



# OLDER AMERICANS

Substance Abuse & Mental Health  
Technical Assistance Center



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

# National Initiatives: The SAMHSA Older Americans Substance Abuse and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center (TAC)

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# National Initiatives

## 2002 President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

- Prevention of substance abuse and mental health disorders identified as a national priority

## 2005 White House Conference on Aging Top 10 Resolutions

- #8: Improve Recognition, Assessment, and Treatment of Mental Illness and Depression Among Older Americans

## 2004: SAMHSA Older Americans Technical Assistance Center (TAC)

- To create sustainable changes in the field of geriatrics around substance abuse and mental health so that these issues are recognized and planned for



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# TAC Mission

- To enhance the quality of life and promote the physical and mental well-being of older Americans by reducing the risk for and incidence of substance abuse/misuse and mental health issues late in life
- Current priorities include:
  - State Planning
  - Evidence-based Practices



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# TAC Priorities

- Assist States in developing plans around substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion
- Provide technical assistance with respect to the prevention and early intervention of:
  - Substance abuse
  - Medication misuse and abuse
  - Mental health disorders
  - Co-occurring disorders
- Dissemination and implementation of evidence-based and promising practices

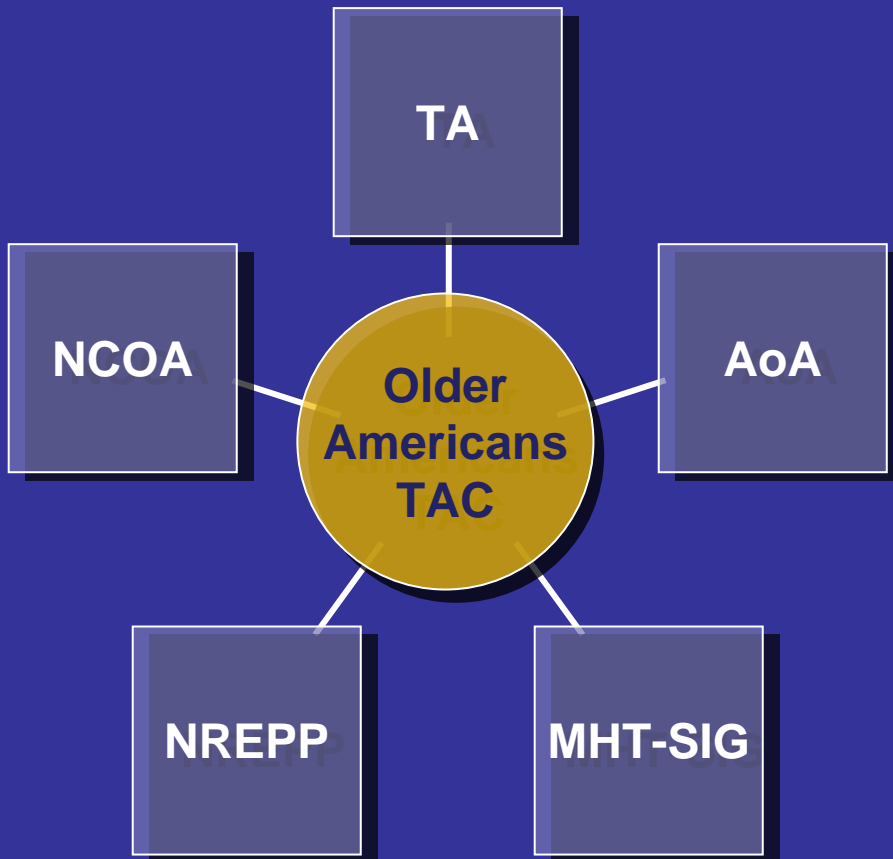


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# TAC Partnerships



**TA:** Technical assistance to States, Territories, and American Indian tribes and tribal organizations

**NREPP:** National Registry for Evidence Based Programs and Practices

**NCOA:** National Council On the Aging

**AoA:** U.S. Administration on Aging

**MHT-SIG:** Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grants



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# TAC Conference Participation

- American Society on Aging/National Council on Aging Joint Annual Conference, “Let’s Rethink Aging”
- National Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) Annual Conference “Gateway to the New World of Aging”
- **Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging “Facing the Challenge: Mental Health and Aging”**
- **American Public Health Association Annual Conference**
- **National Prevention Summit: Prevention, Preparedness, and Promotion**



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# TAC Workshops: Get Connected! Toolkit

- Collaborating with NCOA to provide “Get Connected! Toolkit” training across the country
  - Boston, MA
  - Washington, DC
  - Orlando, FL
  - San Francisco, CA
  - Baltimore, MD
  - Birmingham, AL
  - Lexington, KY
  - West Palm Beach, FL
- Wide-ranging audiences: Service providers from mental health, substance abuse and aging; nutritionists; public health officials; and state program administrators



