

# OKLAHOMA MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING COALITION

## MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COALITION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING

The Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Coalition is a State-wide alliance formed in 1991 to improve the availability, accessibility and quality of mental health and substance abuse services for aging Oklahomans.

Some projects successfully undertaken by the Coalition include public hearings at the State Capitol, workshops at State Conferences, training programs and technical assistance, development of PSA and brochures, and the provision of training to nutrition site personnel on symptom recognition and referral procedures.

While the Coalition suffered a short period of decreased activity, the OMHAC battery was recharged in May 2006 and is dedicated to broadening, strengthening and integrating the existing aging, mental health and substance abuse network.

The primary OMHAC goal is to serve as a resource to consumers, caregivers, legislators, policy makers and the media about mental health and substance abuse issues as they affect aging Oklahomans and their families.

The OMHAC website, [www.omhac.org](http://www.omhac.org), is maintained with up to date related information as well as features like a Consumer Story Page.

The Coalition's recent project was the development of a Fact Sheet, the distribution of which included new legislators, current office holders, agencies, aging network members, community education, conferences and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Center. The website also provides access to this document. Each of the seven primary facts will be developed in subsequent separate fact sheets for distribution.

A new brochure is being created and an exploratory committee will be named to determine the Coalition's capacity to develop and finance an Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Conference.

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