

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



Outcomes of Special Populations Committee – cont.

- 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 groups 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.



Ongoing Activities – cont.

- 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.