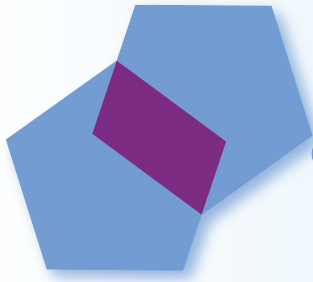


2008 Priorities

A top priority for ICMHA is to support the organization of a dedicated Bureau of Older Adult Mental Health Services within the Division of Mental Health and Disability Services.

The Bureau would pursue the following goals:

1. Ensure the provision of empathic and welcoming care to older Iowans with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders is a priority among policy makers, program administrators and provider organizations across the state of Iowa.
2. Increase the awareness and involvement of older adult consumers, their caregivers, and the general public with the provision of empathetic and welcoming care to older Iowans with mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders.
3. Increase the number of qualified providers of evidence based mental health and substance abuse services targeted towards older Iowans with mental illnesses.
4. Develop early identification and prevention programs targeting older Iowans with mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders.
5. Increase the provision of specialty and emergency mental health services targeting older adults with mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders.
6. Establish a statewide system of care that upholds the principle of "no wrong door" in which qualified providers offer effective referral and co-located services.
7. Establish an administrative culture that engages in continuous quality improvement.

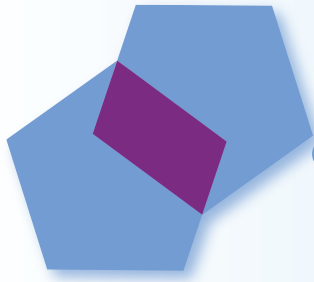


2008 Priorities

A top priority for ICMHA is to support the recommendations made by the Alzheimer's Disease Task Force.

The Coalition supports the following recommendations:

- a) Convene a workgroup to address the psychological needs of Iowans with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.
- b) Increase and enhance training and education requirements about Alzheimer's disease and related disorders for all direct care employees.
- c) Establish Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostic Centers throughout the state that can function as multi-disciplinary centers to serve persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and their caregivers.
- d) Keep Iowans healthier and reduce the risk for developing Alzheimer's disease and related disorders by providing evidence based physical and mental health programs.

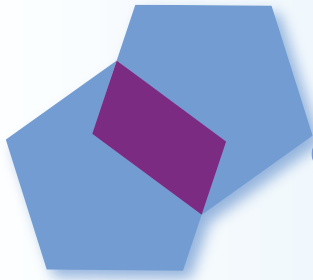


2008 Priorities

A top priority for the Iowa Coalition on Mental Health & Aging is to increase the number of professionals who can provide care to older Iowans with mental illnesses.

This priority can be attained by:

- a) Designating state allocations for the Iowa Department of Public Health training partnership administered by the University of Iowa.
- b) Stipulating that the Mental Health Planning Council use block grant funds to expand the peer support network for older adults.
- c) Establishing a loan forgiveness program for medical and other professional graduate students dedicated to serving older adults with mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders.
- d) Allocating financial support to re-establish student practicum experiences in aging and mental health through the county mental health departments and Medicaid managed care organizations.
- e) Promoting the provision of mental health care to older adults in their own homes, physician offices and other non-specialty locations.



2008 Priorities

A top priority for the ICMHA is to support the proposed rule changes to the statutory requirement for a health care facility to report accidents causing major injuries to the Department of Inspections and Appeals (Iowa Code section 135C.26).

The proposed rule changes are intended to increase the reporting of serious accidents and improve the effect DIA investigations.

The ICMHA specifically supports any and all efforts that require health care facilities to report any accidents that

- (a) result in injury to an older person with mental illness
- or
- (b) accidents that are brought about by a mental health problem or psychiatric disorder.

The rule changes also should include specific language and examples pertaining to older adults with mental health problems and psychiatric disorders.