

SAMHSA Supports Groups that lobby against improved treatment (DRAFT¹)

The National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery (NCMHR) is the umbrella group for recipients of SAMHSA's Consumer Network Grants and Technical Assistance Grants.² They receive grants in the \$60,000-\$300,000 range and some receive multiple grants. Member organizations pass a small percentage of their SAMHSA funds onto NCMHR to support their cause.³ NCMHR shares offices with Bazelon Center for Mental Health itself a recipient of SAMHSA funds⁴.

NCMHR and members use the SAMHSA money to finance opposition to treatment for those who are so seriously mentally ill, they are not aware they are ill and can not voluntarily access treatment⁵.

NCMHR also comes to the defense of SAMHSA⁶ when critics note that SAMHSA fails to focus its efforts on people with serious mental illness, and instead focuses almost exclusively on those likely to 'recover'.⁷

NCMHR works to make electroconvulsive therapy harder for persons with serious mental illness to access.

"NCMHR holds that psychiatric labeling is a pseudoscientific practice of limited value in helping people recover."

*"The model must be a system of care that would render involuntary interventions obsolete."*⁸

NCMHR met with Dr. Insel of NIMH in an attempt to drive NIMH studies away from serious mental illness¹⁰.

What the NCMHR member organizations have in common, is that they:

- Receive the bulk of their funds from SAMHSA
- Oppose involuntary interventions-- even for those with anosognosia, command hallucinations, delusions or past history of violence.
- Do not believe violence is associated with mental illness (but if you give them money they can reduce violence).
- Support Recovery (skills acquisition programs) vs. medical (symptom amelioration programs).
- Support closing psychiatric hospitals needed by persons with serious mental illness
- Want seriously mentally ill to receive services from staff they employ (peer supporters).

NCMHR has also often taken up making electroconvulsive therapy harder to get. ECT is a treatment for those with serious mental illness that have not been helped by other treatments. ECT is also used in the elderly and pregnant women who don't want to expose themselves to the side-effects of pharmacological interventions. NCMHR criticized the Today Show for relying on scientific information and people who had typical experiences rather than focusing on what NCMHR believes to be the problems with ECT.¹¹

¹ 2/20/13, Unproofed, unaudited.

² <http://ncmhr.org/members.htm>. NCMHR may also have a direct grant from SAMHSA, but we are not sure.

³ <http://ncmhr.org/membership-categories.htm>

⁴ Bazelon had contracts with SAMHSA to produce "Partners in Planning" Guides

<http://www.bazelon.org/SearchResults/tabid/41/Default.aspx?xsq=SAMHSA> They all state they were prepared by Bazelon and funded by SAMHSA.

⁵ Statement of Purpose: "Self Determination: Self-determination is essential for recovery to occur. We need to be in control of our own lives" <http://www.ncmhr.org/purpose.htm>

⁶ <http://www.ncmhr.org/downloads/Response-to-National-Review-08.16.13.pdf>

⁷ It is widely known that many people with schizophrenia have a single episode, some have episodic bouts, and others are chronic. SAMHSA focuses almost exclusively on those who recover. SAMHSA has a multipage definition of Recovery.

⁸ <http://www.ncmhr.org/press-releases/5.3.12.htm>

⁹ <http://www.ncmhr.org/downloads/InvoluntaryTreatment31899.pdf>

¹⁰ As is clear by their name, they also use the funds move funding away from medical model interventions that cure and treat serious mental illness into "Recovery" models that increase hopefulness and empowerment for people who have a 'lived experience'. See <http://www.prlog.org/11362428-samhsa-responds-to-advocacy-and-us-congressional-request-with-new-recovery-support-initiative.html> and <http://ncmhr.org/downloads/Meeting-Notes-NIMH-7.27-28.11.pdf> and <http://ncmhr.org/downloads/Recommended-NIMH-Research-Priorities.pdf>

¹¹ <http://www.ncmhr.org/press-releases/8.22.13.htm>

The SAMSHA grants to NCMHR members are awarded annually¹².

