



On July 1, 2009 the Innovation Center, under the auspices of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, contracted with Areawide Aging Agency to fund a position of leadership to plan and execute the goals of the **Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Coalition**. The Innovation Center is funded to coordinate the transformation effort for behavioral health service delivery in Oklahoma.

Karen Orsi, current Chair of the Coalition, has been named OMHAC Director, to grow the Coalition statewide and provide senior mental health training and advocacy.

OMHAC By-laws do not contain any provisions for adapting to this change. According to Article VII, by-laws may be amended or repealed at any regular meeting of the Coalition providing the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular Coalition meeting.

Following consultations, it has been recommended that the Coalition's separate organizational status and by-laws be repealed. OMHAC will operate under the umbrella of Areawide Aging Agency, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, and its organizational structure. The recommended changes are formalities and it would not be problematic to reconstitute the Coalition as a separate organization in the future. The Coalition would continue as a non-incorporated alliance of advocates.

I am informing you of these proposed changes which will be submitted, in writing, to attendees of the August 13, 2009 OMHAC scheduled meeting. Per the by-laws, a vote will occur at the September 10, 2009 regularly scheduled meeting.

Proposed Change to By-Laws of the Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Coalition

The recent contract by and between the Innovation Center and Areawide Aging Agency impacts the structural organization of the Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Coalition through the funding of a full time position at Areawide Aging Agency to lead the Coalition.

The current By-Laws structure the Coalition as a separate organization requiring officers, term limits, quorums, votes of the membership, and management of funds.

The current By-Laws address governance issues which are no longer applicable. OMHAC is a Transformation Initiative funded through ODMHSAS Transformation State Incentive Grant #5 SM57411-02 and will operate as an alliance under the umbrella of Areawide Aging Agency, a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization.

It is proposed that the By-Laws of the Oklahoma Mental Health and Aging Coalition be repealed. In accordance with the existing By-Laws, this proposal is submitted in writing at the 8/13/09 meeting for vote at the 9/10/09 meeting.