

National Coalition of
Mental Health
Consumer/Survivor
Organizations

Some Accomplishments
Our Second Year, 2008



1. National Coalition (NC) Involving
Consumers as Active Citizens

In October, 2008 the coalition was awarded a \$20,000 from the Blaustein Foundation to integrate mental health consumers into civil society and promote system transformation through their exercise of active citizenship by the development and enactment of legislation to transform the Mental Health system.

2. NC Teaches Crisis Support through Emotional CPR (eCPR)

The NC is developing eCPR, a peer-developed educational program for the general public designed to teach individuals to assist people through an emotional crisis by three simple steps of C=Connecting, P=emPowering, and R=Revitalizing. eCPR is based on the principles of trauma-informed care, counseling after disasters, peer support for recovery from mental health problems, emotional intelligence, suicide prevention, and cultural attunement.

3. NC Organizing Effort

Consumer Health Foundation funded NC to carry out statewide/regional organizing. “Speak Out for Mental Health in the Wash, DC Metropolitan Region,” held September 16, 2008 in Washington, D.C.

One hundred and fifty participants formulated recommendations to transform mental health care in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Region so that the consumer/client voice is heard and so that we can better meet the real needs of people.

4. NC influencing Block Grant Policy to fund Consumer-run Statewide groups

Several coalition members met with SAMHSA staff (including the Branch Chief for Mental Health State Planning and Systems Development). One outcome of the meeting was that in August, 2008 we submitted recommendations focused on increased consumer input and involvement at all levels and increased accountability and transparency.

5. NC participation in Presidential Forum

Columbus Ohio, July 26, 2008



Sen. Harkin (Iowa) with Dan Fisher, Rachel Freund, & Lauren Spiro

Sen. Harkin, who served as the surrogate for Sen. Obama and Sen. McCain presented their visions for the future of disability policy in America followed by questions by Judy Woodruff.

6. At Campaign for Mental Health Reform's Gala Dinner

Washington, DC, April 16, 2008



Dan Fisher shares with Senator Kennedy how grateful the mental health community is that the Senator has helped the recovery of consumers.

7. Spiro Addresses National Health Care

Santa Fe, NM, March 14, 2008



**The session included from R to L:
Tommy Thompson, Lauren Spiro,
Andrew Kessler & Ron Mandershied**

Lauren Spiro introduced NCMHCSO and invited the audience to contact their statewide group or start one.

8. NC testifies before Congress

Washington, DC, March 13, 2008



Steering Committee member Peter Ashenden testifies before US House of Representatives' Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies Sub-committee.

9. NC co-hosted Presidential Candidates' Forum

Manchester, NH

November 2, 2007



Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT) and

Lauren Spiro (NC Policy Dir)

NC with 20+ other national disability rights organizations, co-hosted A National Forum on Equality, Opportunity and Access.

**10. Our second annual meeting in
St. Louis, Missouri
October 12, 2007
resulted in the
National Coalition Policy Priorities for 2008**

11. Press Release

**“Mummies of the Insane”
Galvanizes National Coalition of
People with Psychiatric Histories**

This press release resulted in 4 interviews with news reporters, each of whom did a news story either based on or inspired by the press release.

12. History exhibit of mental health consumer movement

With a SAMHSA/CMHS contract the coalition began what we hope will someday will be a comprehensive, objective record of our history.

**It has been a great year:
Nothing about us without us**

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Health Consumer/Survivor
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www.ncmhcsso.org

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