

- This issue Paper provides a list of system partners as well as an inventory of currently available trainings on aging issues that pertain to mental health clients and their service providers. However, a statewide training needs assessment and inventory of available trainings across systems is needed to develop a comprehensive list and centralized “clearinghouse” of training resources/opportunities.
- A key recommendation is to contract with a Mental Health & Aging Training Specialist to provide technical assistance to counties and the Regional Partnerships in the planning and implementation of older adult mental health specialty training; maintain the “Mental Health & Aging Workforce Education & Training Inventory”; participate on CiMH planning committees for conferences/trainings to promote inclusion of older adult training topics/issues and identify potential presenters/panelists.

- The clinical and economic benefits of collaborative training includes improved use of mental health and system partner limited resources, improved communication and service collaboration across systems, improved client outcomes, and improved workforce morale and retention.

To obtain a copy of the ***Mental Health & Aging Workforce Education/Training Issue Paper***:

For questions, please contact:  
Heather Anders at [handers@cmhda.org](mailto:handers@cmhda.org)



## ***Mental Health & Aging Workforce Education/Training Issue Paper***

# Mental Health & Aging Workforce Education/Training Issue Paper



The Mental Health and Aging Workforce Education/Training Issue paper makes the following points and recommendations:

- Developing a highly skilled and specially trained work force to meet the multifaceted needs of an elderly client population should be the goal of every Older Adult System of Care project.
- Existing and projected workforce shortages and the need for gerontology and geriatrics training are well documented challenges facing the mental health, health, aging, social services and alcohol/other drug systems as they struggle to meet the increasing needs of aging baby boomers.

- There is an age wave coming of diverse seniors with chronic illness who will impact health and human services systems including the capacity and abilities of their workforce. Older adults with mental health needs also have health and social service needs requiring a multidisciplinary/interdisciplinary approach to assessment and treatment. This necessitates the involvement of multiple systems and care providers.



- Specialized training is needed as elderly mental health clients have different care needs than younger adults; they are routinely involved with multiple, inter-related systems (health, aging, social services, alcohol/other drug, law enforcement and care providers); have multiple health, medication and cognitive concerns; and respond differently to treatments.

- Mental Health service providers can benefit from the existing specialized trainings on issues of aging available through system



partners in the aging network as well as offer specialized mental health training to the aging network that provide services to “shared” clients.

- Collaborating in the development and dissemination of information about specialized trainings related to geriatric mental health issues with system partners within other networks will enhance capacity and leverage limited resources to serve “shared” clients.

