

Data Trends

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This News brief alerts you to a new release from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Transforming Mental Health Care in America: The Federal Action Agenda: First Steps. Available at: http://www.samhsa.gov/Federalactionagenda/NFC_TOC.aspx

From the Executive Summary: The Federal role in the Federal Mental Health Action Agenda is to act as a leader and a facilitator, promoting shared responsibility for change at the Federal, State, and local levels, as well as in the private sector. States, however, will be the very center of gravity for system transformation. Many have already begun this critical work. Finally, an emphasis on individual recovery and resilience will transform not only service delivery systems but also hearts, minds, and lives for future generations....With this Federal Mental Health Action Agenda, The Department of Health and Human Services and its Federal partners make an unprecedented commitment to collaborate on behalf of adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances to:

- 1) Send the message that mental illnesses and emotional disturbances are treatable and that recovery is possible.
- 2) Act immediately to reduce the number of suicides in the Nation through full implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.
- 3) Help States develop the infrastructure necessary to formulate and implement Comprehensive State Mental Health Plans that include the capacity to create individualized plans of care that promote resilience and recovery.
- 4) Develop a plan to promote a mental health workforce better qualified to practice culturally competent mental health care based on evidence-based practices.
- 5) Improve the interface of primary care and mental health services.
- 6) Initiate a national effort focused on the mental health needs of children and promote early intervention for children identified to be at risk for mental disorders. Prevention and early intervention can help forestall or prevent disease and disability.
- 7) Expand the "Science-to-Services" agenda and develop new evidence-based practices toolkits.
- 8) Increase the employment of people with psychiatric disabilities.
- 9) Design and initiate an electronic health record and information system that will help providers and consumers better manage mental health care and that will protect the privacy and confidentiality of consumers' health information.

Data Trends are produced by the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa. Data Trends are funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There are two Data Trends products: 1) Summaries (ISSN# 1537-0399), which detail recent, published articles on systems of care for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities and their families, and; 2) News briefs (ISSN# 1537-0402), which highlight related items or events of interest to the field.