

**National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care (NNEED)**


- Community and Ethnic-Based Organizations and Networks
- Knowledge Discovery Centers
- National Facilitation Center

*A New Structure to Address the "Wicked" Problem of Disparities*

21st Annual Research Conference: A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base  
Feb. 25, 2008, Tampa, FL

**Mental Health and Substance Use Disparities are "Wicked Problems"**


- Highly complex, intractable social problems
- Wicked problems that defy precise definition, cut across policy and service areas
- Multiple contributing factors: poverty, language barriers, structural/organizational racism/ethnocentrism
- Resist solutions offered by the single-agency or "silo" approach
- Traditional ways of working add to the problem by further fragmenting/dividing services and people
- We need to work in new ways, thinking beyond traditional approaches



**National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care (NNEED)**

**Vision:** All culturally, racially, ethnically diverse individuals and families live healthy, thriving lives and participate in supportive communities.

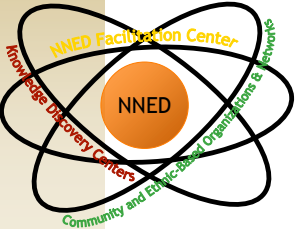
**Mission:** To build, partner with, and sustain a national network of diverse racial, ethnic and cultural communities and organizations to promote policies, practices, standards and research to eliminate behavioral health disparities.



**National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care: Key Assumptions**

- Around the country, there are pockets of excellence in reducing disparities
- There is a wealth of information, insights and knowledge that is not being shared
- Research and policy efforts often lack the connection to, and depth of involvement of, the very communities they seek to serve
- Lack of coordination of information stymies forward movement
- Need for Public Health Approach: Promotion, Education/Awareness, Outreach and Engagement, Prevention, Treatment, Maintenance/Recovery
- A network structure will help to identify, collect and develop innovative solutions for communities

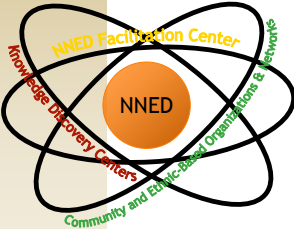
**National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care: STRUCTURE**



The NNEED structure consists of three interlocking entities.

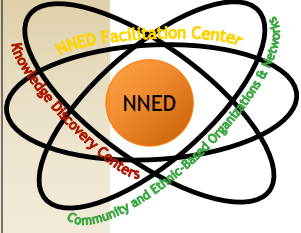
- Community and Ethnic-Based Organizations & Networks
- Knowledge Discovery Centers
- National Facilitation Center (National Alliance of Multi-Ethnic Behavioral Health Associations)

**Community and Ethnic-Based Organizations and Networks (CEBONs)**



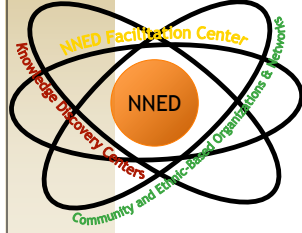
- Define and document problems
- Promote new perspectives
- Exchange and share information
- Create opportunities for community partner involvement

## Knowledge Discovery Centers (KDCs)



- Redevelop frameworks for research on disparities
- Research community-defined best practices
- Provide TA and consultation
- Support a community of learners
- Engage communities in partnerships

## NNED Facilitation Center



- Develop and maintain an infrastructure
- Identify and link entities
- Share information and disseminate knowledge (website)
- Coordinate, track, monitor NNED projects
- Implement NNED communication strategy
- Provide TA training vehicles
- Design and maintain website
- Develop and implement funding plan

## NNED Partnerships



**Types of Partnerships**

- Individual – cannot serve on Steward Group or ad hoc committees
- Organizations
- Networks

**Criteria**

- Acceptance of the NNED code of ethnic, values, principles, approach, way of doing work
- Commitment to donate time for NNED strategies
- Strive to become more CLC competent, focus on eliminating disparities

**Responsibilities**

- Host learning strategy (conference, teleconference, write a newsletter)
- Increase awareness of NNED (put a NNED link on website, highlight in communications, etc)
- Create linkages
- Identify community best practices

## Principles and Values


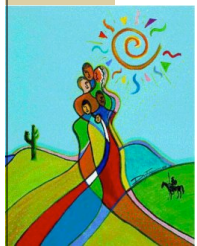
- Excellence in behavioral health through collective advocacy and action
- Soft power process
- Inclusion
- Community
- Respect, trust, and reciprocity
- Strength-based policies, practices, and research
- Holistic view of health, wellness, and recovery
- Developmental lifespan
- System intersections
- Flexibility

## Outcomes




- **PRIORITY AREAS IDENTIFIED** critical to disparities elimination
- **LINKAGES** between community providers and organizations in diverse communities and knowledge discovery centers
- **INFRASTRUCTURE** for collecting, analyzing and disseminating information, data, best practice, research and policy
- **CAPACITY BUILDING** through learning collaboratives, internet training strategies, and community action
- **TARGETED ACTIONS** through community collaboratives to impact disparities
- **NATIONAL INFLUENCE** to focus on elimination of disparities
- **COORDINATED RESPONSES** for recommended policy, practice and research direction to the field
- **COMMUNITY & SYSTEM CHANGE** through changes in knowledge, attitudes, behaviors of individuals
- **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISPARITY ELIMINATION** to ensure access to and availability of culturally appropriate, high quality, results-producing care.

## National Network to Eliminate Disparities in Behavioral Health Care: PRIORITY AREAS

- **Community-Defined Evidence Models to Measure Practice Effectiveness** (inventory of effective, community-based practices; discovering criteria for community-defined evidence, etc.)
- **Anti-Stigma and Behavioral Health Education Campaigns for Diverse Groups** (Ad Council and diverse community leaders to develop culturally appropriate messages, vehicles and strategies for better reaching diverse communities)
- Community Engagement Models
- Workforce Development
- Integration of Health/Behavioral Health



Questions for our audience

To help us grow the NNED:

- Do you know of pockets of excellence doing good work to eliminate disparities?
- Are you aware of other networks to link with the NNED?
- What are some of the other systems to involve?

If you want more information...

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