

National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Organizations

1300 L Street NW, Suite 1000

Washington, DC 20005

Summary of National Coalition Tele-conference Feb 14, 2007

Next NC meeting March 14, 2007, 3pm EST

Present for the call: AK (Ted and Liza Eller), AZ(Ann Rider), CA (Sally Zinman), CT (Heather MacDonald), GA (Sherri Jenkins Tucker), KY (Heather Marcus), LA (Carole Glover), MD (Mike Finkle), NEC (Dan Fisher), PA (Mary Kohut), TX (Mike Halligan), VT (Linda Corey), WA (Jill San Jule), and WI (Molly Cisco) and for the Coalition, Lauren Spiro.

1. Membership

- Welcome 7 new members
- We discussed plans for membership development. Seven states seem ready to apply but have not yet done so (Tenn, Indiana, Alabama, Mass., Maine, Oklahoma, Rhode Island))

Sherri Jenkins Tucker offered to contact Anthony Fox (Tenn) & Melinda Davis (Maine)

Mike Halligan offered to contact Kay Rote in Oklahoma,

Dan & Lauren are working on RI,

Lauren scheduled to talk with Gary Parker (Kansas),

Oregon, Delaware & Utah are also trying to organize.

2. Administration budget for CMHS

- **Contacting you rep:** A letter template was sent out to coalition members and others that may be personalized and sent to representatives in DC as well as to individuals who may use it to make personal contact with representatives. It was suggested to reference IOM Report, Crossing the Quality Chasm, and the NEW Freedom Commission in the letter.
- **SAMHSA:** On Feb. 15- Terry Cline (Dir SAMHSA) will talk about the SAMHSA budget & the cuts- Kathy Muscari will attend.
- **Appropriations:** We continue to work with Sen. Harkins Appropriations staff person. She worked for Sen. Specter and knows some of the history of consumer/survivors having to educate representatives in order to get our issues/needs into legislation.

3. SAMHSA Reauthorization

- **Working with Campaign for MH Reform,** Dan worked on a subcommittee to develop a draft Principles & Values document that will go to Campaign for revision. This Campaigns principles and values will then inform it legislative proposals. Dan said that a member of the Campaign did not understand what we mean by the term personhood. Discussion ensued about the term "Personhood"- Some comments included: It means our humanity, not trying to fix them but listening to what they need, individuals have rights w/o other people infringing on them, citizen means more statehood- political implication, generic term for individuals, means overcoming the idea that consumers are spoken about as separate- not part of the human race, 50% of incidents of S&R are brought about because staff are angry, personhood goes beyond citizenship, it includes people who are not legal citizens who end up in the system.

Feb 22: Terry Cline is meeting with the Campaign for MH Reform – Dan, Lauren, Peter Ashenden & possibly Joseph participating

- **We are working with Senator Kennedy's disability point person**, she will turn her attention from parity to SAMHSA Reauthorization in the next few days. She looks forward to receiving the Coalition's SAMHSA Reauthorization priorities. Dan and Lauren have developed a set of policy objectives from the 5 principles of the Coalition which were sent to the group for comment. Coalition members were asked to send in their revision/comments by the morning of Feb 16.

- **Cross disability coalition work**. It was agreed that our strength would greatly increase if we could work more closely with independent living movement. An opportunity for that is on Feb 26 at a policy briefing by NCIL (National Council on Independent Living) on the hill. Dan hopes to do a brief presentation on the Coalition during the briefing. It was suggested that the Coalition present at the NCIL conference in July 2007 in DC.

4. Committee to obtain non-profit status for Coalition

- Now that we have 28 members (25 states, including DC, 3 TACs) we need to move towards developing by-laws and having a more formal and open governance structure. A committee was formed to decide board elections, how many regions, how many votes, etc. People need to be included so committee may want to consider having initial bylaws that may be changed. The Steering Committee serves as a temporary board. Incorporation Committee members: Doug DeVoe (Ohio), Heather McDonald (Connecticut), Mike Halligan (Texas), & Dan Fisher.

5. Fundraising update

- Dues- 9 states have paid out of first 16 members

- Dan to meet with Public Welfare folks to secure funding for a 2nd year. Other than Mary Blake we have not had volunteers

Linda Corey mentioned that in the Vermont Psychiatric Survivor (VPS) newsletter she suggested that people consider donating to the Coalition. She asked folks to write on their donation check "VPS/survivor"- so we will know who respond from their newsletter. Some people in the field would rather give to survivors than some other non-survivor groups. People willing to work on fundraising committee: Molly Cisco (Wisconsin) who works with a fund development coach, Heather Marcus (Kentucky), Mary Blake (DC) and Dan Fisher.