

APA Task Force on Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance

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January, 2018

This report provides highlights of TFSMI/SED activities beginning from the date of the last summary (March 2016), and thus includes activities from April 2016 through December 2017.

TFSMI/SED Goals and Mission

The Task Force on Serious Mental Illness and Severe Emotional Disturbance (TFSMI/SED) was established in 1994 by the APA Council of Representatives. The TFSMI/SED is committed to promoting the important role of psychology in the recovery of individuals diagnosed with SMI/SED through education and advocacy. The TFSMI/SED serves as a resource for the APA community by providing guidance on policy, education, and practice. The TFSMI/SED focuses on those activities that support this role.

SMI/SED Specialty Application

- The Task Force (TF) collaborated with the Division 18 Section on Serious Mental Illness/Serious Emotional Disturbance (SMI/SED) to establish a workgroup comprised of TF members, Section members, and representatives from APA-approved training programs to apply to create a specialty for psychology training in SMI/SED.
- The TF received a \$2,000 grant from the APA Board of Educational Affairs (BEA) to fund a one-day application workgroup meeting held on Sunday, August 7, 2016, in Denver at Convention to develop the framework for the application.
- The Council for Psychological Training in Serious Mental Illness and Severe Emotional Disturbance, the guiding board for the specialty, convened on August 3, 2017 in Washington, DC at Convention, with two representatives from the TF.
- The website for the specialty (www.psychtrainingsmi.com) went online in late December, 2017. In 2018 the Specialty Council will be seeking organizations willing to list the specialty website on their own websites in order to promote the specialty and assist with internet indexing.

- The final application was submitted to and accepted by APA's Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP) in December, 2017.
- CRSPPP is accepting comments for specialty and proficiency petitions via the Education Directorate's Public Comment website through March 6, 2018. (<http://apaoutside.apa.org/EducCSS/public/>).

Convention Programming

- 2016 Convention: Four symposia were organized and led by TF members were presented at the 2016 convention in Denver. Symposia topics include: innovative integrated approaches to enhancing physical wellness for people with serious mental illness, emerging roles for peer providers, evidence-based practices for people with recent onset of mental illness, and innovative approaches for preparing the mental health workforce in patient-centered approaches to working with people with SMI.
- 2017 Convention: Members of the TF organized and presented multiple symposia. Topics included: two sessions on innovative interventions for individuals with SMI and medical conditions, including integrated and interdisciplinary care; a symposium presenting interdivisional perspectives on roles for psychologists working with individuals with SMI/SED across the field of psychology, with perspectives from Divisions 12, 18, 27, and 35; employment and unemployment in Veterans with traumatic brain injury (in collaboration with Division 19); providing evidence-based practice in state psychiatric hospitals (in collaboration with the Division 18 State Hospital Section), and recovery for individuals with recent onset psychosis, including findings from the RAISE studies and participation from NIMH. Some symposia were presented in collaboration with the SMI/SED Section of Division 18.

TFSMI/SED Feedback to APA Advocacy Activities

- As part of our ongoing efforts to work with the Office of Congressional Affairs regarding legislation relevant to people with SMI/SED, a TF member serves as a liaison between the TF and Laurel Stine and Scott Barstow in the Office of Congressional Affairs. In 2017, the TFSMI/SED and the Office of Congressional Affairs exchanges were centered around APA's efforts to block the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act, including updates on APA's communication with House and Senate leadership. We also had dialogue about APA's efforts to increase support for psychology practice in Medicare. The Office of Congressional Affairs also communicated with the TFSMI/SED with updates on the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC).
- The APA Public Interest Government Relations Office requested and received input from the TFSMI/SED throughout 2017 on issues such as Forensic Assertive

Community Treatment (FACT) and other criminal justice issues, and the Health and Human Services 2018 – 2022 strategic plan.

Other

- In March, 2017 the TFSMI/SED and Division 18 SMI/SED Section co-authored a joint statement to provide public comment on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) draft report “Treatments for Adults With Schizophrenia: A Systematic Review.” The statement expressed strong concerns about the methodology and conclusions drawn by the review and recommended a revision.
- Members of the TF volunteered to review American Psychological Foundation grant applications in 2016 and 2017.
- The TFSMI/SED hosted Dr. Paul Grant to speak at a TF meeting about his work and discuss possible synergies.