The SAMHSA grants give these organizations a disproportionate effect on state spending because they allow them to organize, bring busses to state capitals and have full time “government affairs” and media staffs working to oppose treatment. This support also helps them gain positions on state and national mental health councils. Many SAMHSA-funded consumer grantees are also on SAMHSA-funded PAIMI boards that also oppose treatment of those who are not well enough to recognize their need for it. Some SAMHSA grantees do other good work, but overall their impact has been negative and increased violence, hospitalization and incarceration of seriously mentally ill.

Attached are some grants SAMHSA made that are being used to prevent the most seriously ill from receiving treatment until after they become danger to self or others.¹³ These do not include the PAIMII grants to states that are passed through to anti treatment efforts.

¹² Pending sequestration. See http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2012/sm_12_002.aspx

<http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2013/sm-13-004.aspx> and <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2013/sm-13-003.aspx>

¹³ Grants go back further. Ex. See some 2001 grants at <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/content/2001/awardees/sm01-003.awardees.htm>

CMHS SM10-08 Consumer & CSTA Center

<http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/awards/SM-10-008.aspx>

Amount Award # Grantee Organization	Relationship to NCMHR and some activities in opposition to treatment.
<p>\$330,000 1 SM059956-01 MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION SOUTHEAST'N PA Philadelphia PA Joseph Rogers Mhasp.org</p>	<p>Joe Rogers is on NCMHR Board¹¹</p> <p>“Treatment administered against one’s will is not treatment at all, but coercion and a violation of civil rights...(A)n individual who has been committed may not be subjected to any treatment, including medication, against his or her will.”¹² “Assisted Outpatient Treatment bill would promote the opposite of recovery – fewer opportunities for self- determination, hope, empowerment and choice and fewer opportunities for people to reach their full potential.”¹³</p> <p>“MHASP is deeply concerned that this tragedy may lead to a stepped-up demand for increased levels off forced treatment, which are unnecessary ...This would be a very serious mistake.”¹⁴</p> <p>Spoke at the anti-psychiatry “Occupy Psychiatry” Demonstration¹⁵ Lobbied Clinton administration to eliminate “forced psychiatric treatment”¹⁶ Wrote USA today op-ed opposing assisted interventions¹⁷ Lobbied to fund SAMHSA¹⁸ Worked to close a psychiatric hospital¹⁹</p> <p>Mr. Rogers is also head of National Mental Health Consumers Self Help Clearinghouse²⁰ (400K from SAMHSA²¹) Mr. Rogers apparently hired Ms. Rogers.²² Mr. Rogers is also in leadership of PA Mental Health Consumers Assoc., (\$70K from SAMHSA)</p>
<p>\$330,000 SM059965-01 NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER, INC. Lawrence MA Daniel Fisher, Oryx Cohen,</p>	<p>Dan Fisher is on NCMHR board²³ He believes:</p> <p>“Outpatient commitment is also a gross violation of human rights”.²⁴</p> <p>“The covert mission of the mental health system ... is social control.”</p> <p>“We Consumers/Survivors urge Mrs. Gore to take a leadership role in eliminating forced psychiatric treatment.”²⁵</p> <p>Dr. Fisher does not believe mental illness exists and his mission is to serve people with “lived experiences”²⁶ He is a leader of the SAMHSA funded “Alternatives” Conference. As a result of SAMHSA support NEC holds positions on many major</p>

¹¹ <http://www.ncmhr.org/who-we-are.htm>

¹² <http://www.ncmhr.org/downloads/InvoluntaryTreatment31899.pdf>

¹³ Testimony to Committee on Health and Human Services on House Bill 2186 – Assisted Outpatient Treatment in April 8, 2010:

¹⁴ <http://www.mhasp.org/in-the-media/2011/2/23/mha-of-southeastern-pa-responds-to-arizona-tragedy.html>

¹⁵ <http://www.jeffpolachek.com/blog/269-protests-scheduled-at-apa-annual-meeting-5-5-12-in-philadelphia>)

¹⁶ <http://www.narpa.org/whitehouse.htm>

¹⁷ <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/opinion/story/2012-01-05/access-to-mental-health-services/52397814/1>

¹⁸ <http://www.power2u.org/articles/trauma/forced-treatment-does-not-work.html>

¹⁹ <http://www.mhasp.org/leadership-bio/joseph-rogers-chief-advocacy-officer.html>

