

Tobacco Free
for
Recovery

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FOR WELLNESS & SMOKING CESSATION

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Volunteer members of the Interim Governance Group (IGG) of the National Mental Health Partnership for Wellness and Smoking Cessation met by telephone February 11, 2008. Below is a recap of some of the main points discussed during this conference call.

- We are fast approaching the first anniversary of our summit in Lansdowne, so time was spent discussing and celebrating the accomplishments of the Partnership to date, many of which have been highlighted in our [two previous communiqués](#).
 - IGG members each spoke of their own organization's efforts.
 - "We've accomplished a lot given the short time we've been involved in this," said Bob Glover. Connie Revell said, "We've received only positive feedback, especially given the challenge."
- All agreed Phase 1 of the Partnership has been a time to recruit members for the summit and get the Partnership off the ground. This included the distribution of stimulus grants to some of the partners to increase their efforts on smoking cessation in particular and to raise awareness around this epidemic.
- We are now entering Phase 2 of the Partnership, as indicated by the growing interest in the fields of both mental health and smoking cessation. This phase will include further steps to reaching our goal of increasing awareness about the high rates of smoking among mental health consumers, identifying best practices and eventually lowering the prevalence of tobacco use among this population.
- A concerted effort is being made to link the work of the IGG with the broader partnership. The communiqué is a first step. Opening up the IGG to all who are able to volunteer their time is another.
- To improve visibility and access to resources, the Center offered to create an independent URL address for the Partnership. The site will be going live some time towards the end of March.
- Ideas and activities that were discussed during the call include:
 - Develop a toolkit for consumer-operated services.
 - Add a "mental health touch" to cessation products that have already been developed and tested.
 - Collectively integrate survey data that is currently being compiled by various partners.
 - Develop a webinar where each partner can discuss their current work as it relates to smoking cessation and educate their colleagues and/or consumers.
 - Encourage more people to join the partnership and follow up with opportunities to connect with the Veteran's Administration (VA), family physicians, protection and advocacy, national disability rights groups, and NIDA. Partnership volunteers could serve as ambassadors and reach out to potential partners.
 - Get multiple players from each organization involved in the Partnership so that participation continues to be high and the burden is not solely on the executives.
 - Get community health centers to partner with community mental health centers.
 - Focus on legislative component, media, and education.
- If you want to be involved in helping to continue to move the partnership forward by working on any of these specific ideas or activities, please email Catherine Saucedo at csaucedo@medicine.ucsf.edu.
- IGG calls are quarterly, so the next IGG call will take place in approximately three months.

Finally, we wanted to highlight the recent article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) on February 5, 2008 (volume 299, number 5, pages 571-573) written by our partner Jill Williams entitled "[Eliminating tobacco use in mental health facilities: Patients' rights, public health, and policy issues.](#)"
Congratulations, Jill and thank you for raising awareness on this important topic!



Questions or comments? Email us at csaucedo@medicine.ucsf.edu.