



Recommendations to Improve Outcomes for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

*Based on Findings from the Evaluation of the Behavioral Health Initiative for
Older Adults and People with Disabilities*

Integrate behavioral health (OHA) and aging services (DHS) for older adults and people with disabilities with cross system care needs

- Acknowledge shared responsibilities for services by executing MOUs at the state and local levels
- Use “braided” or blended funding strategies so that each agency contributes to the needed array of services
- Prioritize building bridges between local agency leaders and their staff to reduce state agency siloes

Elevate older adults and people with disabilities as a priority population in state-sponsored behavioral health initiatives

- Allocate funding for appropriate services
- Support and invest in a knowledgeable and skilled workforce
- Promote program development to enhance access to services and specialized housing

Increase Medicare literacy and promote structural changes

- Allocate funding for technical assistance for providers
- Educate providers on behavioral health billing codes and alternative strategies
- Advocate for increased reimbursement rates and a larger group of qualified professionals who can provide billable mental health services for this population