

2009



POLICY

Summit



June 8 – 11, 2009 | New Orleans, LA

National Policy Summit  
on the Elimination of Disparities in Mental Health Care

Center for Mental Health Services  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

## PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The Summit was designed to assist states with the development and implementation of public policies that will contribute to the elimination of mental health disparities. The Policy Summit assisted delegations from each selected state to accomplish the following objectives:

- Identify and clarify the type of disparity it wants to correct;
- Define concrete goals and outcomes related to that disparity;
- Clarify factors related to the creation of the disparity and potential factors that may contribute to the elimination of that disparity, including an analysis of the role of existing policies;
- Develop a strategy to address the disparity and clarify the role of policy for that strategy;
- Determine the type of policy strategy (e.g., legislation, executive order or memorandum of understanding [See Attachment A]) that will accomplish its goals;
- Strategize the next steps to move the proposed policy initiative forward;
- Begin to plan the customized mental health policy initiative and to develop an ongoing implementation or action plan;
- Form strategic partnerships to facilitate the successful implementation of the policy initiative; and
- Plan how to evaluate the impact of the policy on the mental health disparity chosen for this initiative.