

## Data Trends

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On April 29, President Bush offered public support for passage of mental illness parity legislation in 2002 and unveiled a new White House Commission - The New Freedom Commission on Mental Health - on improving access to effective mental health services.

The Commission will be composed of fifteen members (including providers, payers, administrators, and consumers of mental health services and family members of consumers), appointed by the President, and seven ex-officio members from executive branch agencies. Ohio Mental health Commissioner Michael Hogan was selected to Chair the Commission.

The Executive Order signed by the President charges this Commission with the following tasks: (a) Review the current quality and effectiveness of the delivery of services to individuals with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances, and identify unmet needs and barriers to services; (b) Identify innovative mental health treatments, services, and technologies that are demonstrably effective and can be widely replicated in different settings; and (c) Formulate policy options to integrate the use of effective treatments and services, improve coordination among service providers, and improve community integration for adults with serious mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disturbances.

The text of the President's speech is available at:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/04/20020429-1.html>

The Executive Order establishing the Commission can be viewed at:  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/04/20020429-2.html>

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