The History & Effectiveness of Mental Health & Aging Coalitions

Willard Mays, M.A.
2010 SAMHSA CMHS Older Adult TCE Grantee Conference
Mental Health & Aging Coalition History

- 1981 White House Conference on Aging
  Arthur Flemming, J.D., Chair
  Action Committee to Implement the Mental Health Recommendations of the 1981 WHCoA (84)
- 1985 NASMHPD Older Persons Division Formed
  1st National Group with a Primary Focus on Mental Health & Aging
Mental Health & Aging Coalition History

- 1990 First State Coalition Formed OKLAHOMA!
- 1991 National Coalition on Mental Health & Aging Formed
- 1993 ASA Mental Health & Aging Network (MHAN) Formed
- 1995 White House Mini-Conference “Emerging Issues in Mental Health & Aging”
Coalition Building Takes Off!  
1996-2001

State & Local Coalition Building Initiative

- SAMHSA CMHS Funding
  - AARP Foundation & NASMHPD
- Phase 1: Regional Training & Consultation
  - Indianapolis  10 States
  - Albuquerque  10 States
- Phase 2: On-Site Training & Consultation (+ SA)
  - 5 More States  10 Local Communities
- Phase 3: Consultation & Evaluation (+ Primary Care)
  - Promising Practices Workshop & Updated Materials
NCMHA Today

- Includes over 75 Federal Agencies, National Organizations, and State & Local Coalitions
- Chair: Alixe McNeill, NCOA
  alixe.mcneill@ncoa.org (202) 479-6671
- The Coalition Meets 3 Times a Year at the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C.
- No Membership Fees
- Coalition Building Assistance is Available
  Debbie DiGilio, ddigilio@apa.org (202) 336-6135
  Willard Mays willard.mays@fssa.in.gov (317) 232-7894
The President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health (2002)

- Older Adults **NOT on the AGENDA!**

- Subcommittee on Older Adults

- Presentation on Aging to Full Commission (10/2/2002)
  Overview: Steve Bartels, MD
  Panel: AAGP, OACMHA,NASMHPD, & **NCMHA**

- Final Report (July 2003)
  *Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America*

- [www.mentalhealthcommission.gov](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov)
White House Conference on Aging (2005)

- WHCoA Held Once Each Decade
- Past WHCoA Conferences Paid Little Attention to Older Adults with Mental Illnesses
- 1200 Delegates
  - Appointed by Governors, Senators, Congressmen, & At-Large
- Limited to 50 Resolutions
  - Top 10 Included in Initial Report to the President
- Final Report [www.whcoa.gov](http://www.whcoa.gov)
NCMHA WHCoA ACTION STEPS!

- Special Meeting to Develop 3 Comprehensive Resolutions
  Why Not More? Counter Productive!

- Resolutions Disseminated Nationwide
  NCMHA Members, State & Local Affiliates, SMHAs, SUAs, State & Local Coalitions, etc.

- Testimony at WHCoA “Listening Sessions”
- Sought Appointments as Delegates
- NCMHA Listening Session
NCMHA at the WHCoA

- Voting to determine Top 50 Issues
  Let’s Make a Deal!
- Issue Sessions on Top 50 Issues
  3 Rounds – Choose Wisely!
  Size Does Matter!
  Volunteers
  Work Groups in Larger Sessions
  Prioritizing Recommendations
- Closing Session
  GASP!
WHCoA Mental Health Outcomes

Successes

- Primary Mental Health Resolution (# 36) Voted # 8 Overall!
- Five of 10 NCMHA Priority Resolutions in Top Ten!
- Three Additional Resolutions in Top Fifty!
- Implementation Strategies Included in Other Resolutions Including MH & SA Parity Coverage in Medicare & Medicaid!
WHCoA Mental Health Outcomes

Disappointments

- Substance Abuse Resolution (# 35) Voted # 52 Overall and Was Not Considered at the WHCoA!
- While WHCoA Delegates Were Prioritizing Increasing the Number Health Professionals Trained in Geriatrics a Committee in Congress was Eliminating the Funding for Geriatric Education Centers in the Federal Budget!
The Washington Post (12/20/05)

“...the conference produced a framework for social policies that broadened the scope of aging issues from services to support the frail to opportunities for the healthy to work and serve their communities. Delegates elevated mental health transportation, and long-term care as priority issues.”
So You Want To Start A Mental Health & Aging Coalition!

Let’s Get Started!
Who Will Benefit?

