

*A Meeting of International Mental Illness Stigma
& Discrimination Leaders*
Final Action Plan and Next Steps
June 23rd & 24th, 2009
The Carter Center

After reviewing the objectives for the meeting, the group developed a Final Action Plan and Next Steps. These include areas for future research, priority items upon which to develop deliverables, and five deliverables to be executed by the participants of the meeting.

Final Plan

Maintaining Focus on Key Overarching Issues – Consumer engagement at all levels and exploring ways in which the deliverables translate to mental health system reform in real world settings.

- 1. United States to host the 6th international stigma conference**
- 2. Convene other organizations outside the mental health field with which to partner and collaborate**
- 3. Create online forum to provide resources and information on international efforts, both research and applied**
- 4. Create a research toolkit**
- 5. Communicate priorities within and outside of stigma field**

Priority Items

- Focus on consumer empowerment and involvement with family members and caregivers
- Target research towards needed areas including personal accounts and experiences and reaching out to new researchers
- Inclusion of policy initiatives in congressional briefing on BRFSS and continued support of the efforts by the CDC on stigma surveillance
- Coordinate public response to violent acts associated with mental illnesses
- Identify and create a toolkit of the five components of a successful campaign
- Build capacity in research
- Create a stigma research journal

- Secure funding to support new students and young professionals so as to engage upcoming generation

Future Research Considerations

- Unwrap labeling processes and identify triggers
- Create consistent measurements
- Engage consumers in measuring their experiences and utilize direct testimonies
- Incorporate use of direct observation
- Explore stigma developmentally
- Focus on enhancing positive behaviors rather than only on stopping negative ones