



July 21, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dr. Tammy Henderson | College of Human Sciences | 405-744-8350 | [tammy.henderson@okstate.edu](mailto:tammy.henderson@okstate.edu)

### **OSU Linking Gerontology and Geriatrics fall conference set for Tulsa**

*Wellness and Long-term care considerations for older adults to be highlighted*

The sixth annual Linking Gerontology and Geriatrics conference will be held Sept. 24-25 at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa. Barbara Speedling and Carol Ryff, Ph.D. will be the keynote speakers for "**Wellness: Building Capacity for Tomorrow's Older Adult.**" Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. with the keynote addresses beginning at 8:30 a.m. each morning.

Tammy Henderson, director of the conference and human development and family science associate professor, said this year's conference will focus on the wellness of older adults and will include a focus on Preadmission Screening and Resident Review or PASRR. The PASSR program serves to ensure that individuals with mental illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities are identified through effective screening and assessments so that they receive appropriate services, and are placed in the least restrictive, most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

"We are pleased with the expert speakers who will bring a wide range of important information for assuring older adults and other individuals with mental illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities are cared for appropriately. We hope to enhance practical and ethical competencies for persons caring for people who may need placement in nursing facilities or have other long term care needs," Henderson said. "Our goal is to inform as many people as possible on a range of health care and compounding issues, such as mental illness and vision impairments, and to focus on resilience and best practices that promote the overall wellness of older adults. A key distinction of this year's conference is its partnership with two national organizations, the National Association of PASRR Professionals (NAPP) and the Older Persons Division of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD-OPD), to focus on older adult mental health."

PASRR is a federally mandated program to ensure that all applicants to a Medicaid-certified nursing facility are evaluated for mental illness, intellectual or developmental disability and be offered the specific services that they need in the least restrictive and most integrated setting for their needs in the community, nursing facility, or other care setting.

Barbara Speedling will present "Creatively Achieving a Meaningful and Satisfying Life: PASRR Evaluations and Recommendations That Matter." She will focus on the evaluations and recommendations and their role in patients' wellbeing.

Carol Ryff is a professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is the director of the university's Institute on Aging. Her research focuses on behavioral, psychological and social factors in aging and well-being. Dr. Ryff leads a research project, *Midlife in the U.S.* (MIDUS) that started in 1995 with 7,000 participants. With funding from the National Institute on Aging, MIDUS involves researchers from many universities throughout the nation. Dr. Ryff will present results from MIDUS that relate to the mental health of older adults.

Edward Kako, Ph.D. and Dan Timmel will lead a session on the various aspects of PASRR including how the evaluation process works and emphasizing the role of person centered screenings and reviews. Kako is the director of operations and a senior associate at Mission Analytics Group. Timmel is a policy analyst for long-term care in the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He is responsible for Medicaid Long Term Care benefits and the PASRR program.

Other topics to be presented at the conference will include holistic care for older adults, and potential solutions regarding the workforce crisis in older adult behavioral health such as Peer Support Services for older adults.

Early registration closes on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Charges for the two-day event are \$35 for the public or \$25 for students and adults age 65 and older. On Aug. 2 and continuing through Sept. 1, the cost of registration increases to \$55 and \$35. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days. To register, go to <http://osu-okgec.okstate.edu>.

Professional continuing education credits will be available for nursing, LPC, and LMFT. Other continuing education options are pending.

Linking Gerontology and Geriatrics is presented by the OSU College of Human Sciences' Center for Family Resilience and Department of Human Development and Family Science and the Anne and Henry Zarrow Foundation. Sponsors of the event include the National Association of PASRR Professionals, PASRR Technical Assistance Center, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service, Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative, Magellan Healthcare, Senior Life Services the Alzheimer's Association, Ascend Management Innovations and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors-Older Persons Division. The University of Oklahoma College of Nursing serves as a co-provider of nursing continuing education credits.

--0--

