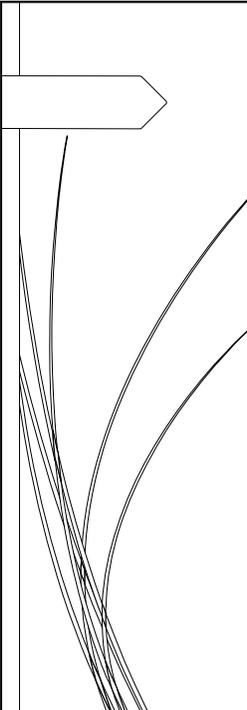


# Illinois Coalition on Mental Health & Aging

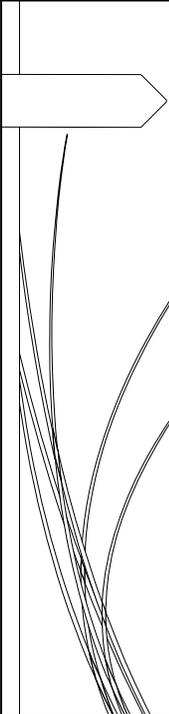
Projects, Implications, and Lessons for State Coalitions

Presented to the  
National Coalition on Mental Health and Aging  
June 5, 2019



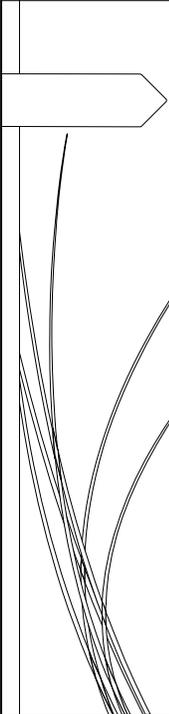
## History and Background

- 1996 – mental health and aging organizations in Illinois received start-up grants from AARP and NASMHPD to organize the Coalition
- 1997 – educational forums held across Illinois to create statewide and regional networks to support the Coalition
- 1998 – developed by-laws, organizational structure, and membership policies and procedures
- May 10, 2001 – Articles of Incorporation filed with Illinois Secretary of State
- Current Members include 22 organizations and 15 individuals
- Administrative support services provided through a contract with an Area Agency on Aging



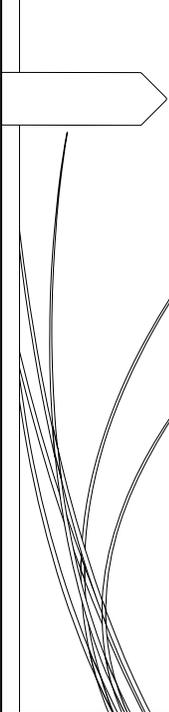
## Mission and Functions

- Mission: To provide opportunities for professional, consumer, and government organizations to work together to improve the availability and quality of mental health preventive and treatment strategies for older adults and their families through education, research and awareness.
- Functions include:
  - Education and training to expand understanding about mental health and aging (public and professional)
  - Networking and coordination across disciplines to exchange information and conduct cooperative projects
  - Advocacy for services and policies which promote quality care and the reduction and prevention of mental illness
  - Research and evaluation about the nature and extent of mental illness among older adults and the effectiveness of prevention, intervention, and quality care.



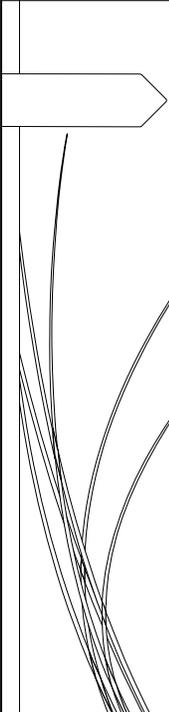
## Past Accomplishments

- Geriatric Advisory Committee with DHS/DMH, IDoA, and ICMHA members
- Gero-Psychiatric Initiative authorized by Illinois General Assembly in 2001
  - Implemented by Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health
  - In four Planning and Service Areas covering 32 counties in Southern Illinois
  - \$490,000 state funding appropriated annually from FY2001 through FY2008
  - Goals: systems integration, mental health services, and training & education
  - Employed four Gero-Psych Specialists (qualified mental health professionals)
  - Used evidence-based interventions including gero-psychiatry, clinical gero-psychology, and collaborative care model
  - Developed regional mental health and aging coalitions to integrate comprehensive services for older adults.



## Past Training, Advocacy, and Systems Change Activities

- 2001 – 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Conference on Mental Health and Aging
- 2009 – 1<sup>st</sup> Illinois Summit on Mental Health & Aging
- 2013 – Advocated for passage of The Positive Aging Act to improve mental health access for older adults
- 2013 to 2015 – ICMHA awarded mini-grants to members to support regional conferences and training in evidence-based practices
- 2015 – Began collaboration with Rush University Medical Center to implement the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program in Illinois to train healthcare and aging professionals in PEARLS and Healthy IDEAS
- 2016 – Urged Illinois DHS/DMH to address the needs of older adults in the certification of behavioral health clinics as part of the State's plan to rebalance long term care
- 2018- Supported University of Illinois at Chicago's ACL-funded program to train facilitators in and offer Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP®) for Seniors across the State
- 2018- Partnered with local SAMHSA and ACL administrators regarding older adults and opioids



## Current Advocacy Efforts

- ICMHA sent letter to newly-elected Governor J.B. Pritzker with recommendations and invitation to collaborate:
  - Re-establish the Geriatric Advisory Committee
  - Illinois Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery should ensure that its policy and service plans respond to the needs of older adults
  - Ensure that older adults who are not Medicaid-eligible have access to integrated behavior health screening and treatment options
- Participation in Chicago-based workgroup regarding Medicare and Medicare Advantage plan billing and benefit issues (provider and consumer issues)
- Disseminated toolkit in support of Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day
- Engaging newly appointed Department on Aging Director, a former Coalition member

## Lessons Learned

- Benefits of leveraging professional relationships and connections; aligning with national, State and local initiatives and needs; listening to members
- Challenges of being a volunteer-based Coalition; decentralized documentation; outdated use of technology
- ICMHA held a strategic planning meeting on May 21, 2019
  - Members identified our strengths including: longevity; statewide and diverse setting representation; member expertise; opportunities for collaboration and learning
  - Members identified areas for improvement including: mission statement revision; clearer vision, goals and outcome-based activities; increased engagement of Board of Directors, Committees and members; implications of pursuing 501 (c)(3) status
  - Suggested goals and extended member feedback to be utilized by a Strategic Planning Committee to develop an action-based three-year plan

## Contact Information

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