

APA CAPP Task Force on Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance

2013 - 2014 Report

A. 2013 – 2014 Work and Accomplishments

1. With the support of CAPP, the TF again sponsored a CE approved Convention symposium in 2014 in Washington, DC. This series of symposia has been supported by CAPP and presented by the TF every year since 2005.
2. The TF worked with APA Government Relations staff to plan a Convention session including Rep. Tim Murphy, who requested a Convention session for discussing his proposed bill. The TF helped to frame the session, and former TF member Arthur Evans agreed to serve as a discussant following Rep. Murphy's presentation. TF Chair, Susan McCammon, facilitated the session. It was very well attended, and provided an opportunity to highlight the positive aspects of Rep. Murphy's attention to the need for enhanced mental health services, and also provide an example of a public mental health system that embraces a recovery perspective. The TF Chair and Dr. Evans participated in a luncheon at Convention with Rep. Murphy and his aides.
3. TF members presented a CE Workshop at Convention.
4. The TF nominated former TF member, Linda Knauss to the Implementation Workgroup, which was tasked to develop implementation and transition plans for governance changes, and present those to Council in February, 2014. Dr. Knauss was elected, and served on the Workgroup.
5. At Annual TF meeting, April 25-26, 2014) the TF was briefed by Sandra Spencer, Director of the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, regarding the Federation's Parent Support Provider Initiative, its dialog with Rep. Murphy, its annual conference, and a potential opportunity to develop a mental health educational message through Sesame Street
6. The TF voted to become a member of the synarchy (along with Section 18, the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Association [PRA, formerly USPRA], and the SMI section of ABCT) and named a representative to the workgroup which is being formed to develop a proposal to establish SMI as a Specialty.
7. The TF Chair attended the APA State Leadership Conference and participated in Capitol Hill visits.
8. The TF continued to update the Catalogue of Clinical Training Opportunities: Best Practices for Recovery and Improved Outcomes for People with Serious Mental Illness.
9. The TF submitted a request for training on SMI to be offered at the Consolidated Meeting.

Future Directions and Initiatives

1. The TF plans to continue its tradition of presenting a CE approved symposium at the 2015 APA Convention. With the changing format for the Convention, the TF will seek to join with other divisions to submit an inter-divisional proposal.
2. The TF plans to develop a session on integrated care and services for persons with SMI.
3. The TF agreed to pursue preparation of a Convention session to educate about suicide and empirically-supported suicide-prevention interventions.
4. The TF will work with the Public Relations and Special Projects office of the Practice Directorate to develop articles on SMI to be posted on APA.org in the Psychology Help Center for an audience of the general public.
5. TF will have a representative on the Division 18 provisional leadership group, which holds monthly conference calls.
6. TF representatives will seek mechanisms for assisting with disseminating the Recovery to Practice Curriculum to relevant training councils.
7. In an effort to increase psychologists' awareness of the relevance and importance of psychological input in the treatment of individuals with SMI, the TF will continue to nominate psychologists who are knowledgeable about these issues to APA Boards and Committees.
8. The TF plans to continue to work with CAPP and BPA on initiatives that intersect professional psychology and SMI, such as Medicare and other legislative priorities, state hospital and forensic institutions, and the issues relevant for psychology in these settings
9. The TF will continue its effort to increase the visibility of serious mental illness by promoting the Resolution on Recovery, and by continuing to comment on relevant policy documents, working more closely with other Boards and Committees, and continuing to publish scholarly articles., and the issues relevant for psychology in these settings.
10. The TF will continue its efforts to encourage increased attention to the need for and role of didactic and practica training in serious mental illness/severe emotional disturbance in graduate training programs, internships, and post-doctoral fellowships