



Quarterly Newsletter | November 2024

[Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee \(ISMICC\)](#)

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In Case You Missed It (ICYMI)

Report to Congress: *Building on Progress: Federal Action for a System That Works for All People Living with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and Their Families and Caregivers*

We are excited to announce the release of [the 2024 ISMICC Report to Congress!](#)

The ISMICC developed its 2017 report *The Way Forward: Federal Action for a System That Works for All People Living with SMI and SED and Their Families and Caregivers* to coordinate a



comprehensive federal response to these challenges and spent the next two years diligently moving their recommendations into action. In 2022, the ISMICC released a supplemental report on federal accomplishments since 2017—Advances Through Collaboration: Federal Action for a System That Works for All People Living with SMI and SED and Their Families and Caregivers. In 2023, the ISMICC was reauthorized for another five years and now has a clear direction toward increasing its momentum to promote a system of care that provides individualized, holistic services to adults with SMI and children and youth with SED. This progress is documented in the latest 2024 Report. Check it out!

ISMICC 2024 Report to Congress Cover

October 29th, 2024 Meeting

Thank you to all who attended the Fall 2024 meeting of the ISMICC!

Membership of the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC) convened in-person on October 29, 2024 to discuss actions that Federal Agencies can take to better coordinate the administration of mental health services for adults with a serious mental illness (SMI) and children with a serious emotional disturbance (SED).



Group Photo of ISMICC Membership

At the meeting, Dr. Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, joined by SAMHSA staff as well as both federal and non-federal partners, provided updates to the committee on SAMHSA's recent accomplishments related to the field of behavioral health as well as Working Group report outs, recommendations, and recent triumphs.

Editors' Note

Thank you everyone again for your ongoing effort to enhance collaboration and coordination of mental health services for adults with serious mental illness and for children with serious emotional disturbances. This Committee and its Working Groups have made a great deal of progress thanks to your commitment and dedication! As always, be sure to check out [our website](#) for meeting minutes, resources, and more.

Dr. Billina Shaw | Joel Fuentes

Announcements

New Members:

Adjoa Smalls-Mantey, MD, DPhil.

Dr. Adjoa Smalls-Mantey is a physician-scientist, writer, medical media consultant, and organizational leader. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the ISMICC, and we are so excited to have her on board.

Photo of Dr. Smalls-Mantey



Check out her [bio](#) to learn more!

Working Group Updates



Data and Evaluation Working Group: Sandra Resnick has assumed the role of co-steward of Group 1! A sincere thank you to Peggy O'Brien for her commitment during her tenure as co-steward.

Working Group 1 maintains a strong focus on its long-term goal of supporting further [integration of MBC](#) in evidence-based clinical processes in community-based settings providing behavioral health services. Among others, a primary accomplishment of Group 1 includes successful integration of recommendations for use of MBC into SAMHSA's updated CCBHC certification criteria.



Access and Engagement Working Group: Group 2 remains steadfast in its commitment to helping increase access to behavioral health services across the Nation. A few accomplishments in this priority area include the release of the [National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and Federal Action Plan](#), the development of a new 988-partner toolkit, and the introduction of the [National Training and Technical Assistance Center for Early Serious Mental Illness](#).



Treatment and Recovery Working Group: Working Group 3 has remained committed to closing the gap between what works and what is offered. This includes strong interagency efforts around supportive housing including the [ALL INSide Initiative](#), a first-of-its kind initiative to address unsheltered homelessness across the country. Additionally, HHS and HUD launched the [Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator](#) to help select states (including Arizona, California, and Washington) leverage Medicaid flexibilities to develop and expand innovative housing-related supports and services for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have complex medical needs (e.g., people with disabilities, older adults, people with mental health disorders, and people with substance use disorders).



Justice Working Group: Katie Hager has assumed the role of co-steward as of October 2024. A special thanks to Maia Banks for her time and dedication as co-steward! The Justice Working Group has continued to work collaboratively to develop a resource that will highlight funding opportunities across all intercepts of the [Sequential Intercept Model \(SIM\)](#) and helps guide communities on how to access these needed resources. Additionally, the group provided support to recent Policy Academies focused on supported employment and addressing justice involved individuals' employment challenges and support needs including in employment as peer supports.



Finance Working Group: Group 5 remains focused on ensuring that people with SMI and SED receive the mental health and substance use disorder services they are entitled to and that benefits are offered on terms comparable to those for physical illnesses. Among its updates, the group shared a presentation about final rules amending regulations implementing the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA) and adding new regulations implementing the nonquantitative treatment limitation (NQTL) comparative analyses requirements under MHPAEA, as amended by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA, 2021).

Resource Corner

Check out these resources relevant to individuals with SMI and SED. *Please note that resources are collected and shared with us by both federal and non-federal partners; any opinions expressed in any content are solely the author's and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or beliefs of SAMHSA or HHS.*

- Webinar: [Public Housing and Serious Mental Illness: Practical Recommendations for Housing Providers](#)
 - CLE Webinar: [The Intersection of Severe Mental Illness, Housing, and the Law \[CC\]](#)
 - Toolkit: [Mental Health in the Workforce Toolkit \(ncsl.org\)](#)
 - Policy Brief: [Implementing Individual Placement and Support in Rural Communities: \(dol.gov\)](#)
 - Position Paper: [USAID Mental Health](#)
 - Policy Proposal: [New rule to advance health equity and support whole-person care \(CMS\)](#)
 - Suicide Prevention Awareness Documentary: [Moving America's Soul on Suicide](#)
 - Funding Crosswalk: [Coordinating and Leveraging Resources to Increase Competitive Integrated Employment \(DOL\)](#)
 - New Technical Assistance: [Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment \(ASPIRE\) \(DOL\)](#)
 - Justice Center Project: [Mind Matters-Building a Justice System That Is Inclusive and Responsive to Brain Injury \(csgjusticecenter.org\)](#)
 - Legal Services Referral List: [LSV-H Grantee Referral List \(va.gov\) \(VA\)](#)
 - NEW EPSDT Guidance: [Biden-Harris Administration Releases Historic Guidance on Health Coverage Requirements for Children and Youth Enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program | CMS \(CMS\)](#)
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Contact Us

We appreciate your feedback! Please send your questions, comments, and suggestions to the *ISMICC Team*. You can email us at ISMICC@samhsa.hhs.gov. We look forward to hearing from you.

The [Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee \(ISMICC\)](#) was established to make recommendations for actions that federal departments can take to better coordinate the administration of mental health services for adults with a serious mental illness (SMI) or children with a serious emotional disturbance (SED). In December 2022, the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 117-328) reauthorized the ISMICC and codified it into statute as Section 501C of the Public Health Service Act. It is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.). Read full charter [here](#).

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