

OLDER ADULT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

AUGUST 2014 - MARCH 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Oregon Health Authority contracted with PSU to conduct a needs assessment and report findings to the Mental Health Budget Note Committee in August 2014. The role of the Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialist that has emerged is consistent with the recommendations from that report. The role has been further delineated into three major job functions:

Coordination

- Build partnerships and bridge gaps between service sectors
- Coordinate and leverage resources
- Address behavioral health needs in both urban and rural communities

Training

- Develop preventive care services and outreach for early diagnosis and intervention
- Provide sustained, cross training in aging and behavioral health at all levels and all systems
- Identify successful treatment models to address multiple mental health needs.

Complex Case Consultation

- Provide consultation on complex cases
- Promote independence, dignity, and choice while balancing issues of risk and safety

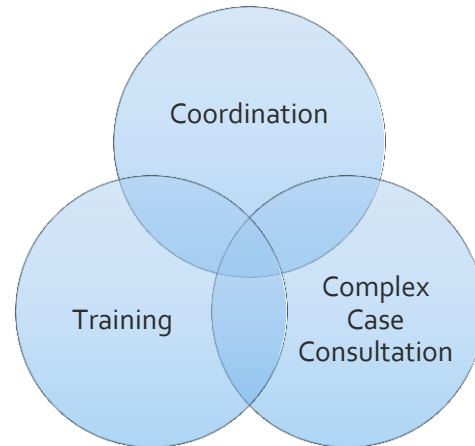


Figure 1: Role of OABHS

TRAINING DEVELOPED BY PSU

Subsequently, PSU was charged with developing a training program to prepare Older Adult Behavioral Health Specialists (OABHS) for their roles through community capacity building efforts. Training modules were created for three distinct audiences:

- **Behavioral health and aging services providers**
 - *The Everyday Experience of Aging*
 - *Behavioral Health Partners*
 - *Aging Services Partners*
 - *What's Happening with Gladys?*
 - *Bill's Search for Lois*
 - *Has Anyone Seen George?*
 - *We Have Another Call About Nell*
 - *Behavioral Health Issues and Advance Care Planning*
- **Primary care providers**
 - *Toward Integrated Care*
 - *Geriatric Depression Care*
 - *Geriatric Substance Use Disorders*
 - *Late Life Suicide Prevention*
 - *Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms in Dementia*
- **The general public**
 - *Is Anxiety Affecting Your Health?*
 - *Is Alcohol Affecting Your Health?*
 - *Is Social Isolation Affecting your Health?*

Supplementary materials were developed, including **Companion Guides** which assist OABHS in presenting the modules. **Participant Companion Guides** provided resources from reliable sources on the topics addressed in modules. Materials specific for the primary care providers’ audience were compiled and distributed.

PSU developed a series of learning sessions for OABHS to support community capacity building skills and abilities:

- **Learning Session 1: Identifying Gaps in Services**

Tools were introduced to help OABHS work with community stakeholders to identify and determine how best to address the gaps in services:

- Community profiles
- Stakeholder interview guide
- Community capacity assessment form

- **Learning Session 2: Building Collaborative Partnerships**

This session was intended to guide the OABHS in developing collaborative relationships to address these gaps.

- **Learning Session 3: Collaboration and Capacity**

This final learning session continued the theme of collaborative partnerships, including working with primary care providers. Content also focused on “What will Success Look Like?” OABHS generated items that can be used in future evaluation.

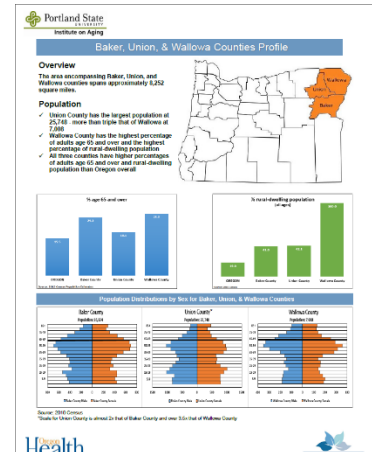


Figure 2: Community Profile

SUMMARY OF KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Systems

- The OHBS Initiative is complex and ambitious; it requires sustained commitment through policy and funding at the highest levels of state government to meet initiative goals.
- OABHS and community partners should embark on specific community improvement projects to address priority needs. Such projects will serve as learning laboratories and provide much needed data to inform policy.
- Cross agency advocacy for the Initiative is needed at State and Local levels.

OABHS

- Review job descriptions regularly, especially as new OABHS are hired, to ensure that expectations are clear and agreement exists between the State Coordinator, the contracting agency, and the OABHS who is assuming the job.
- Support and strengthen peer networking among OABHS to facilitate sharing ideas, lessons learned, and to provide mutual support. Involve OABHS in planning activities to optimize peer networking opportunities.
- Expand job recruitment to include people with professional backgrounds beyond behavioral health, including aging services, community and public health, community development, nursing, and health education.

Access Training Materials and Reports:

<https://www.pdx.edu/ioa/serving-older-adults-with-behavioral-health-needs-training-youtube-links-companion-guides>