NCMHA

Advocates on behalf of older people by:
- Gathering information
- Serving as a forum for discussion
- Providing information to policy makers, agencies and organizations, service providers and the public.

National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging (NCMHA)

Mission
To provide opportunities for professional, consumer, and government organizations
- to work together towards improving
- availability and quality of mental health and substance abuse preventive and treatment services for older Americans and their families
- through education, research and increased public awareness.

NCMHA History

- 1991: First meeting of organizations and disabilities working in aging and mental health convened by AARP
- 1996: Convened the Forum on Managed Care, Mental Health & Aging
- 1998: Coalition Building Project launched by NCMHA, AARP Foundation and the CMHC to train network of aging and mental health service providers and consumers at the state and local level.
- 1999: Held a Special Conference devoted to identifying existing and emerging challenges to the delivery of quality mental health care for older persons, and formulated recommendations.

NCMHA Members

Independent group of organizations, agencies, and individuals
- 50 + National organizations
  - Aging organizations
  - Mental health organizations
  - Consumer groups
  - Professional associations
  - Federal agencies
- 16 State Coalitions
- 8 Regional and Local Coalitions

NCMHA History

- 2001: American Psychological Association (APA) became the second organizational head of the NCMHA.
- 2002: Presented testimony to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health
- 2004: Provided testimony to the 2005 WHCIA Public Policy Committee: held a planning meeting at which 3 Comprehensive Resolutions were developed:
  - Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services & Interventions
  - Education & Development of the Professional Mental Health Workforce
  - Consumer & Caregiver Issues Regarding Mental Health & Substance Abuse
NCMHA History

- 2005: Sponsored a WHCoA Listening Session
  - WHCoA Resolution #5: Improve Recognition, Assessment, and Treatment of Mental Illness and Depression Among Older Americans (with 75% delegates)

- 2006 - 2008:
  - Congressional briefings/meetings with federal agencies
  - Presentations at national meetings organized by NASMHPD
  - Older Persons, ASA/NCoA, SAMSHA, CMS
  - Expanded membership to include state and local coalitions
  - Represented on Executive Committee
  - Join NCMHA meetings by phone
  - Increased consumer input – elected to Executive Committee
  - Developing resources for website

NCMHA Contacts

www.ncmha.org

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Please Join NCMHA

- State, regional, and local coalitions that support purposes of the NCMHA join as full members.

- See invitation on www.ncmha.org – write of your interest

- Call in to NCMHA meetings

Benefits in Joining NCMHA

- Information exchange: resources, opportunities, best practices, national and state initiatives
- Bring attention to state and local issues
- Give voice to consumers
- Updates on NCMHA activities
- Representation at NCMHA meetings