


**WELCOME from the  
National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging**



**NCMHA**  
National Coalition on Mental Health & Aging

NASMHPD / Iowa Coalition  
October 19, 2009  
Alixé McNeill

**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.

**NCMHA**  
National Coalition on Mental Health & Aging

**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**  
National Coalition on Mental Health & Aging

**NCMHA History**

- 1991: First meeting of organizations and disciplines 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 CMHS to train networks of aging and mental health service providers and consumers at the state and local levels.
- 1998: Held a Special Conference devoted to identifying existing and emerging challenges to the delivery of quality mental health care for elder persons, and formulated recommendations

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**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

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**NCMHA History**

- 2001: American Psychological Association (APA) became the second organizational host of the NCMHA.
- 2002: Provided testimony to the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health
- 2004: Provided testimony to the 2005 WHCoA 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

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## NCMHA History

- 2005: Sponsored a WHCoA Listening Session
  - ❖ WHCoA Resolution #8 Improve Recognition, Assessment, and Treatment of Mental Illness and Depression Among Older Americans (with 75% delegates)
- 2006 - 2009:
  - ❖ Congressional briefings /meetings with federal agencies
  - ❖ Presentations at national meetings organized by NASMHPD Older Persons, ASA/NCOA, SAMHSA, CMS
  - ❖ Expanded membership to be 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](http://www.ncmha.org)

Alix McNeill, Chair, NCMHA

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Vice President, National Council on Aging

Deborah DiGilio

Immediate Past Chair

APA Coalition Support

[DDigilio@apa.org](mailto:DDigilio@apa.org)



## Please Join NCMHA

- State, regional, and local coalitions that support purposes of the NCMHA join as full members.
- See invitation on [www.ncmha.org](http://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

