

# **Outcomes from the MindFreedom Action Conference**

**American University Washington College of Law**

**Washington, DC**

**April 29 to May 1, 2005**



## **A Call to Action**

# MINDFREEDOM/WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW ACTION CONFERENCE

APRIL 29, 30 & MAY 1, 2005

## Action Description Sheet

### Track: How the Law Can Help Fight Forced "Treatment"

#### Description of Action: Fight Forced "Treatment"

The Legal Track decided that there are many different ways and avenues to fight forced "treatment" and working on this single action item was both the most important thing and plenty to do.<sup>1</sup> For a number of reasons, including being able to utilize the resources available and because the laws involving involuntary "treatment" are state-specific the organizational structure and follow-up mechanism the Legal Track adopted is employ State Coordinators. The key things the State Coordinators will work on are:

- Recruiting Lawyers
  - Pro Bono programs
  - Law Schools
  - Lawyer organizations
- Identifying & Recruiting Expert Witnesses
- Finding Cases
  - System Change Cases
    - Appeals
  - Create Trouble for Hospitals
  - Help people
- Providing Information
  - "cookbook" for the various states.
- Coordinating with the MindFreedom Shield Program  
(<http://www.mindfreedom.intenex.net/shield/>)

PsychRights will help with technical assistance and advice, including preparing materials for use by the State Coordinators and post state specific information on its website. The State Coordinators will be the follow up Committee and Jim Gottstein was elected to be the liaison to MindFreedom.

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<sup>1</sup> The Legal Track decided that involuntary commitment is so closely connected to forced drugging that it really needed to be included so the action item was decided to be Fight forced "Treatment."

## **Timeline of Action Steps and Persons Responsible for Completion (What needs to be done by when?):**

The Track didn't really establish timelines, but feels the structure it has created, including establishing an e-mail list for collaboration and Jim making follow-up contacts can be very effective. The State Coordinators or people who have agreed to try and find one are:

- Krista Erickson/Jodi Norman—Illinois
- Yvonne Smith Interim Coordinator -- District of Columbia
- Anne Dox -- New York
  - Greater Upstate Law Project. [gulpny.org](http://gulpny.org)
- Louise Bouta Interim Coordinator – Minnesota
- Byron Stith Coordinator Recruiter – Virginia
- Francesca Allan -- BC, Canada
- Jim Rye Recruiter -- Michigan
- Aby Adams – Massachusetts
- Janie Lee -- Kentucky
- Jim Gottstein -- Alaska

Of course, the Track is seeking State Coordinators for all of the other states as well.

In addition Byron Stith has agreed to help in recruiting lawyers by contacting lawyer organizations, such as Trial Lawyers for Public Justice.

## **Measures to be Used to Monitor Progress and Effectiveness (How will we know whether we're being successful or not?)**

The following measures were developed to know how we are doing:

- No of State Coordinators
- No of Lawyers
- No of Expert Witnesses
- Cases
  - Results of Cases
- Other concrete impacts

## **Track Participants**

- Jim Gottstein – Facilitator
- Nels Kurt Langston
- Krista Erickson
- Aaron Frishberg
- Alison Hymes
- Byron Stith

- Jodi Norman
- Francesca Allan
- Anne Dox
- Louise Bouta
- Yvonne Z. Smith
- Terry Grimes
- Aby Adams
- Marcus Planet
- Janie Lee
- Andrew Phelps
- Paula Caplan
- Ron Thompson
- Nat Lehrman
- Stephen A. McFadden
- Leslie Dugas
- James Rye

**MINDFREEDOM/WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW ACTION  
CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 29, 30 & MAY 1, 2005**

**Action Description Sheet**

**Track: International**

**Liaisons/co-chairs: Celia & Linda**

**Description of Action:**

**1. Support Emerging Voices in Developing Countries:**

**Encourage the development of culturally-appropriate resources and awareness to support the voices of people labeled with psychiatric disabilities for empowerment and self-determination.**

**2. Sound the alarm about the globalization of the psychiatric drug industry.**

**Timeline of Action Steps and Persons Responsible for Completion  
(What needs to be done by when?):**

**\* Build an international steering committee. [Celia and David]**

**1. Support emerging voices:**

- a. Network with allied groups such as MDAC, MDRI, WNUSP  
[Celia, Linda & Larry]**
- b. Request resources from WHO [David] and other sources.**
- c. Create graphics & text for brochure and resource manuals.  
[Celia]**
- d. Use interactive web site to easily add material [Brian].**
- e. Translate materials into other languages [Laura].**
- f. Public forums to encourage the voices [David & Linda]**
- g. Support Lobbying Alert Letter for the International Disability  
Convention.**

## **2. Sound the alarm**

- a. Design public relations campaign themes.**
- b. Create brochure, poster, CD and web site.**
- c. Write articles.**

