

1-866-217-5808



WARNING SIGNS

Changes in the following areas might indicate a need to be concerned for an older adult:

- Mental Status:** Confused, hallucinating, inappropriate in responses.
- Physical:** Difficulty hearing or seeing, weight loss, mobility issues, chronic illness.
- Emotional:** Withdrawn, depressed, mood swings, bizarre behavior.
- Social:** Isolated, no mention of family or friends, possible victim of abuse.
- Appearance:** Unkempt clothes, unshaven or uncombed hair.
- Home environment:** House in poor repair, little or no food, garbage lying around.
- Economic:** Inability to manage finances or cannot afford necessities.

The more of these signs you see, the more the senior might benefit from being referred to this program.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A REFERRAL IS MADE:

- 1) A call is made to the SENIOR REACH specialist (1-866-217-5808) by the Community Partner who provides a brief description of concerns along with contact information about the adult.
- 2) The older adult is then contacted by the specialist who will explain how SENIOR REACH works and asks if they are open to be contacted. As always, a senior does have the option to refuse this program.
- 3) Depending upon the situation and if the senior agrees to the service, they will be seen in the home by one of the SENIOR REACH staff (either a Care Manager or Mental Health Outreach Clinician).
- 4) During these initial visits, a plan will be developed with the older adult to address their concern(s). Some older adults may need short term counseling that will be provided by the Outreach Clinician. Services provided by SENIOR REACH staff during this phase of the program will be at no cost to the senior. However, if an older adult is referred to services in the broader community, these are costs that are not covered under this grant.

Know that SENIOR REACH staff will uphold the *confidentiality* of all seniors referred to this program.



Reaching Out ♦ Meeting Needs

FACT SHEET

For more information, visit www.seniorreach.org

In 1978, the first program like SENIOR REACH began in Spokane Washington. This 3-year federal grant will be the first program of this type in Colorado. The areas that will be targeted are Gilpin, Clear Creek, Jefferson, Boulder and Broomfield counties.

The goals of this program are to:

- ❖ **Identify and provide services to at-risk or isolated 60+ adults who do not typically come to the attention of aging services or mental health systems.**
- ❖ **Develop and train persons in the local communities who can reach out to these seniors and refer them to a central call center.**
- ❖ **Offer support to identified older adults through a team of trained Mental Health Clinicians or Care Managers.**
- ❖ **Build a strong collaborative partnership between agencies that serve older adults in these counties.**
- ❖ **Make a positive impact for seniors referred to this program and decrease depression and suicide.**

Implementation of this project will result in over 1,000 Community Partners being trained to identify older adults in need. We will provide services to over 1,000 individuals during the 3-year period.

Funded by:

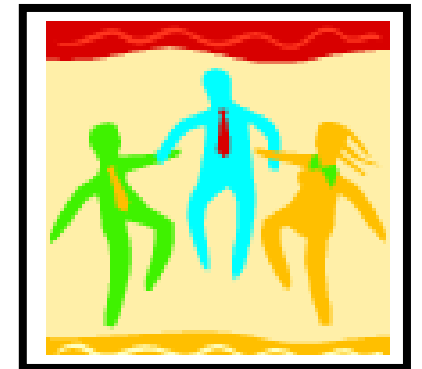
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Sponsoring agencies:

Jefferson Center for Mental Health

The Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties

Seniors' Resource Center





WHY IS SENIOR REACH NEEDED?

As people age, they face new social, physical, and emotional challenges. Many older adults have the support of spouses, family or friends and maintain their independence without significant assistance from their community. Unfortunately, some older adults have more difficulty and require help that is not provided by friends and family.

Often these at-risk and isolated adults do not self refer and are very reluctant to seek outside help. If their problems are not addressed, the individuals may be exposed to even greater risks. For example, poor health, loss of loved ones, increasing social isolation due to lack of mobility, depression, Alzheimer's disease and financial problems can all contribute to the inability of some older adults to cope and to remain successfully independent in their own community.

With the help of trained community members (called *Community Partners*) along with many local service agencies our hope is to reach out to these older adults and provide the care management or mental health services that can truly make a difference

If you want to refer a senior or volunteer, please call the **SENIOR REACH** toll free number:

1-866-217-5808

Open Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm. If your situation is urgent always call 911.

Mission of SENIOR REACH

To support the well being and independence of seniors by educating the community on how to identify and refer isolated, at-risk older adults who may benefit from mental health or care management services.



DID YOU KNOW?

- By 2020, the 60 plus population in these counties will have more than doubled.
- In the US, the elderly have the highest suicide rates (17.5% of all suicides) and every 90 minutes someone who is 65 or older commits suicide.
- 85% of all suicides have a mental basis (usually depression) and most of these persons were untreated.
- Colorado has the 7th highest suicide rate in the nation (for reasons unknown).

WHO ARE COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND WHAT ROLE DO THEY PLAY?

Community Partners, either individuals or organizations, are people in a community who interact with older adults on a regular basis. They act as advocates for seniors who are showing signs that might indicate the need for assistance. All Community Partners will be trained to identify potential problems in a senior and how to connect them to the SENIOR REACH call center.

Community Partners could be anyone who lives or works around seniors. Some examples are:

- Bank tellers Hairdressers
- Postal workers Store clerks
- Bus drivers Clergy
- Landlords Senior Centers

As a member of the community, a Community Partner already has an existing relationship with a senior, and this relationship might be the bridge that connects an older adult to resources that are greatly needed.

Please consider becoming a Community Partner as the time invested is small and may make a tremendous difference for a senior who does not know where to turn!

JOIN OUR TEAM!



Community services an older adult might be connected to:

- Nutritional needs
- Friendly visitors
- In-Home Counseling
- Transportation
- Utility assistance
- Benefits Checkup
- Medicare counselors
- Tax preparation
- Social activities
- Home Care services
- Emergency funding resources

and so much more!