

## National Coalition Tele-Conference June 26, 2008

### Next Meeting August 14, 2008 at 3pm EST

Present: Molly Cisco (Wi) Ron Hunt (Alabama), Joseph Rogers (Pa., Clearinghouse), Effie Smith (DC), Doreen Mills (Ky), Elizabeth McFaul (Ak), Ann Benner (Va) & Staff: Lauren Spiro and Nancy Taylor

#### Announcements:

- Effie Smith: Washington DC just opened a new consumer-run Wellness Drop-in Ctr funded through the Dept. Mental Health.
- Doug DeVoe (NC Steering Committee member) resigned as CEO and Janet Galligan is the acting CEO at Ohio Advocates for Mental Health.
- There will be an invitation-only (formerly called the 'pre-conference') Institute of Business and Organization Development that will occur immediately prior to the Alternatives Conference 2008. The plan- start afternoon of Oct 27 and end Oct 28.

#### Agenda:

**1. July 9 meetings in the DC area – We are working on implementing our #1 public policy priority-sustained federal funding to consumer-run statewide organizations or coalitions.** To that effect these meetings are being set up.

10am with SAMHSA staff including John Morrow (who oversees MH Block Grants), Paolo del Vehhicio (invited), John Campbell (oversees CSAT funding) & Joe Faye (the legislative go-to guy between SAMHSA & the Hill).

1pm with Chris Koyangi (the Dean of Mental Health Legislation) at Bazelon  
2pm with Bob Bernstien (CEO Bazelon) – a NCMHCSO fundraising meeting

Background: Originally the Feds funded (not for profit) Community MH Centers. Then, they decided to take this money and give it to the states as MH block grants so the state could decide how to use the money. Each state has a MH planning council that is suppose to report each yr on their plan for MH Block Grant money and justify it. Joseph sent out (6/26/08) draft legislation he tried to get passed in Pa. Joseph said there's a long history, so to think that they will carve out money for consumer-run organizations is unimaginable.

#### Discussion and ideas:

- We might ask John Morrow - What language could a state use to get money to c/s?
- We can discuss with Chris K.– how to fund consumer operated services
- We may be able to get additional appropriations designated for a set of activities, eg, develop c/s run programs & services on a state and federal level.
- We could get funds allocated to train c/s to do a better job of being involved in the MH planning process.
- Look at how we can influence the process. Take the DC model or the language of other states that got wording into their plan and use it to go to the state mental health planning council. What kind of language is good to get into the plan.
- Joseph said Categorical grants are not used much in MH but it is money given to state for a specific purpose (eg, to repair interstate highways). NCIL gets categorical grants – so this option we might want to investigate further.
- When State Incentive Grants (SIG) are done, we can advocate that they mandate a percentage go to c/s-operated services.

Effie: in DC has build a strong c/s voice and got the MH Dept block grant money set aside for innovative projects (\$5,000- \$20,000). Planning Council was the oversight group.

Molly: Their Planning Council is weak; they have a lot of guest speakers.

Joe: Has brought c/s en masse to planning council meetings and been insistent. Bringing a number of people can intimidate but you also need to have a unified voice.

Some states (Ky, Wi) have gone to RFPs for block grant money which places an extra burden on relatively small c/s organizations.

**2. It was agreed by consensus to move forward with 2 new membership levels: Associate members and Supporting members of the NC.** The application process will be updated very soon to accommodate these new levels and an announcement will be sent out to NC members to this effect. In the future we will address how voting will work given different membership levels.

#### **Summary of new membership levels:**

Both Associate and Supporting member applicants must agree to basically the same info NC members agree to (per the NC application, found on [www.ncmhcsso.org](http://www.ncmhcsso.org)). Associate Members are organizations and that would pay .1% as annual dues (the same amount NC members pay). Supporting Members are programs and groups, not incorporated, who would pay flat annual dues of \$100.

Applicants for both membership levels should send one copy of their application to their statewide organization and one copy to the National Coalition at [info@NCMHCSO.org](mailto:info@NCMHCSO.org).