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# TAC Workshops II: Increasing Provider Comfort Levels



- Addresses issues related to health/functional literacy and implications for medication misuse
- Highlights aging-related changes and the ramifications of poor hearing, decreased vision and chronic pain
- Provides an opportunity for role-play activities and case consultation



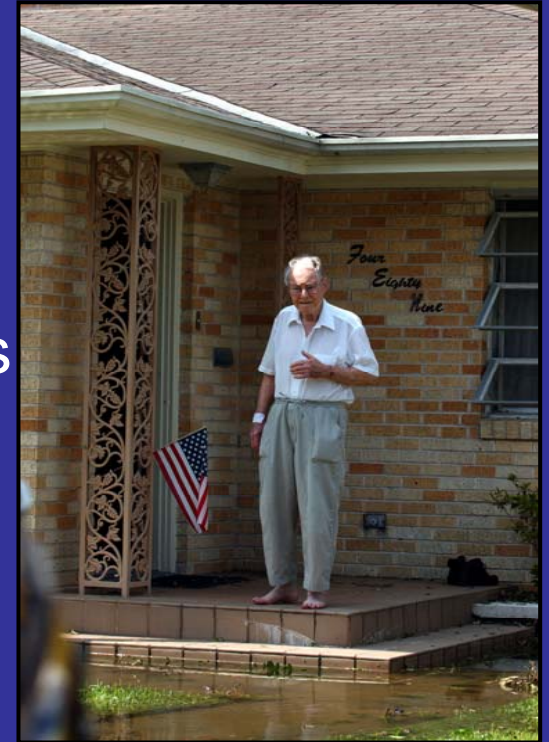
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# TAC Workshops III: Older Adults and Disaster

- The aging process puts older adults at increased risk due to physiological, psychological and social reasons
- Discusses the special needs of older adults during disaster
- Highlights disaster state planning efforts throughout the nation
- Emphasizes that older adults are assets in disaster: during the planning, response and recovery phases



**A resident of New Orleans at the front of his home following Hurricane Katrina. FEMA photo.**



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# TAC Materials

- Disseminating two TAC Scientific papers entitled
  - *“Substance Abuse and Mental Health Among Older Americans: The State of Knowledge and Future Directions”*
  - *“Evidence-Based Practices for Preventing Substance Abuse and Mental Health Problems for Older Adults”*

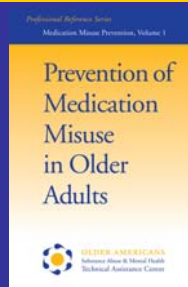
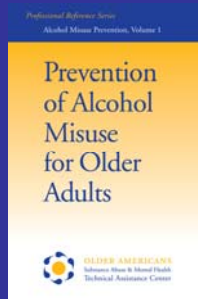
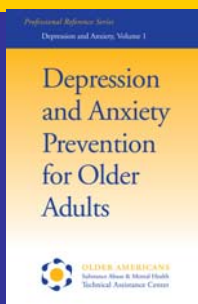


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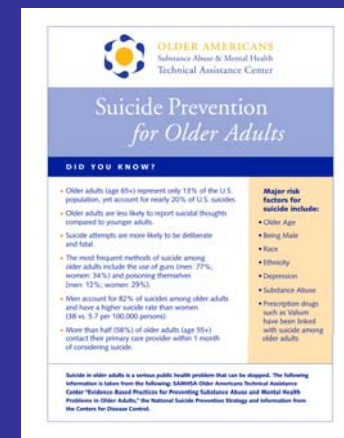
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# TAC Materials II



## Fact Sheets:

- *Suicide Prevention for Older Adults*
- *Co-Occurring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in Older Adults*



## Professional Reference Series:

- *Depression and Anxiety*
- *Suicide Prevention*
- *Alcohol Misuse*
- *Medication Misuse*
- *Co-occurring Disorders*



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# TAC Resources

- Quarterly electronic eCommunication
  - Professional articles
  - Highlights of successful older adult programs and practices
  - Most current older adult behavioral health information
- Website:

<http://www.samhsa.gov/OlderAdultsTAC>



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In collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Older Americans Substance Abuse and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center staff is pleased to share the first issue of our *eCommunication*. Started in October 2004, the Center is a first-time effort of its kind, allowing us to work closely with those in the field invested in older adult issues; researchers working on cutting-edge topics; and State/community planners prioritizing the needs of "baby boomers" and older adults.



