A top priority for ICMHA is to increase the number of qualified professionals who can provide care to older Iowans with mental illness.

This priority can be reached by:

- Designating state allocations for the Iowa Department of Public Health training partnership administered by University of Iowa; (HF 2734)

- Encouraging the State Mental Health Authority, the Mental Health Planning Council and others to seek methods to expand the availability of peer support services to older Iowans;

- Establishing a loan forgiveness program for medical and other professional graduate students dedicated to serving older Iowans with mental illnesses;

- Allocating financial support to re-establish student practicum experiences in aging and mental health through the county mental health departments and organizations that provide mental health and other services to older Iowans.

- Promoting the development of Evidence Based Practices, including the co-location of mental health services within primary physical care settings and other locations. (HF 2780)

- Promoting the provision of mental health care to older adults in their own homes, and targeting efforts toward the prevention of premature or inappropriate placement out of home and community. (SF 2217)