	<p>mental health advisory boards and has presented at the White House.</p> <p>Oryx Cohen works to²⁷</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to end all force and coercion, including involuntary treatment and forced drugging; • to ensure access to resources such as housing is without strings and not conditional on treatment "compliance;" • to change drugging as the medical standard of care for psychosis; • to end all psych drugging of children and offer alternatives instead;
<p>\$329,690 1 SM059955-01 MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF OREGON Portland OR Beckie Child</p>	<p>Amy Zulich is on the NCMHR Board²⁸ and on the Oregon PAIMI Council</p> <p>She identifies herself as "a person who has experienced psychiatric labels."²⁹</p> <p>MHA Portland' runs Peerlink Technical Assistance Center³⁰ to put on the "Alternatives Conference" to disseminate "Alternatives" to traditional care (not on SAMHSA's list of evidence based programs)³¹³².</p> <p>Former Board President supports having involuntary mental health treatment classified as "torture"³³ Also receives another \$70K from SAMHSA³⁴</p>
<p>\$330,000 1 SM059959-01 NAMI Arlington, VA</p>	<p>Keris Myrick was associate member NCMHR when head of a California Peer Group. She is now (not then) President of NAMI³⁵</p>

²⁶ Private correspondence. On file with Mental Illness Policy Org. You will note that in all his writings, he does not acknowledge that mental illness exists, only that some people have been 'labeled' with it. He uses other constructions to, but always to avoid the implication that he believes the illness exists (while at the same time accepting money to improve the lives of those who have it.

²⁷ He is founder of the Freedom Center <http://freedom-center.org/welcome>

²⁸ <http://www.ncmhr.org/who-we-are.htm>

²⁹ <http://www.mindfreedom.org/as/act-archives/us/or/ocsc/forming-new-statewide-coalition>

³⁰ <http://www.peerlinktac.org/about-peerlink/> and <http://www.peerlinktac.org/alternatives-2012/>

³¹ nrepp.samhsa.gov/

³² After the uproar over last year's conference, SAMHSA put an announcement on their home page that they are no longer sponsoring conferences. That no longer appears and the rumors are the SAMHSA will again sponsor Alternatives.

³³ <http://www.noioc.org/>

³⁴ <http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/awards/SM-10-004.aspx>

³⁵ <http://www.ncmhr.org/members.htm>. NAMI historically refused to take a position on assisted interventions, so in 1995, the NAMI membership went over the board of directors who wouldn't act, and voted a very good policy that the leadership was therefore forced to adopt. However, NAMI leadership still refuses to act on the policy they officially have. http://www.nami.org/Content/ContentGroups/Policy/Updates/Involuntary_Commitment_And_Court-Ordered_Treatment.htm

CMHS SM10-04 Statewide Consumer Network Grant

<http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2010/awards/SM-10-004.aspx>

Award # Grantee Organization Name	Relationship to NCMHR and some activities in opposition to treatment.
\$70,000 1 SM059825-01 VERMONT PSYCHIATRIC SURVIVORS, INC. Rutland VT Linda Corey, ED http://www.vermontpsychiatricsurvivors.org/	<p>Ms. Cory is on board of NCMHR³⁶ and was Secretary of the Vermont Protection & Advocacy Program.³⁷</p> <p>The organization's name "Psychiatric survivor" is a term used by many SAMHSA funded groups to convey that psychiatry is torture.</p> <p>She has been trying to close Vermont State Hospital for 10 years³⁸ She markets the Wellness Recovery Action Plan, which she authored a study on and was able to have SAMHSA certify and "evidence based" in spite of lack of research.³⁹</p>
\$70,000 1 SM059833-01 PENNSYLVANIA MENTAL HLTH CONSMRS ASSN Harrisburg PA Joe Rogers, ED Patricia Madigan http://www.pmhca.org/	<p>See MHA of S.E. PA above</p>
\$70,000 1 SM059835-01 MAIN PLACE Newark OH Vanessa Eubanks http://www.themainplace.org/	<p>Ms.Eubanks is on Board of DRC OH (PAIMI) Ohio⁴⁰</p>
\$69,983 1 SM059836-01 KEY CONSUMER ORGANIZATION Indianapolis IN Sandra Currie and Ronda Aimes	<p>Ronda Ames is on the NCMHR Board and Chair of Indiana PAMII Council⁴¹</p>

³⁶ <http://www.ncmhr.org/who-we-are.htm>

³⁷ http://www.disabilityrightsvt.org/pdfs/Investigative_reports/ED_Remarks.pdf)

³⁸ <http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20111012/NEWS03/710129870/1004/NEWS03>). Note that VT is short 251 beds (<http://mentalillnesspolicy.org/imd/shortage-hosp-beds.pdf>) even with VSH (which may have been closed due to Irene).

