

2005 Policy Academy

August 8-11, 2005

Albuquerque, NM

Transforming Mental Health Care for Children and Families Through Planning, Policy, and Practice

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

Across the country, a quiet revolution is continuing in which states and communities are working to build comprehensive, coordinated, community-based, clinically appropriate, and culturally competent systems of care for children with mental health/behavioral health needs, and their families. This quiet revolution is evidenced by new or re-energized partnerships among agencies, families, private organizations, the business and faith communities, and service providers. Partnerships are being established to ensure that children and families with complex needs access the services and supports necessary to be successful in their schools and in their communities. And yet, for many children and families the services and supports that they need still remain fragmented, disconnected, and inadequate.

In *Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America*, the final report of the President's New Freedom Commission (www.mentalhealthcommission.gov), Commission members recommended a "fundamental transformation of the Nation's approach to mental health care." Kathryn Power, Director of the federal Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, explains transformation as *profound core changes resulting in the development of new rule sets, new competencies, and new power*.

Policy Academies provide exciting opportunities for states considering policy initiatives to engage in transformation and to enhance community-based systems, services and supports for children with or at risk of behavioral health disorders and their families. Successful policy academies have been held in 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2003 with a total of 17 states and jurisdictions participating. In 2005, delegations from five states or jurisdictions will be selected to participate in the fifth Policy Academy to be held August 8-11 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The **2005 Policy Academy: Transforming Mental Health Care for Children and Families through Planning, Policy, and Practice** is designed to assist states, federally recognized tribes, and territories with the development and implementation of **public policies** to further their transformation efforts and to concentrate these efforts on children and families. The 2005 Policy Academy will focus on the six goals in the New Freedom Commission report.

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.

1. The 2005 Policy Academy will assist delegations from each participating state, tribe, or territory to accomplish the following objectives:
2. Define concrete objectives for its child and family mental health policy initiative that relate to one or more of the six goals of *Achieving the Promise*, the report from the New Freedom Commission.
3. Determine the type of policy strategy (e.g., legislation, an executive order, or memorandum of understanding) that will accomplish its objectives.
4. Strategize the next steps for gaining the political will required to support and move the proposed child policy initiative through the governmental processes
5. Begin to plan and design the child and family mental health policy initiative and to develop an ongoing implementation plan.
6. Form strategic partnerships to facilitate the successful implementation of the policy initiative.
7. Plan how to evaluate the effect of the policy on practice.

WHAT IS A POLICY ACADEMY: FORMAT AND PROCESS

Each Policy Academy consists of **three phases** – pre-work, on-site activities, and follow-up technical assistance.

Phase I - Pre-work

It has been our experience that pre-work by the selected applicants is essential for reaching maximum benefit at the Academy meeting and to tailor the Academy to the specific needs of the delegations. During the spring and early summer, liaison teams assigned by Georgetown will be available through conference calls or one on-site visit to support the selected applicants in completing the pre-work for the Policy Academy.

Support will be provided for the selected sites to assist them in:

- Self-assessments of opportunities and challenges for a major policy initiative
- Forming and convening delegations
- Initial discussions about their objectives for the policy initiative (based on one or more of the six goals in the President’s New Freedom Commission report)
- Planning how to best use the delegations’ time at the academy.

Phase II – On-Site

During the Academy meeting, participants engage in:

- Plenary sessions and topical seminars provided by resource experts and peers that provide information on the objectives they have chosen for their child and family mental health policy initiatives
- Facilitated individual state/site delegation work sessions to refine the policy initiative, solve design and implementation issues, develop follow-up action plans, and evaluate impact on practice
Discussions with resource experts in their delegation work sessions to answer specific questions and issues.

Phase III – Follow-up Technical Assistance

After participating in a Policy Academy, delegations are offered ongoing support through their academy liaison team or partner national organizations for the following year to assist in implementing the initiative they have proposed. The team’s responsibility will be to “check-in” periodically through conference calls and help to broker technical assistance needs with other national sources. In addition, delegations will be informed about and able to access the many technical assistance activities of the TA Center.

DELEGATION REQUIREMENTS

Each participating state, tribe, or territory selects a delegation to attend the Policy Academy. Delegation selection is an important part of the Academy process. Delegations are expected to include:

- Individuals who can influence executive and legislative branch action and have the authority and responsibility to implement the proposed initiative
- Individuals who represent the cultural and ethnic diversity of the participating site
- one or more persons who represent families served by the system (i.e., family

members).

Delegations should include representatives from the governor's or highest official's office, cabinet secretaries or school superintendents, human services directors, budget agency directors and key staff, state legislators and key staff, statewide family and youth organizations, and state advocacy organizations.

PROCESS OF APPLICATION

The process to apply for participation in the 2005 Policy Academy is as follows:

1. A letter of invitation was sent to the governor or the highest official of each state, federally recognized tribe, and jurisdiction in mid January 2005. (Copies of these letters also were sent to each state children's mental health director and are available on our website at http://gucchd.Georgetown.edu/programs/ta_center. Click on "Upcoming Training Opportunities")
2. States, tribes, and territories interested in participating in the 2005 Policy Academy should respond with a Letter of Application (also available at http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta_center and click on Upcoming Training Opportunities). In addition, each application should include a *letter of support* from either a family/youth or advocacy organization. Letters of Application are due on ***April 4, 2005***
3. All Letters of Application will be reviewed by a panel of representatives from national organizations that support the Policy Academies. Selection is made based on the criteria described in the Letter of Application.
4. All applicants will be notified of the results ***May 9, 2005***.
5. Successful applicants must appoint one or two persons as the delegation team leader or co-leaders to ensure communication among all the delegates and with the National TA Center at Georgetown. The delegation team leader(s) is an essential position for successful completion of the policy initiative.
6. Funding Arrangements - There is no registration fee. The travel and hotel costs will be paid for **up to 7 members** of each participating delegation, although delegations may be larger. Funding for additional members must be provided by the participating state, federally recognized tribe, or jurisdiction.

NOTE: For this 2005 Academy, all states, federally recognized tribes, and territories may apply. Previous participation in a Policy Academy does not disqualify an applicant.

SPONSORS AND SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

The Child, Adolescent, and Family Branch of the federal Center for Mental Health Services provides funding to the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University to coordinate the Policy Academies. A number of national organizations such as the National Governors' Association, National Mental Health Association, National Conference of State Legislators, the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health are important partners in supporting this approach to strengthening public policy.

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