

ATLANTA AREA COALITION
ON AGING & MENTAL HEALTH

February 20, 2013

PRESENT: Cathy T. Rambach, Fuqua Center
Jocelyn Chen, Fuqua Center
Catherine Ivy, NASW
Daniel Wachtel, Ph.D., Pioneer Psychological Associates, LLC
Jennifer Beamer, ARC
Karen James, Partial
Jessica Gill, Sunrise Senior Living
Leslie Sessley, The Link/NEGRC
Jason Gerling, AHA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Three new members were welcomed to the Coalition – Jessica Gill from Sunrise Senior Living; Leslie Sessley from The Link and NW Georgia Regional Commission (NECRC) and Jason Gerling, newly hired gerontologist at AHA.

Karen James was recognized and congratulated for recently becoming a LCSW.

AACAMH/ARGEC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE - Older Adults and Substance Use

Follow-Ups

- Jocelyn provided an update on a recent meeting with the marketing and clinical director from the Hanley Center of Palm Beach, Florida about their Geriatric Substance Abuse Program. They will be establishing a Resource Center in Atlanta offering AA and NA groups as well as access to their Florida treatment program. They are looking at various Atlanta resources for aftercare and follow-up once a person completes inpatient treatment. They are open to providing whatever support they can to our workforce development conference.
- Cathy spoke to sociologist Dr. Mariam Boeri, an Associate Professor at Kennesaw who has done research on older adults and substance abuse. She too is willing to participate in the conference. Dr Boeri's work and research was introduced to us by Molly Perkins at our December meeting. Several of her publications were shared with Coalition members by e-mail.
- As mentioned in the last meeting, the purpose of the conference is to raise the workforce's awareness about older adults and substance use. According to SAMSHA's Older Americans Issue Brief 2, *Alcohol Misuse and Abuse Prevention* (distributed with the December 2012 minutes):
"The misuse and abuse of alcohol in older adults present unique challenges for recognizing the problem and determining the most appropriate treatment interventions. Alcohol use problems in this age group often go unrecognized and, if they are recognized, are generally undertreated"

Focus probably limited to alcohol and possibly prescription drug abuse – Catherine Ivy plans to touch base with an FBI contact she knows.

Potential conference topics include:

- Increase awareness about the issue (Linda Paderson of the CDC suggested as a potential presenter – Jessica Gill will make contact with her)
- Impact on clinical and community providers
- Assessment Tools (SBIRT)
- Resources – Including support group like AA, NA, al anon
- Interventionist
- Medical impact and issues – science of addiction and older adults – medication management – anxiety disorders leading to substance abuse (Cathy will see if Dr. Nzinga Harrison who has expertise in this area might be a potential presenter)

- **Potential Dates**

- September 20 and September 27, 2013 are the potential conference dates – September 20 is preferred because a big social work conference is scheduled for the first week of October

- **Potential Venues**

- Jennifer Beamer will contact the Atlanta Food Bank and Trinity Presbyterian Church on Moores Mill to see if their training rooms are available on those dates. She will ask ARC if they are willing to sponsor the training room as in years past.
- Cathy will contact Eve Levine at the Breman Jewish Home to get information and availability on their training auditorium.

- **Audience** - open to all disciplines

- **CEUs** – We will ask ARGEC to once again assist with this as well as have NASW-GA work on getting CEs for social workers and LPCs. Dr. Wachtel will guide us on the application process for psychologist CEUs.

- **Registration Fee** – We will set the registration fee between \$25-\$40 and ask ARC to use their system for registration.

- **Sponsors** – We welcome any group who wants to sponsor breakfast or lunch.

ARGEC UPDATE

- Annual joint conference with GAPNA March 2, 2013 – multiple topics related to interdisciplinary care of the geriatric patient utilizing 3 different tracks – clinical, educator/program development, and a policy track.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Our next meeting will take place at 9:00am on Wednesday, April 17, 2013.