³⁹ See <http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/wrap0313>. WRAP is certified by SAMHSA's REEP Database as evidence based. We have provided documentation to the subcommittee showing it is not. (http://www.illinoismentalhealthcollaborative.com/consumers/services/WRAP-Statewide_Studies_Research_Findings.pdf)

⁴⁰ <http://disabilityrightsohio.org/board-members>

⁴¹ <http://ncmhr.org/who-we-are.htm>

<p>\$70,000 1 SM059837-01 MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF OREGON Portland OR Beckie Child and Amy Zulich, ED</p>	<p>See MHA of Oregon above</p>
<p>\$70,000 SM059838-01 CALIFORNIA NETWORK FOR MENT HLTH CLIENTS Sacramento CA Michele Curran, Sally Zinman and Delphine Brody http://www.californiaclients.org/about/cnmhc_about.cfm</p>	<p>Sally Zinman is on board of NCMHR.⁴²</p> <p>“We educate and mentor those individuals to enable them to exercise their legal and human rights with a goal of abolition of all forced treatment.”⁴³ “There is a full scale attack on the rights of people with psychiatric disabilities raging throughout the country-to increase forced treatment”⁴⁴</p> <p>“CNMHC has set as public policy priorit(y): No expansion of forced treatment or involuntary outpatient commitment.” “Laws that allow the use of involuntary treatments such as forced drugging and inpatient and outpatient commitment should be viewed as inherently suspect, because they are incompatible with the principle of self-determination.”⁴⁵</p> <p>CNMHC prevents California counties from using Laura’s Law.⁴⁶</p> <p>California cancelled contracts \$3 million of contracts with CNMHC because mismanagement and misappropriation of state funds, including use of an agency credit card to get an employee out of jail.⁴⁷ CNMHC with is forming up under a new name.</p>
<p>\$70,000 1 SM059843-01 VOCAL, INC. Charlottesville VA Ann Brenner, ED Lauren Spiro (now ED of Ncmhr.org) was a founder of vocal. http://www.vocalvirginia.org</p>	<p>The founder (Lauren Spiro) and former Policy Director (Raymond Bridge) of VOCAL are now ED and Policy director respectively of NCMHR.⁴⁸</p> <p>“Mental health services should move away from a bio-psychiatric approach, such as the one enshrined in the DSM, to one that is trauma-informed, recovery-oriented, and led by people with the lived experience of mental health recovery”... “We need to better understand the oppressive dynamics embedded in our culture that bring about great emotional distress, and dispense more compassion and fewer labels.”⁴⁹</p> <p>“Our organization is created by and for people who have experienced emotional turbulence, mental health crisis, or extreme states of consciousness (commonly labeled as “mental illness”).”⁵⁰</p>

⁴² <http://www.ncmhr.org/members.htm>

⁴³ This is the purpose of NARPA an organization Ms. Zinman is on the board of and lists in LinkedIn profile <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/delphine-brody/14/B7/338>

⁴⁴ http://www.zoominfo.com/CachedPage/?archive_id=0&page_id=479600575&page_url=//www.devereux1.org/poc/view_doc.php?type=news&id=39221&page_last_updated=2003-08-08T06:21:54&firstName=Sally&lastName=Zinman

⁴⁵ http://www.californiaclients.org/about/cnmhc_about.cfm

⁴⁶ <http://www.petitiononline.com/charlie2/petition.html>. Laura’s Law has been proven to reduce violence, incarceration and hospitalization of seriously mentally ill <http://lauras-law.org/states/california/lresultsin2counties.html>

