



UCSF Smoking Cessation
Leadership Center

SAMHSA Leadership Academy and State Strategy Sessions

The National Council for Behavioral Health operates the [National Behavioral Health Network for Tobacco & Cancer Control](#) (NBHN), a 5-year program jointly funded by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health and Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. NBHN serves as a resource hub for health care professionals seeking to eliminate disparities impacting people with mental illnesses and addictions. NBHN activities include webinars and presentations; resource sharing; communities of practice; and State Strategy Sessions.

OVERVIEW

What is a State Strategy Session ?

With support from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center (SCLC), and NBHN, a State Strategy Session is a meeting of stakeholders convened to discuss and compile evidence-based strategies and recommendations for states/communities to eliminate tobacco use and cancer-related disparities among people with mental illness and addictions (behavioral health). Using a meeting framework recognized by SAMHSA, a group of selected partners work together to develop strategies to reduce the prevalence of smoking and nicotine dependence among behavioral health consumers and staff. State Strategy Session participants reach a consensus on an over-arching, measurable goal for the reduction of tobacco use and cancer-related disparities. Additionally, meeting participants analyze gaps and barriers to achieving this goal, as well as share resources and strategies for success. State Strategy Sessions conclude with the development of a concrete action plan to implement evidence-based strategies to reduce tobacco use and cancer-related disparities among people with mental illnesses and addictions.

Benefits of participation

By hosting a State Strategy Session, states hold the title of a [Leadership Academy](#) and can serve as a vital resource for departments, programs, and the nation to reduce tobacco use and cancer-related disparities for individuals with mental illnesses and addictions. States will also receive a concrete action plan and be featured on the [NBHN](#), [SCLC](#), and [SAMHSA](#) websites; an example of a State Strategy Session success story can be found [here](#).

To be considered a Leadership Academy and host a State Strategy Session, please complete the application [here](#). For questions, please contact Christine Cheng at Christine.cheng2@ucsf.edu.