The History and Effectiveness of Mental Health and Aging Coalitions

Willard Mays
Assistant Deputy Director for Public Policy
Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction and
Past Chair
National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging
1981 White House Conference on Aging

Arthur S. Flemming, J.D., Chair
Delegates/Observers
Claude Pepper
Maggie Kuhn
1983-85

“Building Ties” (Michigan)

Purpose: “Encourage local interagency coordination among human service providers”

Focus on Process

Partners: Dept. of Mental Health
Office of Services to the Aging
Sally Steiner
Chuck Maynard

36 Counties / Some Continued
AOA Grant / State Funding
1984-86

Action Committee to Implement the Mental Health Recommendations
Of the 1981 White House Conference on Aging
Arthur S. Flemming, J.D., Chair
Larry D. Rickards, Ph.D.
Funded by the Retirement Research Foundation
Surveyed CMHCs and AAAs
Published 3 Reports
1985 – Present

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)
RSMHPOP / Aging Division / Older Persons Division
1985  NIMH Meeting, Key Biscayne, FL

1986  First RSMHPOP Meeting

  Fred Acosta, First Chair
  Tom Romeo, Chair, NASMHPD (RI)
  Harry Schnibbe, Executive Director, NASMHPD
  Jennifer Glick, Current Chair (CT)
1987

OBRA 87 Nursing Home Reform
PASARR
SMHA Involvement
Promoted Dialogue with HCFA
“Active Treatment”
MI Definition
1990

Oklahoma

- First State Mental Health & Aging Coalition
- Bob Rawlings
- “How To” Manual
- Effective Advocacy

- Website: www.omhac.org
1991

National Coalition on Mental Health & Aging (NCMHA) Formed

Lavola Burgess, President, AARP
Larry Rickards, Ph.D., First Chair
Nancy Coleman, ASA, ABA
Willard Mays, ASA, NASMHPD
Sandy Finkel, MD, AAGP

Purpose:

To work towards improving the availability and quality of Mental health services to older Americans and their families through education, research and increased public awareness.

Participants:

- Members: 50 + federal agencies and national consumer, family, advocacy, and professional organizations
- Other interested agencies, organizations & individuals
Basic Philosophy:
- To provide a forum for open discussion among members with room for difference of opinion
- The Coalition focuses on issues around which general consensus can be reached, and promotes joint action when possible
- It is an “Educational” group NOT an “Advocacy” organization

Website: [www.ncmha.org](http://www.ncmha.org)
1993

American Society on Aging

- Mental Health and Aging Network (MHAN) Formed
  - 900 + Members
  - Laura Trejo, First Chair (CA)
  - Robyn Golden
  - Tobi Abramson
  - Judith Shultz
  - Anita Rosen
  - Nancy Coleman, Rep. to NCMHA

Achieving Mental Health of Nursing Home Residents: Overcoming Barriers To Mental Health Care for Nursing Home Residents

- Research and Training Institute of the Hebrew Rehabilitation Center for the Aged (Boston) and the Mental Health Policy Resource Center (Washington, DC)
  Nancy Emerson Lombardo, Ph.D.
- 130 + Participants
- Multiple funding sources
1995

- 1995 White House Conference on Aging
- NCMHA White House Mini-Conference on Emerging Issues in Mental Health and Aging
  Nancy Coleman, NCMHA Chair
- *Emerging Issues in Mental Health and Aging*
  Margaret Gatz, Editor
- Congressional Briefing
1996-2001

State and Local Coalition Building Initiative
CMHS Funding --- AARP Foundation (3), NASMHPD (1)

- Phase 1 --- Regional Training & Consultation (MH & Aging)
  - Indianapolis IN 10 States
  - Albuquerque NM 10 States
  - Small Start-Up Grants

- Phase 2 --- On-Site Training & Consultation (MH, SA & Aging)
  - Additional States (5)
  - Local Communities (10)
1996-2001 (continued)

- Phase 3 --- Consultation & Evaluation
  Added Primary Care
  Promising Practices Workshop (Las Vegas, 2001)
  Updated Materials

- Partners
  AARP      Carol Cober, Pam Cohen,
            Teresita Pena, Michael Fain
  NCMHA     Bob Rawlings, Willard Mays
  CMHS      Paul Wohlford, Ph.D., Project Officer
1998

Older Adult Consumer Mental Health Alliance (OACMHA)

