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Depression, anxiety, addiction, and other mental health issues are not a normal part of aging. Left untreated, they can worsen health and lead to institutionalization and even suicide.

- In 2010, at least 5.6 million to 8 million older adults had one or more mental health/substance use issues (IOM, 2012).
- A recent study found that illicit drug use nearly doubled among people 50-59 between 2002 and 2007, increasing from 5.1 percent in 2002 to 9.4 percent in 2007 (IOM, 2012).
- An estimated 20.4 percent of adults 65 and older meet criteria for a mental disorder, including [dementia](#) (Karel, Gatz & Smyer, 2012).
- Older Americans under-utilize mental health services for a variety of reasons, including: inadequate insurance coverage; a shortage of trained geriatric mental health providers; lack of coordination among primary care, mental health and aging service providers; stigma surrounding mental health and its treatment; denial of problems; and access barriers such as transportation (Bartels et al., 2004).

Older Adult Behavioral Health Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Specialists

A resource to the community and local agencies on behalf of the older adult population with behavioral health concerns.



Services designed for individuals with behavioral health concerns might lose relevance to the needs of those people as they age. Likewise, services designed for older adults might not fully encompass behavioral health needs.

Let's bridge the Gap!!

Signs and Symptoms of Behavioral Health concerns among individuals as they age

- o Noticeable changes in mood, energy level, or appetite
- o Difficulty sleeping or sleeping too much
- o Difficulty concentrating, feeling restless, or on edge
- o Ongoing headaches, digestive issues, or pain
- o A need for alcohol or drugs
- o Sadness, hopelessness, or suicidal thoughts
- o Medication interactions
- o Alcohol or substance abuse

Older Adult Behavioral Health Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) Specialist Project

Regional specialists are a resource to behavioral health providers whose clients are aging and to aging partners whose clients are experiencing behavioral health issues.

The regional specialists will provide behavioral health resources and consultation for older adults with behavioral health conditions for the purpose of diverting them from, or reducing the duration of, nursing facility admission.

The regional specialists are a resource to:

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Health Departments
- Local Maryland Access Point (MAP) sites
- Behavioral health providers
- Support planners
- Other entities involved with diversion from nursing homes and transitions from nursing home back to the community

This is a pilot project administered by the Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration through local core service agencies and funded through the Medicaid Money Follows the Person Project.



Preadmission Admission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)

The PASRR Program (Pre- Admission Screening and Resident Review) is a federal program governed by the centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This program screens individuals seeking nursing facility care for a history of mental illness and identifies the most appropriate and least restrictive services that will meet the individual's needs. The required evaluations are conducted by Adult Evaluation and Review Services (AERS) professionals at the local health departments and approved by the Behavioral Health Administration's Behavioral Services Organization, Beacon Health Options.

The Behavioral Health Specialists' roles in PASRR

- To serve as a resource/consultant available to providers and others involved in pre-admission aspects of PASRR
- To serve as a resource to nursing facilities in identifying who may need resident review
- To follow up with residents admitted under PASRR to identify opportunities for discharge back to their respective communities