The Kansas Mental Health & Aging Coalition

History & Accomplishments

Presentation for the Iowa Coalition on Mental Health and Aging
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History of Mental Health and Aging Activity in Kansas

- 1989 – Mental Health Reform Initiative
- Development of Kansas’ Plan for Client Centered Community Based Mental Health System
- Special Populations were defined
- Individuals with mental illness who were elderly, deaf or hard of hearing, dual diagnosis, mh/sa, dual diagnoses mh/mr, and culturally diverse
History of Mental Health and Aging Activity in Kansas – cont.

- Needs assessments to be done by CMHC’s to assess provision of services to these special populations
- Identify issues and determine areas for improvement
- Develop plans to address specific needs of each special population
History of Mental Health and Aging Activity in Kansas – cont.

- State Mental Health Planning Council established
- Special Populations Committee was appointed as a subcommittee
- To further identify the problem the need for specialized services and make recommendations
Findings

- Limited mental health programming specifically for the aging population
- Low rate of individuals age 65+ receive mental health services
- Increased risk/incidence of mental health problems among those age 65+
- Highest rate of suicide among male age 65+
- High incidence of mental health and cognitive disorders in nursing facilities
- Barriers to adequate mental health services for older adults
Findings – cont.

- Cost and reimbursement issues
- Rural access lacking
- Need for wrap around services
- Need for outreach
- Lack of adequately trained staff
- Consumers and aging and medical and aging network of professionals need education
Outcomes of Special Populations Committee

- In 1992 a Letter of Agreement that prioritized mental health services for the aging population was signed
- Proposed action steps to improve coordination of services
In 1993 the Special Populations Committee hosted a statewide workshop

List of recommendations developed to specifically address the needs of the elderly

Individuals with interest in mental health and aging began to informally connect and develop linkage

The Mental Health and Aging Task Force is formed
Primary Mission

- To educate Kansas consumers, their family members and professionals about mental health and aging
State-wide coalition of:

- Mental health professionals
- State government officials
- University faculty
- Extension representatives
- Consumers
Members include:

- Johnson County Mental Health Center
- Prairie View, Inc.
- Mental Health Center of East Central Kansas
- Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center
- Central Plains Area Agency on Aging
- AARP
- Topeka V.A. Hospital

- Kansas Department on Aging
- Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
- Kansas State University
- Washburn University
- University of Kansas
- NAMI – Kansas
- S.P.I.C.E.
- Volunteer Advocates
Beginning Steps....

- Monthly meetings on education and advocacy efforts
  - “Dog and pony shows”
  - Presentations at numerous state conferences
  - Booths at Aging and Mental Health conferences and events
  - Recruiting new partners
Beginning Steps…. – cont.

- 1994 The Kansas mental Health and Aging Coalition formed
- Needed to separate from subcommittee of the state bureaucracy
- Goal – to be a coalition of cooperative efforts of individuals and agencies
Ongoing Activities

- 1994 Funding obtained for state newsletter sent out quarterly on Mental Health & Aging
- 1994 worked with the Association of Mental Health Centers to get included at annual conference
- Four hour presentation on Mental Health and Aging – a first in Kansas
Ongoing Activities – cont.

- Obtained not-for-profit status in 1997 for one year
- Issue from 1995 to 1997 about continued existence of the task force and what each group’s role was
- Late 1997 the Special Populations Subcommittee was dissolved
Ongoing Activities – cont.

- Coalition focused on education and advocacy
- Increasing public awareness of issues
- Seeking to increase referrals to CMHC’s, increase the networks understanding of the need and educate older adults
Ongoing Activities – cont.

- 1997 received funding from Kansas Dept. of Social Services
  - Contracted to do series of statewide video conferences
  - Partnered with Kansas State University
  - Series of four video conference held across the state
  - Video tapes made available.
1998 Sponsored a Coalition Workshop with Bob Rawlings from the National Mental Health and Aging Coalition

- From this, two local coalitions were developed
  - Aging and Mental Wellness of Sedgwick County
  - Mental Health and Aging Coalition of Eastern Kansas
Ongoing Activities – cont.

- Awarded contract from Kansas Department on Aging
- Developed and produced Mental Health and Aging Resource Guide
- Developed website
Ongoing Activities – cont.

- Additional contracts with KDOA
  - Presenters Guide and Training
  - Posters
  - Fact sheet – tear pads
  - Bookmarks in English and Spanish
  - Calendar
  - PowerPoint presentation
  - Regional trainings on Mental Health and Aging: Putting the Pieces Together
Presentation and Activities

- Coalition Chair and members presented at the 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 Annual American Society on Aging Conferences
- The 2002 Annual NAMI Conference
- Governors Conference on Aging
Presentation and Activities

- CMHC State Association Conferences
- State Adult Protective Services Conference
- Numerous other workshops
- Participated in AARP sponsored meeting on National and State Coalitions
- Was one of three sites for a nationwide focus groups conducted by the Older Adults Consumer Mental Health Alliance
Presentation and Activities

- Sponsored two State Aging and Mental Health summits
  - The 2005 Summit was a White House Conference on Aging event – Independent Aging Agenda Meeting
- Advocated for inclusion in the Governor’s Mental Health Planning Council
- Governor’s Council approved a subcommittee on aging in 2004 to report to the Governor’s Planning Council
Future Activities

- Refocus efforts on advocacy
- Increase efforts in collaboration with existing Mental Health Coalitions
- Work towards implementation of recommendations developed at 2005 Mental Health and Aging Summit
Thank you for this opportunity to share this information about the Kansas Mental Health and Aging Coalition.