Why is the Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee (ISMICC) Important?

Overview of ISMICC
ISMICC was authorized by the 21st Century Cures Act to improve quality of care for adults and children with mental health conditions. It focuses on enhancing coordination across the federal agencies whose work affects behavioral health. This infographic summarizes the organization, role, & priorities of ISMICC.

Historic Importance
For the first time, a federal committee on mental health is reporting directly to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. A new Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use is established.

Role of the Committee
Summarize advances in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of mental health conditions in children and adults. Evaluate the public health impact of federal programs on serious mental illnesses. Make recommendations for how the federal government can better coordinate the administration of mental health services.

Role of the Committee

Committee Members

Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health & Substance Use

ISMICC is chaired by Dr. Elinore McCance-Katz, Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use. Alongside HHS, eight different federal departments are represented on the Committee.

This collaboration is strengthened by participation of non-federal members, including research experts, providers, and people with lived experience. The work provides an historic opportunity to address mental illness across many systems.

Committee Members

Attorney General, Department of Justice
Commissioner of the Social Security Administration
Administrator to the Centers for Medicaid Services
Secretary of the Department of Labor
Secretary of the Department of Education
Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs
Secretary of the Department of Defense
Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development
Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services

ISMICC Areas of Focus

1. Strengthen Federal Coordination
2. Make It Easier To Get Good Care
3. Close The Gap Between What Works and What is Offered
4. Improve Care for Justice-Involved Individuals
5. Increase Availability and Affordability of Care


The Center is funded by NIDILRR & CMHS
Judith A. Cook, PhD, Director

Brought To You By: