

IGSW News

...about strengthening the workforce for an aging society



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In This Issue

[IGSW changes name](#)

From the Director

New name, expanded focus, same commitment

IGSW Will Become Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research at Boston University

By Scott Miyake Geron

After 10 years as the Institute for Geriatric Social Work, we will soon be changing our name to reflect the evolution of our mission over the past several years. IGSW will now be known as the **Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research at Boston University**, dedicated to workforce development in both the aging and the disability fields. This change is based on our part in the growing movement to integrate supports and services for older adults and people with disabilities and our efforts to meet the corresponding education and training needs of workers and providers who increasingly serve both groups. Unchanged is our longtime commitment to building the workforce for an aging and diverse society. Taking this leap forward prompts a look at how far we've come.... [Read more](#)



Photo of Scott Miyake Geron courtesy of Boston University

From Administration for Community Living

New Grant Will Fund Training for Aging, Disability Providers in Negotiating with Managed-Care Organizations

IGSW/Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research has just been awarded a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living-Office of Aging and Disability Policy to train aging and disability providers, including those on tribal lands, in negotiating with health and managed-care organizations. The award of \$153,500 is for the first year of what is expected to be a three-year project.... [Read more](#)

[New IGSW courses expand focus](#)

[Interview with Michael Botticelli](#)

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Courses in the Pipeline

Watch for

- Options Counseling
- A Guide to the Aging and Disability Networks
- Suicide Prevention Among Immigrant and Refugee Populations

IGSW Presents

IGSW staff will be presenting at the following events:

Immigrant and Refugees Mental Health Networking Group

"Enhancing Suicide Prevention Among Older Adult Immigrant and Refugees," (presentation) Kathy Kuhn, director of workforce development. Boston, Oct. 23.

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) Annual Meeting and Allied Conference

"Innovations in Training: Enhancing Suicide Prevention Among Older Adult Immigrant and Refugees," (presentation) Kathy Kuhn. Los Angeles, Nov. 16. [More info](#)

"Using What They Learn: Empowering Workers to Transfer Learning from the Classroom to the Field," (webinar) Kathy Kuhn, with Academy for Professional Excellence. Nov. 29. [More info](#)

"Aging in Place: Meeting the Needs of Elders in Housing," (presentation) Kathy Kuhn, for MassHousing Training Program. Holyoke, Mass., Dec. 7. [More info](#)

Stop by the IGSW booth at these conferences:

O4A Annual Conference on Aging

Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 28–30. [More info](#)

C4A Annual Meeting and Allied

Issues and Views

IGSW courses' expanded focus

Workers in Health and Long-Term-Care Supports and Services Need Diverse, Evolving Set of Skills

By Bronwyn Keefe



The goal of the new Administration for Community Living—to improve the supports and services that older adults and people with disabilities may need in order to live with dignity in their communities—highlights the importance of what people who work with these individuals do every day in their jobs. Their work is complex and requires a diverse and evolving set of knowledge and skills, now more than ever. At IGSW over the past 10 years, our innovative courses and learning programs have helped thousands of social service practitioners and other health and human service workers to strengthen their knowledge and skills for work with older adults. As services for older adults and people with disabilities have become increasingly integrated, our courses have evolved accordingly.

Core Issues in Aging and Disability, our latest course offering, brings service providers up to date as they increasingly work with individuals from both populations.... [Read more about what's in the works.](#)

Photo of Bronwyn Keefe courtesy of Boston University

Local, state, and national solutions

Advocate of Elder Substance Abuse Programs Is Nominee for National Drug Control Office

By Mary Johnson

Substance abuse among older adults remains a serious problem that is exacerbated by a lack of prevention and treatment specifically geared for elders, say the CDC and other public health researchers. **Michael Botticelli** (right) has served for the past nine years as director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where, among many other challenges and achievements, he championed substance-abuse prevention and treatment for older adults. He has just been nominated to be the next deputy director of the Office of National Drug Control in Washington, D.C. **Will he still be an advocate for elders?** [Read what Michael Botticelli said in a recent IGSW News interview.](#)



Photo of Michael Botticelli courtesy Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Address a hidden problem with this IGSW Course

Substance Abuse Among Older Adults

Through case examples, assessment questions, and interactive activities, this course brings social service providers and others to an understanding of substance abuse as an issue that affects the older adults in their practice. Learn to recognize substance abuse and to undertake steps to effective identification, referral, and intervention. [Sign up now for a 10 percent discount or learn more about this course](#)

See also: [Treatment Approach for Advanced Substance Abuse](#)

News to Note

'In Whose Hands?'

IOM Report: Boost Work Force, Fund Training to

Conference

Los Angeles, Nov. 14–16. [More info](#)

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Address Elder Substance Abuse, Mental Health



Training of health and social service professionals across all disciplines should ensure competence in care of older adults with substance use and mental health problems, says a new Institute of Medicine report, [The Mental Health and Substance Use Workforce for Older Adults: In Whose Hands?](#) According to the committee that wrote the report, the magnitude of these problems is so great that no single approach or isolated changes in a few federal agencies or programs will address it. The committee called for Medicare and Medicaid coverage of related counseling, care management, and other services, and for action by licensure and accreditation organizations.... [Read more](#)

Again, it's about care coordination

New 'Guiding Principles' of Quality Care for Elders with Multiple Chronic Conditions

A just-released report from the American Geriatrics Society, [Patient-Centered Care for Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions: A Stepwise Approach](#), offers a new set of "guiding principles" to better individualize and coordinate care for this growing population. More than half of adults 65 and older have at least three chronic conditions, and about 93 percent of Medicare expenditure goes to care for these patients, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The report's new principles are distilled into five basic steps for better care. All underline the importance of the care coordination that social service practitioners provide.... [Read more](#)

ISGW News is an electronic newsletter published bimonthly by the **Institute for Geriatric Social Work** at Boston University.

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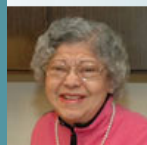
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Resources

Administration for Community Living

The goal of the Administration for Community Living (ACL) is to increase access to community supports and full participation for older Americans and people with disabilities, while focusing attention and resources on the unique needs of these populations. Visit [its website](#) for more information about the organization and leadership.

IGSW Online Training Programs

IGSW [online courses](#) and [certificate programs](#) are developed by experts in the field of aging and disability. Combining the resources of one of the nation's leading research universities with the latest in online learning technology, IGSW online courses and certificate programs develop and strengthen core competencies needed for effective practice in important practice areas.

From the Director

New name, expanded focus, same commitment

IGSW Will Become Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research at Boston University

By Scott Miyake Geron



After 10 years as the Institute for Geriatric Social Work, we will soon be changing our name to better reflect the evolution of our mission over the past several years. IGSW will now be known as the **Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research at Boston University**, dedicated to workforce development in both the aging and the disability fields. This change is based on our part in the growing movement to integrate supports and services for older adults and people with disabilities and our efforts to meet the corresponding education and training needs of workers and providers who increasingly serve both groups.

Taking this leap forward prompts a look at how far we've come. When the Institute for Geriatric Social Work at Boston University was founded in 2002 with a grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies, its mission was to address the urgent need for services and care for the burgeoning older population in the face of inadequate numbers of workers trained to provide this care.



**Center for Aging and Disability
Education and Research**
Boston University School of Social Work

In the years since, IGSW has become a national leader in efforts to meet this challenge. We have provided high-quality, low-cost, accessible online education and training to develop the skills of social service and other practitioners who work with older adults.

Ours is a unique and powerful model. IGSW courses are designed to address the basic competencies that workers need in order to be effective. Working with leading experts, we ensure that the courses convey the latest in knowledge and practice using the best online teaching and technology.

Through partnerships with national organizations and state and local agencies, IGSW brings this model to practitioners where they work. And, by providing a full range of management and learning supports, we help agencies implement our programs and ensure that their workers put into practice what they learn. More than 50,000 practitioners in state and local agencies throughout the country have benefitted from our programs thus far.

Now, with a new name and expanded focus combined with our longtime base at Boston University, renowned for excellence in aging and disability research and practice, we will continue to bring outstanding learning opportunities to workers—in aging and disability—now and in the future. We look forward to our continued association in this challenging and fruitful endeavor with you, our colleagues and friends.

Scott Miyake Geron, Ph.D., is director of IGSW and an associate professor in the School of Social Work at Boston University.

Photo of Scott Miyake Geron courtesy Boston University

**From Administration for Community Living
New Grant Will Fund Training for Aging, Disability**



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Providers in Negotiating with Managed-Care Organizations

IGSW/Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research has just been awarded a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living-Office of Aging and Disability Policy to train aging and disability providers across the country, including those on tribal lands, in negotiating with health and managed-care organizations.

In the first year of what is expected to be a three-year project, IGSW/Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research will do the following: (1) research with tribal organizations through focus groups and interviews to understand the issues and challenges of these organizations in working with managed long-term-care systems; and (2) develop an online training course on the role of participant direction in managed long-term care for aging and disability service providers around the country.

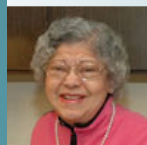
"We are pleased to have this opportunity to develop and strengthen the ability of aging and disability providers to negotiate with managed care organizations at this crucial time, especially in addressing issues such as participant direction," said Scott Miyake Geron, director of IGSW/Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research.

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Administration for Community Living

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National Center for Health Statistics

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2010, some 61.7 percent of adults 65 years and older had at least one basic "actions difficulty" or complex activity limitation. For more data on disability and functioning of adults, including older people, check out the CDC [FastStats website](#).

From Past Issues of IGSW News

**DHHS Combines Aging and
Disability Agencies** by Scott Miyake Geron (May–June 2012) discusses Secretary Kathleen Sebelius's announcement of the creation of the Administration for Community Living within the Department of Health and Human Services, and its potential impact. [Read article](#)

Issues and Views

IGSW courses to focus on disability as well as aging Service Providers Need Diverse, Evolving Set of Skills

By Bronwyn Keefe



The goal of the new Administration for Community Living—to improve the supports and services that older adults and people with disabilities may need in order to live with dignity in their communities—highlights the importance of what people who work with these individuals do every day in their jobs. Their work is complex and requires a diverse and evolving set of knowledge and skills, now more than ever.

At IGSW over the past 10 years, our innovative courses and learning programs have helped thousands of social service practitioners and other health and human service workers across the nation to strengthen their knowledge and skills for work with older adults. With the growing movement to integrate support and services for older adults with those for people with disabilities, our courses have evolved accordingly and will now focus on disability as well as aging.

Core Issues in Aging and Disability, our latest offering, brings service providers up to date as they increasingly work with individuals from both populations. Course participants learn how disability and age can affect function and quality of life along the continuum of adulthood. They learn about integrated approaches to "long-term living" and gain a deeper understanding of the meanings of consumer choice, self-determination, and ethical issues that can arise in practice with older adults and people with disabilities. The course also guides participants to new resources and existing programs, and clarifies federal laws and regulations that affect disability and aging. Useful links and video clips are included.

Many of IGSW's existing courses focus on skills that are applicable to work with both populations. **New courses** will address work with both populations where appropriate and with a single population where the subject requires. For example, a new course, *An Options Counselor's Guide to Consumer Control, Consumer Choice, and Consumer Direction*, will review the definition and meaning of consumer control, consumer choice, and consumer direction and the practice of this approach and philosophy within the context of options counseling. Other courses in the works are *A Guide to the Aging and Disability Networks* and *Options Counseling Training Overview*. You'll be hearing from us as the new courses become available. We hope to hear what you think of these courses and what you'd like to see as we expand our offerings. Below, course participant Janice Adams describes how *Core Issues in Aging and Disability* worked for her.

Bronwyn Keefe is associate director of IGSW.

Photo of Bronwyn Keefe courtesy Boston University

Update your skills with this timely IGSW course Core Issues in Aging and Disability

Creation of the new Administration for Community Living in the Department of Health and Human Services is only the latest among many changes taking place to integrate long-term services for older adults with those for people with disabilities. Learn what you need to know. [Sign up](#) now and receive a 10 percent discount! (Enter code **ENews1012** to enjoy the discount.)



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"I would definitely recommend this program to all aging and disability services staff.

The balance between aging and disability materials perfectly fits the platform being presented as the Area Agencies on Aging are moving into a stronger Aging and Disability Resource Connection component locally, at the state level and even nationally.

This program allows those working with the Aging and Disability Resource Centers in particular to better serve both our seniors and those with special needs."

—Janice F. Adams, L.C.S.W., caregiver program manager,
Central Savannah River Area Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging



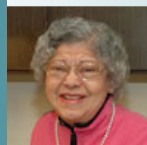
Photo of Janice F. Adams courtesy CSRARC Area Agency on Aging

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Massachusetts Health Promotion Clearinghouse Bureau of Substance Abuse Services-Older Adults

The [Bureau of Substance Abuse Services-Older Adults section](#) of the Clearinghouse website provides free health-promotion materials related to older adults and substance abuse, including brochures, booklets, and fact sheets for older adults and families and for health and social service providers. All digital materials are available to the general public for downloading. Some other materials are available to Massachusetts residents only.

From Past Issues of IGSW News

**Community-Based Program
Screens Older Adults for Binge
Drinking, Other Substance-Use
Problems** by Mary Johnson (May–
June 2012) highlights how a
simple, low-cost solution in
Massachusetts is effective in
reducing binge drinking and other
substance-use problems among
older adults in a range of
community settings. [Read more](#)



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Boston University

Issues and Views

Local, state, and national solutions

Advocate of Substance Abuse Programs for Elders Is Nominee for Deputy Director, Nat'l Drug Control Office

By Mary Johnson



Substance abuse among older adults remains a national problem that is exacerbated by a lack of prevention and treatment specifically geared for elders, say the CDC and other public health researchers. As an example of a local solution, *IGSW News* [May-June](#) issue featured a Boston Medical Center program that screens older adults for binge drinking. Here, we tell another part of the story, about a state official who provided essential leadership and support to the Boston program and similar local and statewide efforts and is now taking his commitment to the national level.

Michael Botticelli has served for the past nine years as director of the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where, among many other challenges and achievements, he championed substance-abuse prevention and treatment for older adults.

"Older people are often left out of substance-use discussions," Botticelli said in a recent interview with *IGSW News*. "We've worked hard in Massachusetts to raise awareness of the problem among elders and to bring together people from aging services, public health, and substance abuse to find solutions." Through the department's multidisciplinary taskforce (the Massachusetts Partnership on Substance Abuse in Older Adults) and with state and local partners, Botticelli said, the focus has been on public information, training, and prevention. Ruth Grabel, a program specialist in the Healthy Aging and Disability Unit of the Department of Public Health and the Massachusetts Partnership coordinator, credits Botticelli with helping to bring problems elders have with prescription medications, illicit substances, and alcohol and smoking to the fore and providing essential support. "Amid so many competing priorities," she said, "Michael saw a special population that needed attention and that hadn't received much. He recognized the need, then encouraged and helped us, with funding and materials and support for an annual conference."

During his tenure in Massachusetts, Botticelli was also gaining prominence in national discussions of policy and practice related to substance use and worked with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to implement National Outcomes Measures to gauge the effectiveness of services. He has just been nominated to be the next deputy director of the Office of National Drug Control in Washington, D.C. Will he still be a champion for elders?

"Substance abuse among older adults is not just a problem in Massachusetts, but nationally as well," Botticelli said. "I hope to use my new position to bring national attention to this important issue."

Photo of Michael Botticelli courtesy Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Address a hidden problem with this IGSW course Substance Abuse Among Older Adults

Substance abuse is increasing among the older population in the United States, at great human and economic cost, yet too often remains hidden and misunderstood. Through case examples, assessment questions, and interactive activities, this course brings social service providers and others to an

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understanding of substance abuse as an issue that affects the older adults in their practice. Learn to recognize substance abuse and to undertake steps to effective identification, referral, and intervention.

[Sign up](#) now to receive a 10 percent discount (enter code **ENews1012**)! Or, visit the [course page](#) for details.

See also: [Treatment Approaches for Advanced Substance Abuse](#)

"I enjoyed the course and felt it provided valuable information for all those who have the opportunity to take [it]."

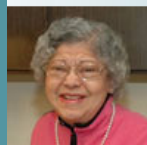
—Janice Panzer, screening specialist for Southern Crescent AAA–
Three Rivers Regional Commission, and registered nurse

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Further Reading

The Mental Health and Substance Use Workforce for Older Adults: In Whose Hands?

a consensus report by Jill Eden, Katie Maslow, Mai Le, and Dan Blazer (eds.); Committee on the Mental Health Workforce for Geriatric Populations; Board on Health Care Services, and Institute of Medicine (July 10, 2012); PDF, 372 pages; free. Available also in paperback for \$69. [Download the report](#)

Resources

Institute of Medicine of the National Academies

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) [website](#) features a wide range of publications, as well as activities aimed at improving health.

From Past Issues of IGSW News

Treatable Mental Health Problems of Older People Often Go Unaddressed

by Kathy Kuhn (July–August 2011) highlights the participation of IGSW in an Institute of Medicine panel convened to recommend ways of developing the competent, well-trained workforce that is needed. [Read more](#)

Further Reading

Patient-Centered Care for Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions: A Stepwise Approach from the American Geriatrics Society by American Geriatrics Society Expert Panel on the Care of Older Adults with

News to Note

'In Whose Hands?'