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Over the past year, we have engaged in the process of identifying needed Center resources, developing foundational documents, including bibliographies, and networking with stakeholders in a variety of roles throughout the country. As you will read about in the *eCommunication*, partnerships with the U.S. Administration on Aging, the National Council on the Aging, and our own Expert Panel, comprised of individuals with a range of expertise on aging issues, including the consumer perspective, serve as the founda-

tion for the work we plan to do over the next few years. Our initial Expert Panel Meeting was held on March 29, 2005, and provided us with strong direction for the Center's activities. Supporting science-to-service efforts, with the Center serving as a bridge between SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices and successful programs in the field, is a priority for us. We have many exciting activities coming up over the next year and look forward to receiving your feedback and ideas.

The mission of the Older Americans Substance Abuse and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center is to enhance the quality of life of older adults by providing training and technical assistance to health care agencies and providers regarding health issues common in late life. Center priorities include the prevention and early intervention of substance abuse, medication misuse and abuse, mental health disorders, and co-occurring disorders.

# TAC State/Territory Planning Activities

- Partnership with AoA
- Collaboration with NCOA
- In September 2005, SAMHSA Older Americans TAC conducted a state pilot test with Washington and Oregon
  - State planning focusing on geriatric substance abuse prevention and intervention and mental health promotion
  - Washington and Oregon State teams attended with personnel from mental health, substance abuse and aging



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# State/Territory Planning Activities— SWOT Based

- In Spring 2005, the TAC identified the SWOT assessment model as a useful tool in analyzing the state of mental health and substance abuse services for older adults
- Since Fall 2005, the TAC has conducted over **80** SWOT assessment conference calls with nearly **150** representatives from aging, mental health, substance abuse, public health, emergency management and consumers
- 8 States and 3 Territories participated in the face-to-face meetings
- 60 representatives at the face-to-face meetings in Wenatchee, WA; Baltimore, MD; Honolulu, HI; and in New Orleans, LA



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# Examples of Pilot Test Outcomes: 6 Month Follow Up

- Key participants from the Washington team now meet regularly for planning
  - Aging and Disability Services Administration (ADSA)
  - Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA)
  - Washington Institute (representing mental health)
- Other agencies and organizations are included in meetings as needed
- Training is taking place across systems: mental health, aging, and substance abuse



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# Washington State Training

## The SAMHSA Older Americans TAC conducted training in February and March 2006:

- Trained over 150 clinicians, paraprofessionals, and administrators from mental health, substance abuse, and aging fields in Seattle and Spokane
- Two-pronged training approach addressing health literacy and behavioral health resources



–“Increasing Provider Comfort Levels: Working with Older Adults”

–Get Connected! Toolkit



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# CT, MD & OH State Planning

- SAMHSA Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grants (MHT-SIG)
  - 7 states awarded MHT SIG in 2005
  - CSAP is partnering with the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) to enhance technical assistance efforts
- CT, MD & OH State Training
  - 20+ SWOT calls conducted with over 40 individuals during February
  - State training was held in Baltimore, MD in March 2006



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# CT, MD & OH State Planning

- Outcomes

- TAC Scientific Team attended and provided the keynote address entitled, “Facing the Challenge: The National Perspective” at the Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Facing the Challenge: Mental Health and Aging meeting in November 2006.
- TAC staff will provide the TAC workshop, “Increasing Provider Comfort Levels: Working With Older Adults” at the upcoming Connecticut North Central Area Agency on Aging annual conference in October.



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# AS, GU, MP & HI State/Territory Planning

- AS, GU, MP & HI State/Territory Planning
  - 20 + calls conducted with nearly 30 key informants in July & August 2006
  - Meeting held in Honolulu, HI in September 2006
- Meeting sessions focused on:
  - Cultural competence in addressing the needs of Asian-Pacific Island older adults
  - TAC-selected workshop content
  - SWOT results, discussion and planning



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# AS, GU, MP & HI State/Territory Planning

- Outcomes

- The Northern Mariana Islands will increase collaboration and communication between mental health and substance abuse
- Hawaii will work to identify existing data sources and what additional data are needed
- American Samoa will set up a joint task force to address older adult mental health and substance abuse issues and has requested additional technical assistance from the TAC/CSAP.



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# LA and MS State Planning

- LA and MS State Planning
  - Conducted 20 SWOT conference calls with over 30 representatives from aging, substance abuse, mental health, emergency preparedness and response and public health
  - Meeting held in New Orleans, LA in May 2007
- Meeting sessions focused on:
  - Older adults and disaster preparedness and response
  - TAC-selected workshop content
  - SWOT results, discussion and planning



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# LA and MS State Planning

- Outcomes

- The Southern Mississippi Area Agency on Aging (AAA) will participate in a Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse advisory council.
- The Mississippi Department of Mental Health will ensure that the community mental health centers include older adults within the disaster response and recovery plan and will encourage each center to coordinate with the closest AAA.
- In Louisiana, the Office of Addictive Disorders will participate in the New Orleans Council on Aging, “Senior Profiles,” a local television show on senior issues to increase awareness of the needs of older adults within Louisiana.



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# Questions?



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