

Behavioral Health SIG
Revised Mission & Goals
February 2012

Purpose: The purpose of the Mental Health and Behavior Supports interest group will be to identify, organize, stimulate, educate and mobilize individuals and organizations within the AUCD network to increase the capacity and commitment within the nation and the individual states to meet the mental health and behavior support needs of individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages.

Goals: There are 10 primary goals envisioned for the Mental Health and Behavior Supports group:

- Increase focus and funding for applied research on the effectiveness of community mental health and behavior support interventions and programs
- Identify and provide access to knowledgeable network members who can contribute to the design and implementation of validated programs of community mental health and behavior support in states and local communities
- Promote and inform evidenced based policy-making by federal, state and local governments, including support for improved cross-system planning, service integration and comprehensive systems of care.
- Promote training through LEND and UCEDD activities to develop the workforce to meet the needs of individuals with co-occurring developmental and emotional disorders.
- Disseminate information, offer guidance and provide training to agencies, families, school personnel and others supporting persons with developmental disabilities to improve penetration of evidenced-based mental health and behavior support practices into the settings of daily life of children and adults with developmental disabilities
- Create a better defined and organized capacity within AUCD to assist AUCD staff and others in evaluating and responding to national proposals and initiatives relevant to mental health and behavior supports for persons with developmental disabilities
- Nurture relationships among the AUCD network of individuals and organizations able to compete successfully for multi-site research and training opportunities
- Establish the meetings of AUCD as a source of high quality training on best practices, programs and policies related to mental health and behavior supports
- Create a community of practice within AUCD for the sharing of resources, experiences and expertise
- Provide for mutually beneficial connections between AUCD and other organizations with focus on mental health and behavior support (e.g., National Association on Dual Diagnosis)

Next (First) Steps:

- Present intention/seek approval for a SIG on Mental Health and Behavior Support
- Survey AUCD programs and staff to identify organizations and individuals with potential interest
- Announce creation of SIG and solicit membership