

APA Task Force on Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance

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This report provides highlights of TFSMI/SED activities beginning from the date of the last summary (December 2017), and thus includes activities from January 2018 through September 2018.

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 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. The application was reviewed and returned for additional information in early April, 2018, with a deadline for resubmission of December, 2018.
- Members of the TF have been working closely with members of APA Division 18 to address the needs for additional information requested, and expect to resubmit the application in late 2018.
- In early 2018, TF leadership and APA staff liaisons worked closely with BPA leadership and APA staff liaisons to consider issues of funding for the Specialty, and the potential for the TF budget to be temporarily increased to support the specialty in the early stages of its development. Further, as CRSPPP had concerns about the permanence of the TF, APA staff assisted TF leadership in determining appropriate and legal mechanisms for documenting its permanence.

- The Council for Psychological Training in Serious Mental Illness and Severe Emotional Disturbance, the guiding board for the specialty, met on August 11, 2018 in San Francisco, CA at Convention, with two representatives from the TF in attendance.

Convention Programming

- 2018 Convention: Seven TF members presented as part of five different symposia on issues related to the TF SMI/SED mission. Topics included facilitating recovery in youth at clinical high risk for psychosis, psychologists and peer specialists working together to facilitate recovery from SMI, advocacy for SMI, treatment for first episode psychosis, and the use of non-symptom measures in measurement based care for enhancing psychosocial treatment for individuals with SMI.
- The TF hosted Dr. Evans at our annual business meeting at Convention. The TF is currently following up on several ideas generated during our hour-long meeting.

TFSMI/SED Support of APA Involvement in Governmental Affairs

- 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.
- The TF has been engaged in providing feedback to APA on the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC).
 - The TF hosted a presentation by Dr. John McCarthy, VA's representative to ISMICC, who provided an overview of the ISMICC for TF members
 - The TF provided comments to Laurel Stine about the ISMICC report in preparation for an APA meeting with SAMHSA Assistant Secretary for Mental Health, Dr. McCance-Katz.
 - A TF member coordinated feedback from the APA TF membership and participated in a roundtable discussion with Congressman Tonko about ISMICC. As a follow up to the meeting, the TF was then invited to provide our recommendations for follow up by ISMICC. This was submitted through APA for response.
- Members of the TF provided feedback on SAMHSA's efforts to develop a continuum of care for adults with SMI, and a representative attended a conference call with SAMHSA contractors to provide specific input.
- The APA Public Interest Government Relations Office requested and received input from the TFSMI/SED on draft legislation on solitary confinement.

Other

- Members of the TF volunteered to review American Psychological Foundation grant applications in 2018.
- The TF nominated a member for the Board for Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI)
- The Chair of the TF attended a meeting of Committee on Disability Issues in Psychology (CDIP) to provide introductions. Dr. Maggie Butler, APA staff liaison to CDIP and Director, Public Interest Directorate, attended the April TF meeting in person to further explore working together towards shared goals.
- The TF held elections and elected four members (two new members, two serving second terms) in June/July 2018.