## **2. Measures to be Used to Monitor Progress and Effectiveness (How will we know whether we're being successful or not?)**

### **1. Support emerging voices:**

- a. Are there active liaisons with several allied groups?**
- b. Have we requested from WHO and other sources?**
- c. Are there brochures and resources manuals?**
- d. Is there an interactive web site with material?**
- e. Is material translated into other languages?**
- f. Are there public forums?**
- g. Is there an impact – are there more members, people contacting us, signing up on alert list, etc.?**
- h. Short run: Have we discovered and supported new contacts and built relationships with people labeled with psychiatric disabilities and advocates in developing nations?**
- i. Very long run: Are there significantly more leaders, active members and affiliates in developing countries?**

## **2. Sound the alarm**

- a. Have we designed public relations campaign themes?**
- b. Have we created brochure, poster, CD and web site?**
- c. Are there articles explaining the globalization of the psychiatric drug industry with facts and citations?**
- d. Short run: Find other campaigns such as tobacco and GMO to model our campaign after.**
- e. Very long run: Millions of people have become aware of the danger of globalization of the psychiatric drug industry.**

**Contact Information for Track Participants (Address, Telephone and E-mail if available):**

**Larry**

**Linda**

**Laura**

**David Oaks**

**Celia**

**Dhanesh Samarasan**

**Diana Hoover – MDAC**

**Also, MDRI wants to be involved via Laurie Ahern**

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**Action Description Sheet**

**Track: Open - 1**

**Description of Action:**

**Expand the use of advocates to help people in the mental health system and to educate people about their rights and support their advocacy.**

**Timeline of Action Steps:**

- 1. Set up more drop in centers**
- 2. Train more advocates**
- 3. Create chapters/networks of advocates**
- 4. Keep it simple (both training and approach)**
- 5. Raise funds from private organizations to support and expand the availability of advocates.**
- 6. Ally with similar organizations.**
- 7. Provide advocates with additional resources and tools.**

**Persons Responsible for Completion: Krista Erickson**

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**APRIL 29, 30 & MAY 1, 2005**

**Action Description Sheet**

**Track: Open - 2**

**Description of Action:**

**Use Political action at local and state levels to change the use of  
Medicade and Medicare funds towards alternative treatments.**

**Timeline of Action Steps:**

- 1. Learn how to be a lobbyist.**
- 2. Start lobbying.**
- 3. Work on political campaigns.**
- 4. Develop relationships with elected officials.**
- 5. Meet with elected officials.**
- 6. Get more survivors to vote and get involved.**
- 7. Develop alliances based on common interest.**
- 8. Link up with the effort to train and make available more  
advocates.**

**Persons Responsible for Completion: Susan Isadore**

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**Action Description Sheet**

**Track: Open - 3**

**Description of Action:**

**More and better research on treatments other than psychotropic drugs.**

**Timeline of Action Steps:**

- 1. Research into genetic factors and medicine that supports and enhances the natural functioning of the body/mind.**
- 2. Concrete evidence that alternative approaches are healthier and cheaper.**
- 3. Additional research on using naturopathic medicine to treat “severe mental illness.”**
- 4. Write-in campaigns using personal testimony to lobby for research on alternative treatment.**

**Persons Responsible for Completion: Sandra Lykins**

**Contact Information for Open Track Participants (Address, Telephone and E-mail if available):**

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**Krista Erickson**

# **MINDFREEDOM/WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW ACTION CONFERENCE**

**APRIL 29, 30 & MAY 1, 2005**

## **Action Description Sheet**

**Track: 2. US Congress/Federal Government, and state governments**

### **Description of Action:**

- **Address as a matter of extreme urgency the plan for mental health screening based on the Texas Medication Algorithm Project (TMAP)**
- **In the longer term, educate all branches of federal, state and local government, as well as the public at large, regarding issues collectively referred to as MH.**

### **Timeline of Action Steps and Persons Responsible for Completion (What needs to be done by when?):**

- **In the next 60 days, attention must be focused on TMAP-related matters, since the White House is expected to issue directives to federal agencies imminently. These are likely to include screening the Nation's children for apparent vulnerability to MH problems, and later the whole population.**

### **Actions and responsibilities:**

#### **1. Educate and Inform Congress and the Public**

##### **a) prepare brochures on selected topics**

**- Dominick Riccio, Sharon Hoffman, John Oldfield,  
and Mike Castaldi.**

##### **b) support two bills now in Congress:**

**HR 181 Parental Consent Bill**

**HR \*\*\* Child Medication Safety Act**

**- all, plus MindFreedom members at large**

- c) encourage MindFreedom members to personally visit and write local Congressional and Senatorial legislators. especially their aides.
  - all of us

