

ATLANTA AREA COALITION  
ON AGING & MENTAL HEALTH

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April 20, 2011

PRESENT: Jennifer Beamer, ARC  
Kristen Snell, Aging Options GA  
Marilyn Spurlock, Consultant  
Jane Hamil, Bridging Generations  
Eve Byrd, Fuqua Center  
Susan Peterson-Hazan, Emory Alzheimer's disease Research  
Rebecca Dillard, Center for Health in Aging – ARGEC  
Margo Geller, Private Practice  
Karen James, Wesley Woods Transitions Program  
Debra Brown, Social Work, p.r.n.  
Julie Schultheis, Private Practice-Walk the Talk; Atlanta Hoarding Task Force  
Michele Miles, Fuqua Center

Two new members were welcomed to the Coalition.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Conference Evaluation

Review of handouts- Registration and Evaluation.

Pending:

- Finalize tracking system for those who watch DVD of presentations, then place presentations back on Fuqua Web
  - In development. Brief discussion of ARGEC's need to track multi-disciplinary involvement in geriatric education and how we might work together to add this piece to the streaming of the DVD.
  - Sue Fort to develop post-test for CE credit.
- Discussion of evaluating the use of the on-line training. That is, making sure the video is worthwhile to train people compared with the expense.
- Ultimately, the on-line education will be a coalition product.

**BUSINESS**

A. **ARGEC – Short review**

Rebecca Dillard gave an overview of ARGEC (Atlanta Regional Geriatrics Education Center) for the benefit of all. As discussed in February, the Division of Geriatrics was awarded the ARGEC grant by HRSA to improve geriatric care in the area. It is a collaborative project – a consortium of three universities: Morehouse, Georgia State and

Emory. At Georgia State the School of Nursing (SON) and Social Work (SW) are involved. The Emory involvement includes: School of Medicine (SOM), SON, Fuqua, Rollins School of Public Health, Candler School of Theology and Arts & Sciences. It is an inclusion grant - Dr. Ted Johnson is the lead- charged with reaching out to the broader community including trainees and those currently practicing. There are five objectives for providing educational information in the community including:

- Develop interdisciplinary geriatric curricula for students, residents, and trainees and implement durable change
  - Provide educational information to practitioners and faculty within institutions and the community that is actionable, culturally-competent, attentive to health disparities and will move health outcomes.
  - Develop liaison and mentoring programs that will sustain change
  - Develop materials and programming that will meaningfully offer older adults a greater chance to love and age successfully in their communities
  - Offer individuals opportunities to develop interdisciplinary team skills and practice.
- Specific content area is broad in geriatrics but we submitted to focus on late-life depression.

**B. ARGEC – New information**

ARGEC has multi-disciplinary educational objectives. The five identified groups are Physicians (MD), Nurses (RN), Nurse Practitioners (NP), Social Workers (SW) and Physician Assistants (PA). Although not specifically named the education strategy seeks to be inclusive of: care transition network, geriatric case managers (RN, SW, etc.), PhD's, Pastoral, CNS and LPN's. The focus includes:

- Training and Re-training Medical Faculty
- Training Community Providers
- Development and dissemination of curriculum
- Training of Health Professionals
- Interdisciplinary training of fellows and residents

ARGEC has an external advisory board which consists of individuals involved in Policy. Nationally there are 35 Geriatric Education Centers – 5 of which are focused on Late-Life Depression.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Next Steps in Workforce Development**

It was suggested, and the group seemed in agreement, that nurses could be the next target audience of coalition-sponsored education.

Ideas put forth include:

- Reaching out to the GA Nursing Association (GNA) to see if they have surveyed their membership about geriatric mental health needs. What is going on in NP/RN workforce development.
- Decide what type of nurses we want to reach, for example, advanced practice.

- Research what other groups are doing- is this topic on their national meeting agenda? E.g., PA associations, Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) associations. (Margo Geller volunteered)
- Talk with SON. (Eve Byrd volunteered)

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 15, 2011.