The NC statewide organization shall determine if the group meets the criteria for membership and shall accept dues payment. The statewide NC member shall pass 50% of the dues on to the NC. For any questions that arise, call the NC office (toll free 978-842-2014) or write to [info@ncmhcsso.org](mailto:info@ncmhcsso.org). Dues should not pose a significant barrier to membership, therefore consideration may be made to adjust dues for an applicant.

### **NCMHCSO Associate Members & Supporting Members**

**Rationale:** To facilitate development of closer working relationships between groups within a state as well as on a national level; to increase communication, collaboration, advocacy, knowledge of resources, public education efforts and tangible resources within the NC.

**Policy:** Every statewide organization that is a (full) member of the National Coalition may accept applications for NCMHCSO Associate or Supporting Membership.

Associate or Supporting Members are consumer/survivors run organizations that meet the following requirements.

a. Run by consumer/survivors. A consumer-run organization/group has consumers in the majority on both its board and staff (when organization has staff).

b. Agreement with the values in the Coalition's Mission Statement, Statement of Purpose, and Principle of Respect (attached). Membership also means that members of the organization will advocate that the voice of consumer/survivors be central to decision making at all levels. Associate or Supporting members also agree to be in regular communication with their networks and to ensure that they are inclusive.

c. Willingness to participate in Coalition activities.

**Cost & Benefits:** The cost to join both your state organization and to influence the direction that the National Coalition is:

For Associate Members - .1% of annual revenue per year.

For Supporting Members - \$100 per year.

This fee will be split with fifty percent (50%) going to support the work of your statewide National Coalition organization and fifty percent (50%) going to the National Coalition to maintain staff, direct policy related to mental health causes, and assure that our voice is heard in Washington, DC. You will be part of building our voice and our political power.

**3. Emotional CPR (eCPR)-** There is a vast need to educate the lay public on how to help people who are experiencing an emotional crisis. Lauren & Dan were very concerned about Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and voiced their concern to the NC SC, SAMHSA/CMHS, the state of Md. and others who are moving forward with MHFA. We are hopeful that eCPR will be a project of the NC and that members will do mini-trainings in their state. An Advisory Board is being developed for eCPR. We are in the early developmental stage. CPR = Connect, emPower, Recover. We also need funding for this.

**4. Annual Meeting in Buffalo** – we are looking for a site.

#### **5. Fundraising:**

a. Blaustein- Mike Finkle connected us with this foundation. Dan and Mike have met with a representative of this foundation. Lauren & Dan have written a history (see attached) of the NC used for this preliminary letter of intent. We are asking for \$100,000 a year for 3 years which would fund, along with dues, the NC activities and salaries.

b. Lauren is going to Patrick Kennedy's office tomorrow to give them the CD interview of the congressman. We will get their okay before distributing it.

c. We've sold about \$3000 worth of CDs: Stories of Hope & Recovery. That is break – even so now every one we sell goes to sustaining our work.

**6. Ohio Presidential Forum** – an amazing amount of behind the scenes work is going on to get the presidential candidates to this cross-disability forum, in person. Lauren and Niki Hanselman (Ohio) and hopefully other c/s will be there. Anyone else interested in going, contact Lauren.

#### **7. Funded NC Projects**

A. The NC received a grant to conduct a Speak Out for Mental Health in DC, September 16, 2008. Working together for mental health consumer empowerment, we will make recommendations to transform the mental health system to better meet consumers' needs. Sponsored by the National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer-Survivor Organizations (NCMHCSO); Co-sponsored by Consumer Action Network (CAN); the Consumer Leadership Forum (CLF); On Our Own of Maryland, VOCAL Virginia, The McClendon Center, the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, and the DC Department of Mental Health, Department of Consumer and Family Affairs.

This project is a model for organizing people around issues. Perhaps we could have Regional Speak Outs.

B. For the history exhibit SAMHSA project we are accepting group photographs of significant events. Please send photo and brief explanation to [info@ncmhcsso.org](mailto:info@ncmhcsso.org) as soon as you can.

C. With a tiny fund Lauren is working on getting a facilitator to conduct 2 tele-meetings for the purpose of developing recommendations for next steps to the Older Adult Consumer Mental Health Alliance (OACMHA) which is in need of some consensus on direction/next steps. If you are interested in facilitating or would like to be on the tele-meetings, contact Lauren soon.