## 2. Building Coalitions

- a) work with minority groups
  - Carla Moxon, Sharon Hoffman
- b) contact professional groups
  - Mike Mancini, Jake Johnson, Mike Ostrolenk
- c) focus on the educational sector
  - Carla Moxon, Grace Jackson

**Measures to be Used to Monitor Progress and Effectiveness (How will we know whether we're being successful or not?)**

- a) "Boxer Rebellion" legislation passed
- b) Co-sponsors for supportive bills in Congress
- c) Increased public awareness and concern

Track 2 participants

Facilitators

Dominick Riccio  
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Jake A. Johnson  
Associate Professor, Bowie State University,  
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Other participants:

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Della Wilson  
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Stephen A. McFadden  
(contact Larry Plumlee)

Michael Mancini  
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# MINDFREEDOM/WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW ACTION CONFERENCE

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## Action Description Sheet

**Track:** Media & Public Education

**Description of Action:** Develop a campaign that will (1) attract media attention; (2) recruit members and allies.

*“Prescription for Truth”* campaign

**Timeline of Action Steps and Persons Responsible for Completion  
(What needs to be done by when?):**

**1) George Ebert – 05/08/05**

Set up list serve for a *“Call to Conscience”* for track members (and others with interest) to solidify message and develop future actions. George to email the *Highlander Statement* for track members to view. *Highlander Statement* concepts to be utilized for campaign message.

**2) Track Participants – 07/01/05**

Communicate via list serve to solidify campaign message.

**3) Track Participants – 07/01/05**

Create PSA

**4) Track Participants – 07/01/05**

Create FACT SHEET that will bullet specifics of the message we finalize.

**5) Track Participants – 07/01/05**

Compile a condensed statement from *Highlander Statement* and ask others to add comments/”sign-on”

**6) Track Participants – 07/01/05**

Compile psychiatrized/survivor stories to be included in campaign message

**Measures to be Used to Monitor Progress and Effectiveness (How will we know whether we're being successful or not?)**

Deadline of July 1, 2005 for most action steps with the intent of beginning media campaign on Bastille Day, July 14, 2005.

**Contact Information for Track Participants (Address, Telephone and E-mail if available):**

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**MINDFREEDOM/WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW ACTION  
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**Action Description Sheet**

**Track:**

**CHOICE IN MH**

**Description of Action:**

**Timeline of Action Steps and Persons Responsible for Completion**

**(What needs to be done by when?):**

**CONFERENCE**

**Date chosen: MindFreedom Board--by Dec. '05 (for conference to be held in spring of '07)**

**Site & location found: Choice in MH Committee -Jan. '06**

**Accessibility subcommittee & research special accommodations-Jan., '06**

**Develop budget-Choice in MH Committee -Feb. '06**

**Potential Co-sponsors identified:Choice in MH Committee -Mar. '06**

**Conference Coordinator found:Choice in MH Committee -Apr., '06**

**Develop sponsor letter-Apr., '06**

**Co-sponsors chosen-Choice in MH Committee-Sept. '06**

**Scholarship fund-Choice in MH Committee-Nov. '06**

**Promotion/outreach-start in June, '06-Choice in MH Committee**

**Find dynamic presenters-call for presentations in Nov., '06**

**Developing registration materials-start in Jan., '07**

**WEBSITE**

**Develop criteria for what can be put on MindFreedom website section on alternatives-Choice in MH Committee & Board-June, '05**

**Research existing alternatives-ongoing**

**Work with MindFreedom webmaster to set up this section of website--by Dec., '05?**

**Send out an announcement about new section of website-David Oaks,**

**Dec., '05?**

**Send our link to other organizations' sites--Choice in MH Committee,  
Dec., '05?**

**Measures to be Used to Monitor Progress and Effectiveness (How will  
we know whether we're being successful or not?)**

**Number of inquiries and responses re conference on guestbook on  
website**

**At least 50 people(hopefully 200) attending the conference**

**Access to alternatives more widespread and alternatives known more  
widely**

**New ideas developed, groups networked & actual alternatives being  
developed after the conference**

**Ideas for free, self-help alternatives widely disseminated**

**People start leaving MH facilities and using these alternatives!**

**Current Choice in MH Committee**

**Janet Foner, chair**

**Celia Brown**

**Matt Morrissey**

**Mollie from Freedom Center**

**Leslie Dugas**

**Florence Brown**

**Caldwell Daniel**

**Alicia Newkirk**

**Contact Information for Track Participants (Address, Telephone and  
E-mail if available):**

**Yvonne Smith**

**Leslie Dugas**

**Jane Buth**

**Caldwell Daniel(registered as Daniel Caldwell, maybe--nametag was  
backwards)**

**Alicia Newkirk**

**Celia Brown**

**Florence Brown**

**Nat Lehrman**