- Forum on Self-Advocacy Among Older Adults with Mental Health Needs Partners:
  - Hosted by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
    - Robert Bernstein, Executive Director
    - Pam Cohen, Consultant
    - Carol Cober, AARP, Consultant
  - CMHS
    - Paul Wohlford, Ph.D.
- OACMHA Formed
  - John Piacitelli (WA), President
  - Linda Powell (VA), Executive Director
  - Hikmah Gardiner (PA)
  - Bryce Miller (KS)
  - Janet Stiles (NH)
Florida Coalition for Optimal Mental Health and Aging
Dr. Larry DuPree & Dr. Marion Becker, Co-Chairs
Dept. of Aging and Mental Health, USF, FMHI, Tampa
- Annual Conferences
- Legislative Advocacy
- Website: www.fcomha.org
- Maintains NCMHA Web Page
1999

- NCMHA Meeting with HCFA (Baltimore)
- NCMHA Special Conference “Actions to Improve Mental Health Care for the Elderly”
  Reviewed and updated the recommendations from the 1995 White House Mini-Conference
  Betsy Beckwith - AAGP
2000

Olmstead / New Freedom Initiative
- National Coalition to Promote Community-Based Care
- State Mental Health Olmstead Grants
- “Community Integration for Older Adults with Mental Illnesses: Overcoming Barriers and Seizing Opportunities”
  - SAMHSA/CMHS Funding
  - Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.
    Carol Bianco, Project Officer
2001 - 2005

ASA / NCOA Joint Conferences

- Special Track on Coalition Building
- Symposium on Integrating Older Adult Mental Health Services into Primary Care
  Follow-Up Project
  Robyn Golden, Chair

- ASA / MHAN / NCOA / NCMHA Partnership
  ASA – Gloria Cavanaugh
  Nancy Ceridwyn
  MHAN – Anita Rosen
  NCOA – Alixe McNeill
2002

President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

- Aging Sub-Committee Added
  Steve Bartels, MD, Consultant
- NCMHA, AAGP, OACMHA Testified
- Final Report & Outline of Aging Report
- Website: www.mentalhealthcommission.gov
2004 - 2005

Preparation for the 2005 White House Conference on Aging

GOAL: Assure that Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues are on the Agenda at the WHCoA

- Special Forum (Sept. 2004)
  Three Resolutions:
  1. Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services and Interventions
  2. Education & Development of the Professional Mental Health Workforce
  3. Consumer & Caregiver Issues Regarding Mental Health & Substance Abuse
2004 – 2005 (continued)

- National Dissemination of Resolutions
  Member agencies, organizations, & affiliates
  State and Local Coalitions
  MHAN Members
  NASMHPD Older Persons Division, etc.

- Pre-Conference Advocacy
  State & Local WHCoA “Listening Sessions”
  National Listening Session (Jan. 24, 2005)
    Sponsored by NCMHA
    Hosted by APA

- Delegate Appointments & Education
  WHCoA      Oct. 23-26, Washington, DC
  Website: www.WHCoA.gov
The Future? Optimistic!

- Coalitions are growing and effective!
- President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health Older Adult Sub-Committee Report Federal Implementation
  SAMHSA Matrix, Charles Curie
- Get Connected! NCOA / AOA / SAMHSA Tool Kit
  Promoting Older Adult Health: Aging Network Partnerships to Address Medication, Alcohol, and Mental Health Problems
  Alixe McNeill, NCOA,
  Jennifer Solomon, SAMHSA
Positive Aging Resource Center (PARC)
Harvard Brigham and Young Women’s Hospital
Dr Sue Levkoff
Website: www.positiveaging.org

Older Adult Center for Excellence
SAMHSA / WESTAT
Steve Bartels, MD
Fred Blow, Ph.D.

Older Adult Evidence-Based and Promising Practices Implementation Resource Kit
NASMHPD Research Institute, Abt Associates, Advocates for Human Potential
Vijay Ganju, NRI
Illinois Mental Health & Aging Coalition

5th Annual Mental Health & Aging Conference
“Boomers and Brain Health: Looking into the Future
April 21-22, 2005
Marriott Chicago, Schaumburg
Contact: Maureen Squires
Phone: 217-785-8683
E-mail: maureen.squires@aging.state.il.us
Indiana Mental Health & Aging Coalition

- 2nd Annual Mental Health & Aging Conference
  June 23, 2005
  Radisson Hotel at the Airport, Indianapolis
  Contact: Shawna Schwegman
  Phone: 317-638-3501
  E-mail: sschwegman@mentalhealthassociation.com

- Indiana Inter-College Council on Aging
  Contact: Kay Crawford (Chair) dcrawford@uindy.edu
Kansas Mental Health and Aging Coalition

“A Mental Health Guide for Older Kansans and Their Families”
Website: www.oznet.ksu.edu/mhaging
Kentucky Mental Health & Aging Coalition

Organized Regional Coalitions
Contact: Phyllis.Parker@mail.state.ky.us
Iowa Mental Health and Aging Coalition

First Meeting
April 12, 2005, Des Moines