

Oakland Family Services Continues to Gain National Recognition for its Expertise in Meeting the Mental Health Needs of Older Adults

Oakland Family Services' expertise in serving older adults has once again been recognized nationally. The agency was chosen by the national membership organization Alliance for Children and Families to serve as a mentor to a peer organization in providing services to older adults.

Oakland Family Services will be supported by grant funding from the Alliance for Children and Families to share its proficiency, developed over more than 20 years of providing mental health services to older adults and support services to their caregivers, both professional and familial, and to help strengthen the profession. The grant is part of the *New Age of Aging*, a major five-year initiative designed to help prepare human service organizations to better serve older adults, as well as utilize their many skills through volunteerism or professional assistance. The \$2.6 million New Age of Aging initiative is funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies.



Micheline Sommers, Director of Older Adult Specialty Services

The agency has been paired with a mentee organization in Madison, Wisconsin interested in gaining knowledge and skills in providing mental health services to a rapidly increasing population of older adults.

This award is part of increasing recognition of our staff's expertise in delivering services to meet the mental health needs of older adults. Micheline Sommers, Director of Specialty Services for Older Adults, and her staff, recently presented at the National Council on Aging and the American Society on Aging annual conference in Chicago. They have also been invited to present at the State Mental Health and Aging Project annual conference in Lansing in May 2010.