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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.***

- Older men, both white and black over 65 years of age, have the highest suicide rates of all gender, race, and age groups (National Institute of Mental Health [NIMH], 2019).
- It is projected that the number of older adults who will need treatment for substance use disorder will increase from 1.7 million in 2000–2001 to 4.4 million in 2020 (Chhatre, Cook, Malik & Jayadevappa, 2017).
- Although mental illness is not a normal part of aging, at least 20% of older adults have one or more mental health or substance use conditions (World Health Organization [WHO], 2017).
- Most older adults neither seek nor receive treatment because of multiple barriers, including lack of education and stigma about mental health and substance use problems, denial, a fragmented health care system, inadequate funding, transportation, and geriatric mental health workforce shortages (Choi & DiNitto, 2013)

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.*



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Services designed for individuals with behavioral health concerns may not fully meet the needs of individuals 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

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

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.

Regional Specialists can 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.

Regional Specialists are a resource to:

- Aging and Disability Resource Centers
- Health Departments
- Maryland Access Point (MAP)
- Behavioral health providers
- Support planners for Community First Choice or Community Options Waiver
- 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.



MARYLAND
Department of Health

Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR)

PASRR is a federal program governed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). PASRR 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 local health departments and approved by the Behavioral Health Administration's Behavioral Services Organization contact at Optum Healthcare

Behavioral Health Specialists' roles in PASRR

- Pre-admission—Resource and/or consultant to individuals, providers and others
- Resident Review—Resource to nursing facilities in identifying who may need resident review
- Follow-up—Resource to individuals admitted under PASRR to identify services upon discharge back to community setting