⁴⁷ <http://www.sacbee.com/2012/11/11/4976722/3-million-in-state-contracts-yanked.html>

⁴⁸ <http://www.ncmhr.org/members.htm>

⁴⁹ <http://ncmhr.org/press-releases/5.3.12.htm>

⁵⁰ Many orgs that receive SAMHSA funds for mental illness will admit that others have diagnosed people as having a mental illness, but not that mental illness exists. They <http://www.vocalvirginia.org/#/about-vocal/4534688342>

	One of their projects is "Firewalkers...(is) an arts, media and social justice project that redefines "mental illness" as a journey of altered states, emotional turbulence, ecstatic visions, crazy blessings, and mad gifts ⁵¹
\$70,000 1 SM059845-01 TRANSFORMATION CENTER, INC. Roxbury MA Catherine Quinerly Deborah Delman http://transformation-center.org/	Member of NCMHR
\$70,000 1 SM059846-01 ON OUR OWN OF MARYLAND, INC. Baltimore MD Michael Finkle	Board Member NCMHR
\$70,000 1 SM059847-01 MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER SURVIVOR/NET/MN St. Paul MN Jennifer Padelford	Member NCMHR ⁵²
\$70,000 1 SM059850-01 GEORGIA MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK Decatur GA Charles Willis	Board Member NCMHR and PAIMI Advisory Board ⁵³
\$70,000 1 SM059853-01 ADVOCACY INITIATIVE NETWORK OF MAINE Bangor ME Melinda Davis	Member NCMHR
\$70,000 1 SM059855-01 UNITED SELF-HELP Honolulu HI William Bowles	Member NCMHR
\$70,000 1 SM059858-01 MENTAL HEALTH ACTION Burien WA Cynthia Keele and Helen Nilon	Member NCMHR

⁵¹ <http://www.vocalvirginia.org/#/firewalkers/4533865849>

⁵² <http://www.ncmhr.org/members.htm>

⁵³ <http://www.ncmhr.org/who-we-are.htm>

CMHS / SM-12-002 Statewide Consumer Network Grant

http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/2012/awards/sm_12_002.aspx

Award Number Grantee Organization Name	, Relationship to NCMHR and some activities in opposition to treatment.
\$70,000 South Carolina Share Sandra Steadman Bonnie Pate	Member NCMHR ⁵⁴
\$70,000 1 SM060745-01 KANSAS CONSUMER ADVISORY/ADULT MNTL HLTH Wichita KS Parker Gary	Member NCMHR
\$68,2231 SM060746-01 MENTAL HEALTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT, INC Albany NY Amy Colesante Issac Brown	Member NCMHR. "Forced treatment unjustly violates people's rights" ⁵⁵ While MHEP runs a clubhouse for persons with mental illness, they have been a major opponent of treatment for those too seriously ill to recognize their need for it. In their offline activities, they adopted the upside down triangle used to identify Jews in Nazi Germany as their emblem. As recently as 2/27/13, they held a demonstration in Albany protesting "Psychiatric Profiling" "Kendra's Law" and keeping children safe from parents with mental illness ⁵⁶ Staffer Eva Deech went on nationwide tour to stop "forced" treatment for all ⁵⁷
\$70,0001 SM060749-01 WINGS ACROSS ALABAMA Montgomery AL Robert Hermes	Member NCMHR
\$69,9021 SM060761-01 ALASKA PEER SUPPORT CONSORTIUM Anchorage AK Robyn Priest	Member NCMHR ⁵⁸
\$70,000 SM060774-01 SOUTH DAKOTA UNITED FOR HOPE AND RECOVER Rapid City SD Jennifer Constantine	Member NCMHR

Conclusion: SAMHSA grants are going to organizations that are preventing the most seriously ill from getting treatment

⁵⁴ <http://www.ncmhr.org/members.htm>

⁵⁵ Board President Isaac Brown at <http://www.nyaprs.org/e-news-bulletins/2005/2005-05-03-4380.cfm>

⁵⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/MentalHealthEmpowermentProject>

⁵⁷ <http://phillygrrl.com/2009/09/15/psychiatric-abuse-protest-in-philly/>

⁵⁸ <http://www.ncmhr.org/members.htm>