- Consumers!
  They’re what it’s all about!
- Families / Care Givers
- Advocacy Groups
- Governmental Agencies
- Service Providers
- Public At Large
The Keys to Success

- Have a strong Mission, Purpose & Vision
  If you don’t know what you’re about who does?
- Identify and involve key stakeholders in aging and behavioral health
  Advocacy Vs. Education
- Involve strong leaders & steering committee with shared vision, passion & respect
  Remember: A Coalition doesn’t belong to 1 person, 1 agency, or 1 organization!
Keys to Success

- Membership Diversity
  Consumers, family members, aging & behavioral health advocacy groups, professional organizations, government agencies, colleges & universities, public & private providers, researchers, students, elected officials, etc.

- Hot issues that unite and call to action
  Focus on issues that you can agree on not on what you can’t!
  Early success is important!
Keys to Success

- Focused, interesting meetings
  Would you continue going to boring meetings!

- Communication & Follow-up
  Members need to be involved & know what’s going on!
Keys to Success

- Funding and/or Support from a variety of sources

  Do you really need funding?
  Don’t put all your eggs in one basket!
  Should you incorporate?
Examples of Successful Mental Health & Aging Coalitions

Florida Coalition for Optimal Mental Health & Aging

- Established in 1998 to “Improve the availability, effectiveness and quality of mental health services for Florida’s older citizens”
- Formed in response to the 1997 “Mental Health and Older Floridians” Task Force Report
FCOMHA

- Catalyst: U. of South Florida, Florida Mental Health Institute, Dept. of Aging & Mental Health
- Dynamic Leader: Dr. Larry Dupree
- Broad-based & state-wide including consumers, service providers, policy makers, government & private agencies, advocates & researchers
- Over 200 members the 1st Year!
5 Work Groups

- Legislation/Policy
- Treatment/Services in LTC
- Treatment/Services in the Community
- Professional Education/Training
- Public Education/Prevention/Media
FCOMHA Accomplishments

- 2000 Legislation that established “Older Adults” as a distinct “Target Population” to be recognized and served by Florida’s mental health & substance abuse systems
- Established 6 Regional Coalitions
- This Year’s Annual Meeting will be held in Conjunction with the Florida Conference on Aging
- www.fcomha.org
Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York

- Established in January 2004
- Catalyst: Mental Health Association of New York City (Center for Policy, Advocacy & Education)
- Dynamic Leaders:
  Michael B. Friedman, LMSW, Chair
  Kimberly A. Williams, LMSW, Director
GMHA-NY
Accomplishments

- Geriatric Mental Health Act (2005)
  $2,000,000 in Funding!
  Demonstration Projects in 9 Categories
- Unique Membership Approach!
  Thousands of “Members”
  Weekly E-Mail Updates
GMHA-NY

- Products (Available at www.mhaofnyc.org)
  Articles, Reports, Opinion Essays, Fact Sheets, Testimony at Hearings, & Policy Briefings
- Annual GMHA-NY Conference
- The Behavioral Health Chemical Dependency and Long-term Care Act of 2009 Introduced!
  100 Organizations Signed On
More Coalitions

- **Kentucky** – 10 Regional Coalitions
- **Kansas** – Resource Manual (MD & NH)
- **Iowa** – Fact sheets by legislative districts
- **Indiana** – Inter-College Council on Aging
- **Illinois** – State conferences
- **New Hampshire** – Consumer involvement
More Coalitions

- **Oklahoma** – [www.omhac.org](http://www.omhac.org)
  Grandparents Raising Grand Children
- **Maryland** – MD MHA – 2 Staff
- **Georgia** – CDC Conf on Older Adult Depression
- **Minnesota** – State MH Planning Council
- **Pennsylvania** – Paid Director
NCMHA Contacts

- Alixe McNeill, Chair
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- www.ncmha.org
Allies and Key Contacts Back Home!

- NCMHA Website, [www.ncmha.org](http://www.ncmha.org)
- State and Local Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Aging Coalitions
- State and Local Affiliates of NCMHA Members
- State Olmstead Coalitions
- NASMHPD Older Persons Division State Contact, [www.nasmhpd.org](http://www.nasmhpd.org)
Allies and Key Contacts Back Home! Continued

- Aging Network, [www.aoa.gov](http://www.aoa.gov)
- State Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils, [www.namhpac.org](http://www.namhpac.org)
- Others!
What Happens Next?

IT’S UP TO YOU!