

Oral testimony was given by Deborah Kuiken, Executive Director of Midland Area Agency on Aging at the Public Forum. From the oral testimony given, the following are questions asked to Ms. Kuiken:

Question: Would addressing the needs you have spelled out require significant additional dollars?

Answer: Yes, more money would be needed, but it also requires greater dedication. There is a need to see if there is a certain problem impacting seniors...and then convincing mental health professionals at the local level and Care Coordinators to work together to solve those problems.

To be accurate, it is not an assessment of illness that is needed, but a need to identify the possibility, based on the assessment, the possibility that there might be some behavioral issues that would point to a referral to a mental health professional.

We need to try to get Care Coordinators to make in-home visits with a mental health professional to build some rapport with the senior in a far more comfortable setting and then start getting the individual to go to community mental health centers.

Comment from a Panelist: Mental Health America of Illinois (MHA) is for aging systems integration. The Mental Health and Aging Coalition wrote an issue paper and estimated what it would cost to replicate. The Division of Mental Health's Gero-Psych Initiative is going on in four geographic areas of the State, with a budget of \$500,000. It would cost \$2.5 million to replicate statewide. The Initiative also wanted the State to provide seed money to sustain wrap-around programs. Since that time, the fiscal situation has become very dire. The movement towards fee for service has meant the demise of the Gero-Psych Initiative.

Answer: They put together training manual on how to train mental health professionals for anyone looking to implement a model. This would be great for training Care Coordinators.

Question: Could this manual be put on the Division of Mental Health website?

Answer: That question should be addressed to Charlotte Kauffman in the Division of Mental Health.

Question: If we did that, we would need to disseminate it in a forum with professionals present to guide people through the manual.

Answer: Healthy Ideas model in Southern Illinois serving as a coach and consultant as it is related to local Case Coordination Unit.

Requires partnerships and utilize current resources.