Iowa Coalition on Mental Health & Aging

2010 Policy Agenda
Support The Implementation of the Newly Reauthorized Older Americans Act, especially:

- **Title III** – Grants for State and Community Programs on Aging, funding for mental health outreach/screening, health education, counseling, preventive assessments and health screenings;

- Priority for persons caring for MR, DD and persons with Alzheimer’s Disease;

- **Title IV** – Activities for Health, Independence, and Longevity, grants to states for rural caregivers, especially for Alzheimer’s patients, creating awareness of organic brain syndromes, depression, and the need for mental health care for older adults;

- Funding for mental health screening, prevention, treatment services, planning for Boomers, and multidisciplinary centers for mental health screening.
Retooling The Health Care Workforce For An Aging America Act of 2009

Support This Act

s.245 – Retooling The Health Care Workforce For An Aging America Act of 2009, introduced by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) and in the House as H.R. 468 by Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)

Highlights:

- Amends Title VII of the Public Health Act to expand funding to Geriatric Education Centers for training health care professionals, authorize new Geriatric Career Incentive Awards in clinical social work and psychology, funds the National Center for Workforce analysis to analyze needs for professionals and paraprofessionals in long-term care.
Retooling The Health Care Workforce For An Aging America Act of 2009

Highlights (continued):

- **Amends Title VII of the Public Health Act** to provide training and employment opportunities in geriatrics and long-term care to veterans and establish tuition stipends for direct care workers in long-term care.

- **Amends the Older Americans Act** to establish a National Resource Center on Students, Volunteers and Seniors to develop partnerships between the aging services network and high school and college students to work with low-income elders and to develop on-line training for caregivers to demonstrate best practices in improving the activities of daily living for older disabled individuals.
Retooling The Health Care Workforce For An Aging America Act of 2009

Highlights (continued):

- **Amends the Social Security Act** to establish a national demonstration program to develop, test, and evaluate core training competencies for personal and home care aides. Integrate the needs of family caregivers into the assessment procedures of Medicaid beneficiaries, and to provide information and referral assistance to family caregivers at the point of patient discharge from skilled care.
Retooling The Health Care Workforce
For An Aging America Act of 2009

Highlights (continued):

- Funds research on the mental health workforce needs for the aging population, the needs of the aging services network over the next two decades to project needs of low-income individuals eligible for home and community-based care, study of successful practices to reduce turnover rates and improve retention in long-term care, and study illnesses and conditions that disproportionately affect the health of older adults.
Positive Aging Act

Reintroduce The Positive Aging Act

- The Positive Aging Act was introduced in 2007 and 2008, anticipated in 2009 by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)

Highlights:

- Provide grants to states to integrate mental health services in primary care setting (especially in underserved areas);
- Fund community-based mental health treatment outreach teams;
- Designate a Deputy Director for Older Adult Mental Health Services within the Center for Mental health Services;
- Targeted funds for substance abuse in older adults, homeless, and rural older adults.
State Initiatives

- Support mental health parity legislation which parallels Federal initiatives to reduce co-payment rates for outpatient psychiatric services and provide access to older adults.

- Promote *appropriateness of care* for older Iowans: Provide the appropriate types of services to the appropriate individuals at the appropriate time.
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State Initiatives (continued)

- Support Home and community-based services which are cost-effective and efficient systems to deliver care to older adults in their communities (e.g. $550 per month to provide care to a nursing home eligible person in the community under the Case Management Program for Frail Elders (CMPFE) vs. $150 per day in a long-term care facility)

- Support Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PSARR) which can benefit Iowa by preventing inappropriate placements in long-term care (institutions)
State Initiatives (continued)

Thomson/Reuters study (February, 2009) for the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA), examined nursing facility utilization in Iowa, indicating that:

- Approximately 9,700 individuals would not be in a nursing facility if Iowa’s utilization rate was the same as the national average.

- Approximately 5,800 individuals would not be in a nursing facility if Iowa’s utilization rate was the average of its six neighboring states.
State Initiatives (continued)

Training Opportunities Available:

- PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives for Seniors) – Contact Aging Resources of Central Iowa or the Iowa Coalition on Mental Health and Aging

- Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression, Empowering Activities for Seniors) – Contact Aging Resources of Central Iowa or the Iowa Coalition on Mental Health and Aging
State Initiatives (continued)

Goals:

- Support capacity-building within the aging network and community mental health system
- Increase the number of qualified mental health service providers who can offer care to older Iowans with mental illnesses
State Initiatives (continued)

Attend Iowa Coalition of Mental Health and Aging Educational Events

Learn about new models of collaborative care in mental health and aging, evidence-based screening and treatment programs, and pre-admission screening programs

National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
October 19-20, 2009 – Embassy Suites – Des Moines
Contact: The Iowa Coalition on Mental Health and Aging for details
www.ICMHA.org
State Initiatives

- Coalition conducts 4 regional Outreach Sessions:
  - July 7, 2009: Decorah
  - July 8, 2009: Cedar Rapids
  - July 28, 2009: Burlington
  - July 29, 2009: Davenport

Message: outline the work of the coalition, needs, demographics, opportunities for collaboration, and activities that support the Outreach and Clinical and Educational and Training workgroups.
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State Initiatives

- Continue letter writing in support of Federal and State initiatives, attend local legislative (informal) meetings, and help plan for the 2010 Iowa Legislative Session

- Iowa Coalition on Mental Health and Aging Legislative Breakfast, to be held February 18, 2010, 7:00-9:00 am, Legislative Dining Room 15
  
  - Present goals of Coalition
  - Present local/regional data
  - Request support for Coalition initiatives
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