

# Integrated Care for the Aging Population

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# Here Come the Baby Boomers

“...nearly half of people over age 65 with a recognized mental or substance use disorder have unmet needs for services.<sup>[x]</sup> Older adults with mental health or substance use conditions often do not seek specialty mental health care. They are more likely to visit their primary care provider— often with a physical complaint.<sup>[xi]</sup>”

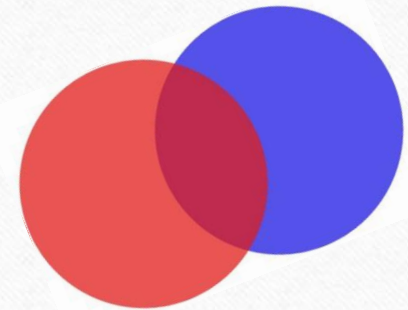
<http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/positions/aging-well> Position Statement 35: Aging Well: Wellness and Psychosocial Treatment for the Emotional and Cognitive Challenges of Aging



# Barriers to Identifying and Treating Older Adults



- Ageism
- Lack of awareness
- Clinician behavior
- Comorbidity



Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series, No. 26.  
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.  
Rockville (MD):

## Other Barriers

- Transportation
- Shrinking social support network
  - Time
  - Lack of expertise
  - Financial

Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series, No. 26., Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

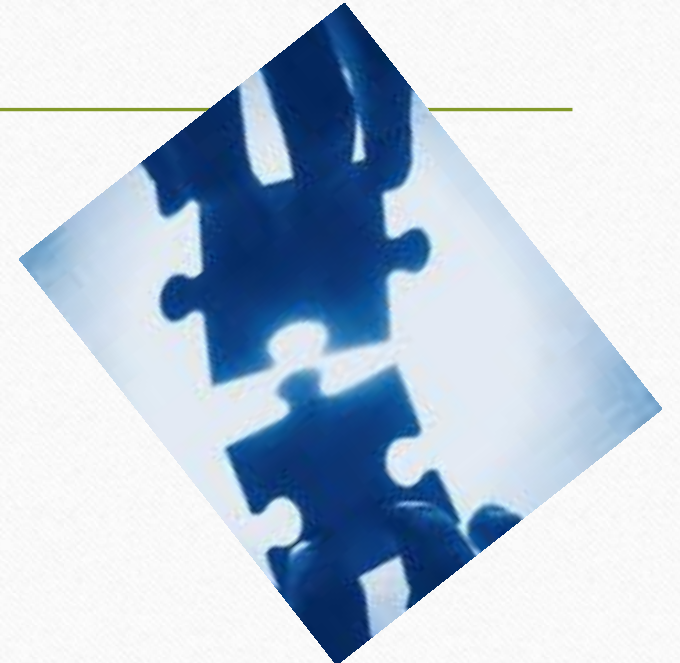
Rockville (MD):



# HOW WE CAN HELP



- Engagement
- Outreach
- Integrated Care



# Bi-Directional Care/ Reverse Co-Location

- Physical health care should be an essential service for persons with serious substance use and/or mental disorders. In the reverse co-location model, a primary care provider may be out-stationed part- or fulltime in a psychiatric specialty setting to monitor the physical health of patients. Typical settings are rehabilitation or day treatment programs, though services may be viable in an outpatient mental health clinic program. One variation of the model gives psychiatrists in mental health settings additional medical training to monitor and treat common physical problems (Mauer and Druss 2007). Evolving

Models of Behavioral Health Integration in Primary Care; by Chris Collins, Denise Levis Hewson, Richard Munger, and Torlen Wade; page 31

# The Importance of Integrated Care

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- Increased Medical Comorbidities
- Accuracy of Diagnostic Picture Critical to Ensure Appropriate Care
- Clarity of Care Plan and Treatment Regimen