IOM Report: Boost Work Force, Fund Training to Address Elder Substance Abuse, Mental Health



Training of health and social service professionals across all disciplines should include competence in care of older adults with substance use and mental health problems, says a new report from the Institute of Medicine. According to the committee that wrote the report, the magnitude of the problem is so great that no single approach or isolated changes in a few federal agencies or programs will address it.

The committee conservatively estimated that between 5.6 million and 8 million older Americans—14 percent to 20 percent of the nation's overall elderly population—have one or more mental health conditions or problems stemming from substance misuse or abuse. Rates of accidental and intentional misuse of prescription medications are increasing. And, although the rate of illicit drug use among older individuals is low, studies indicate that it will probably increase as the baby boomers age.

The report, [The Mental Health and Substance Use Workforce for Older Adults: In Whose Hands?](#), calls for a redesign of Medicare and Medicaid payment rules to guarantee coverage of **counseling, care management, and other types of services** crucial for treating substance use problems and mental health conditions so that clinicians are willing to provide this care. Organizations that accredit health and social service professional schools and license providers should ensure that all who see older patients—including social workers, nurses, physicians' assistants, and primary care physicians—are able to recognize signs and symptoms of geriatric substance misuse and abuse and mental health conditions and provide at least basic care, the committee said.

News to Note

Again, it's about care coordination

Report Gives New 'Guiding Principles' of Quality Care for Elders with Multiple Chronic Conditions

A just-released report from the American Geriatrics Society, [Patient-Centered Care for Older Adults with Multiple Chronic Conditions: A Stepwise Approach](#), offers a new set of "guiding principles" to better individualize and coordinate care for this growing population.

Multimorbidity; *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* (September 19, 2012). [To view PDF of article](#)

From Past Issues of IGSW News

Brief, Inexpensive Coordination of Transitional Care Proves Effective by Mary Johnson (January–February 2012) features an interview with Robyn Golden, cofounder of the National Coalition on Care Coordination. [Read article](#)

New DHHS Collaboration Will Benefit Elders (January–February 2011) briefly discusses the Strategic Framework on Multiple Chronic Conditions, an innovative public-private collaboration recently established by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [Read article](#)

Resources

The American Geriatrics Society

Related resources, tips, and tool on multiple chronic conditions for clinicians and the public are available on the American Geriatrics Society's [website](#).

HealthinAging.org

This [website](#) is created by the AGS Foundation for Health in Aging (FHA) to provide consumers and caregivers with up-to-date information on health and aging based on resources that AGS has developed for its professional members.



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More than half of adults 65 and older have at least three chronic conditions such as heart disease, dementia, arthritis, or diabetes. About 93 percent of Medicare expenditure goes to care for these patients, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Following standard clinical guidelines for each condition is often not appropriate for patients with many health problems because treatment for one must be considered in light of the effects, benefits, and drawbacks of the other and the interactions between them.

The contribution of the care team. "The report's new principles to guide providers through this maze are not just for physicians but expressly apply to other members of the care team as well," said Scott Miyake Geron, director of IGSW and associate professor at Boston University School of Social Work. In fact, the document serves to underline the importance of the team contribution and integrates the goals of care management with the medical perspective, which makes practical reading for all.

All five of the new principles to improve care for elders with multiple chronic conditions contain elements that are basic to the care coordination that social service practitioners provide, Geron said. "Eliciting and taking into account a patient's preferences, assessing the complexity and feasibility of treatment options for an individual patient, and maximizing benefits and minimizing risks, especially after the patient leaves the hospital with a complicated care plan, are examples," he said.

Learn essential skills with this IGSW course Care Management Practice

Latest skills, tools, resources. With current developments in the health and long-term-care system, this role remains crucial, especially in managing the care of individuals who wish to live as independently as possible. [Sign up](#) now to receive a 10 percent discount (enter code **ENews1012**)! Or, visit the [course page](#) for details.

Update your skills with this timely IGSW course Care Transitions

As moves between different levels of care, different settings, and different providers increasingly characterize the health and long-term-care experience of older adults, proper planning and management of care transitions has become an essential skill for social service practitioners who work with elders and their families. View this [video clip](#) about guided care, a care-transition model that originated in a primary care setting and is discussed in detail in this course.



[Sign up now or learn more about Care Transitions](#)

Screen shot: Boston University/Karmavision

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