

Notes from the January 14, 2008 Coalition Member Teleconference

Participating: AL-Ronald Hunt, DBSA-Peter Ashenden, FL-Patrick Hendry, NEC- Dan Fisher, VT-Linda Corey. Staff: Lauren Spiro and Judene Shelley.

The next teleconference meeting of the National Coalition will be Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 1 p.m. EST.

Agenda

1. Membership Update: Three new statewide organizations have become members of the Coalition: Wings Across Alabama, M-POWER/The Transformation Center – Massachusetts, and Mental Health Association of Nebraska. Statewide organizations from Tennessee, Indiana and Iowa may be applying soon.

2. History Exhibit Project. Lauren reported that progress is going well on this small grant from SAMHSA to create a mental health and substance abuse history exhibit. An Advisory Board has come up with a list of items to be in the room as you walk into SAMHSA's building in Rockville, MD. The exhibit has a timeline of events and also includes: life in the community; a library of books, magazines, and DVDs; memorabilia from Alternatives Conferences; and includes Native American, African American and Latino experience. Leonard Frank is willing to donate some historic items. The group discussed some innovative ideas for the part of the exhibit about Life in the community/what the future may bring. SAMHSA will select the items for the exhibit from those we recommend.

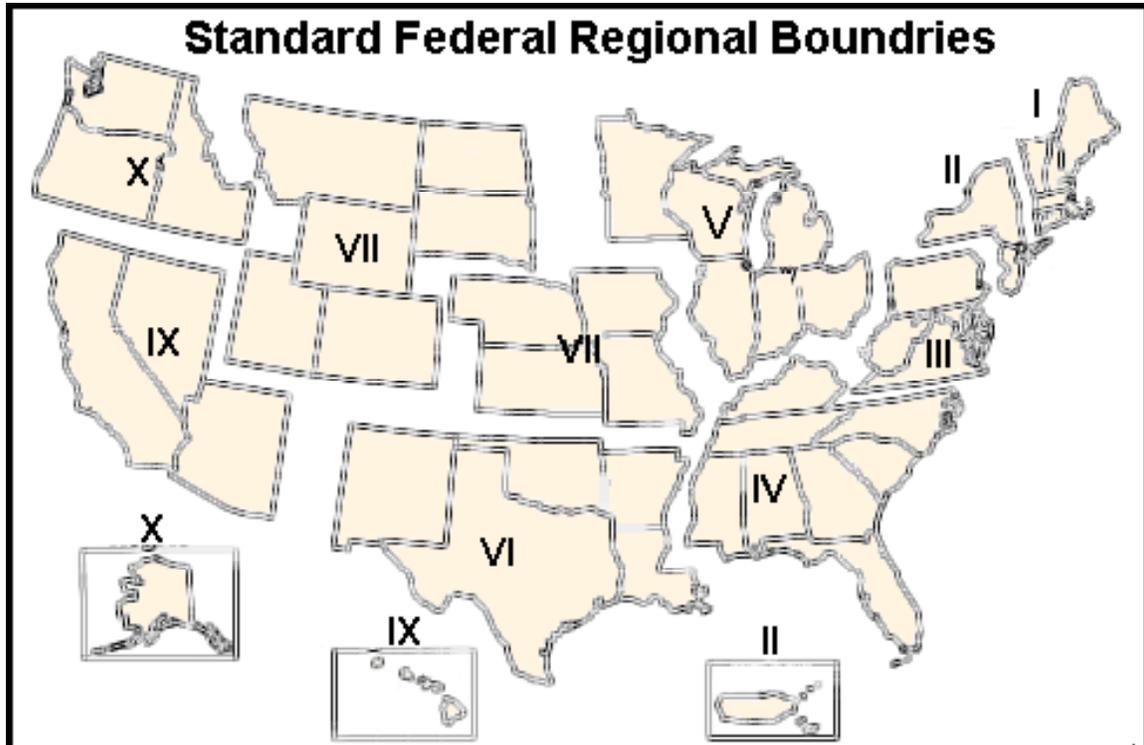
It was suggested that perhaps some of the exhibit items could permanently reside in the National Memorial in Washington D.C.

3. Washington DC Teach-In/Speak Out 2008: Lauren reported that work has just begun on a coalition grant to organize a one-day conference focused on transforming mental health care in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area. The second goal of this project is to broaden and unify advocacy organizations for mental health consumers in the DC area. The planning partners for this project include four local consumer-run organizations and three local consumer advocacy organizations.

4. Southeast States Coalition Beginning: Ron Hunt reported on his work in setting up a loose coalition of statewide consumer organizations in the Southeast. They began with a conference call this morning talking about some of the issues that are important to the Consumer organizations in the Southeastern states. They hope to continue to develop this coalition and to bring consumer leaders into their states and develop their organizations better.

Dan reported that he, Carole Glover (Louisiana), Ron Hunt (Alabama) and possibly Linda Donovan (Arkansas) are going to Mississippi on January 17, 2008 for a training with local consumers. They look forward to bringing together people from the neighboring states to support Mississippi in starting a consumer organization.

A discussion followed about the possibility of there being regional organizations of Consumer networks that may follow the map of Standard Federal Regional Boundaries:



Dan suggested we could do a per capita budget comparison to show the huge disparity in funding for consumer-run programs in the different states. He previously compared the funding each state has from Block Grant or other funding for the general population.

A discussion followed about the National Association of Peer Specialists www.naops.org and how valuable their conference was in Denver, CO in 2007. They have a conference planned for August 20-22, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA.

5. International Coalition: Dan said that the International Coalition of consumer/survivor organizations is continuing to organize. It consists of 7 English-speaking countries at this time. They now have a website: www.Interrelate.info.

6. Coalition Priorities: A discussion followed about how to begin work on the list of

policies that the Coalition member organizations chose. Priority #3 is to establish our own model legislation. A lot of organizations do this. It could include everything that we would like to have such Peer Support and other things. In 24 states, citizens can actually propose legislation. Patrick said he thought it was an excellent idea.

It was decided to put together a small workgroup that would put together some recommendations: Peter Ashenden will have his name on the list until he can find someone else who is interested in legislation. Lauren and Dan would also like to serve.

7. Chief's of Police Policy Summit in Washington DC. Lauren was asked to submit a very short list of organizations that should have representation at the International Association of Chief's of Police 2 Day Policy Summit to be held in Washington DC in the Spring of 2008. The focus of the summit is an unprecedented opportunity for mental health advocates to help police leadership think about police department policy related to law enforcement interactions with people with serious mental health needs across the life span. The summit will focus on the issues, deliberate potential solutions, and collaboratively arrive at recommendations. The summit's resulting recommendations will be disseminated to 18,000 police departments 12 weeks later. Lauren is looking for potential coalition (or other) representatives. So far two people (NY and WI) who have worked collaboratively with law enforcement have expressed an interest in participating. Linda Corey and others in VT are willing to help look over things and give their feedback. Laura Ziegler has been doing work with the police in VT.

Some ideas: Representatives of statewide groups could do training at police academies. Look at alternatives to getting involved in corrections system. Peers going out with crisis team to mediate or crisis resolution. Linda said Vermont is looking at training police; Patrick (FL) has de-escalation trainings; and NEC's Hearing Voices curriculum has been adapted for police. Lauren will collect recommendations that can be shared inside and beyond the coalition.