



# The President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

**Achieving the Promise:**

**Transforming Mental Health  
Care in America**

# President George W. Bush Announcing the Commission



“Our country must make a commitment. Americans with a mental illness deserve our respect...and they deserve excellent care.”

April 29, 2002

Albuquerque, New Mexico





# President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health

**CHARGE:** “. . . Conduct a comprehensive study of the U. S. mental health service delivery system and recommend improvements to enable adults with serious mental illness and children with severe emotional disturbance to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities.”





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## This Presentation

- Some Problems Identified
- Vision for a Transformed System
- Goals and Recommendations
- Where Do We Go from Here?



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## Problem Overview

- Overwhelming impact of mental illnesses
- Tardiness of interventions
- Fragmentation and non-alignment of resources—resulting gaps
- Lack of shared understanding



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## Vision

IT'S A FUTURE IN WHICH:

- Everyone with mental illness will recover
- Mental illness can be --
  - ✓ Prevented or cured
  - ✓ Detected early
- Everyone of all ages with a mental illness has access to effective treatment and supports — essentials for living, working, learning, and participating fully in the community



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## The Goals of a Transformed System

- Goal 1** Americans Understand that Mental Health Is Essential to Overall Health
- Goal 2** Mental Health Care Is Consumer and Family Driven
- Goal 3** Disparities in Mental Health Services Are Eliminated
- Goal 4** Early Mental Health Screening, Assessment, and Referral to Services Are Common Practice
- Goal 5** Excellent Mental Health Care Is Delivered and Research Is Accelerated
- Goal 6** Technology Is Used to Access Mental Health Care and Information



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## Goal 1

Americans Understand that Mental  
Health Is Essential to Overall Health



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 1.1

Advance and implement a national campaign to reduce the stigma of seeking care and a national strategy for suicide prevention.



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 1.2

**Address mental health with the same  
urgency as physical health**



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## Goal 2

Mental Health Care Is Consumer and  
Family Driven



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 2.1

Develop an individualized plan of care for every adult with a serious mental illness and child with a serious emotional disturbance.



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 2.2

**Involve consumers and families  
fully in orienting the mental  
health system toward recovery**



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 2.3

Align relevant Federal programs to improve access and accountability for mental health services.



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 2.4

**Create a Comprehensive  
State Mental Health Plan**



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 2.5

Protect and enhance  
consumers' rights



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## Goal 3

**Disparities in Mental Health Services  
Are Eliminated**



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 3.1

Improve access to quality care that is culturally competent.



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 3.2

Improve access to quality care in rural and geographically remote areas



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## Goal 4

Early Mental Health Screening,  
Assessment, and Referral to  
Services Are Common Practice



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 4.1

Promote the mental health  
of young children



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 4.2

Schools should have the ability to play a larger role in mental health care for children



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 4.3

Screen for co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders and link with integrated treatment strategies



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 4.4

Screen for mental disorders in primary health care, across the lifespan, and connect to treatment and supports



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## Goal 5

Excellent Mental Health Care  
Is Delivered and Research Is  
Accelerated



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 5.1

Accelerate research to promote recovery and resilience, and ultimately to cure and prevent mental illnesses



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 5.2

Advance evidence-based practices (EBPs) using dissemination and demonstration projects and create a public-private partnership to guide their implementation



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 5.3

Improve and expand the workforce providing evidence-based mental health services and supports



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 5.4

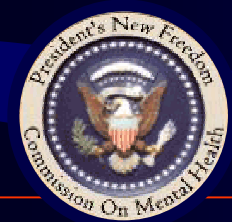
Develop the knowledge base in four understudied areas



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## Goal 6

**Technology is Used to Access  
Mental Health Care and Information**



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 6.1

Use health technology and telehealth to improve access and coordination of mental health care, especially for Americans in remote areas or in underserved populations.



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## Achieving the Goal: Recommendation 6.2

Develop and implement integrated  
electronic health record and  
personal health information systems



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**Where Do We Go From Here?**



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## The Charge to SAMHSA

“Under the leadership of Charles Curie, the administrator of our Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, HHS will conduct a thorough review and assessment of this report with the goal of implementing appropriate steps to strengthen our mental health system.”

Tommy G. Thompson  
July 22, 2003

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“It is SAMHSA’s honor to have been asked by Secretary Thompson to undertake the Administration’s first review and response to this historic document. The Report’s central themes and recommendations... facilitate recovery, build resilience, and promote a life in the community for all Americans living with mental illness.”



Charles G. Curie  
SAMHSA Administrator



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- The National Mental Health Agenda for Action is in final stages of drafting—will be presented to Secretary Thompson next month
- Inventories created of current Agency activities relating to Commission goals and recommendations
- “Wish lists” created



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- Federal Partner Senior Workgroup has been meeting, representing 22 Departments and Agencies
- Federal Partner Executive Steering Committee is being formed



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## Federal Departments and Agencies:

- EDUCATION
- HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
- JUSTICE
- LABOR
- SOCIAL SECURITY
- VETERANS AFFAIRS
- WHITE HOUSE/Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AoA \* ACF \* AHRQ \* OS/ASPE \* CDC

CMS \* HRSA \* IHS \* NIH/NIMH \* NIH/NIDA

OS/OCR \* OS/OD \* OS/OPHS \* SAMHSA

SAMHSA/CMHS



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**IN IMPLEMENTATION: A Role for Everyone**

**Legislatures \* Planning and regulatory bodies**

**Public and private payers \* Foundations**

**Accreditation and licensing bodies**

**Universities/Colleges \* Trade associations**

**Provider community**

**Consumers and families**



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*Thank you!*