consumers, their caregivers, and representatives from advocacy organizations.

Anyone who is interested in expanding and improving the care provided to older Iowans with mental illnesses is welcome to join.

**KEY POINTS**

- Older Iowans with mental illness are not getting appropriate treatment
- BIG PROBLEM because **treatment works!!**
- There are many things we can do to increase programs and services that treat older Iowans
- Want to help? Contact us!

www.ICMHA.org