

NEW FREEDOM COMMISSION

Co-Creating a Vision for the Future:

The President's New Freedom
Commission on Mental Health

State Mental Health Planning/Data Conference

May 2003

Mike Hogan, Ph.D.

Context: 25 Years Since the Carter Commission

Major Issues in Mental Health: 1978/2003

- **1978**

- **Legislative Framework in flux**
 - **Commitment law**
 - **System structure**
- **Crises in institutional care: custodial care, overuse**
- **Very limited community care**
- **GAO :“Government Must do More”**

Context: 25 Years Since the Carter Commission

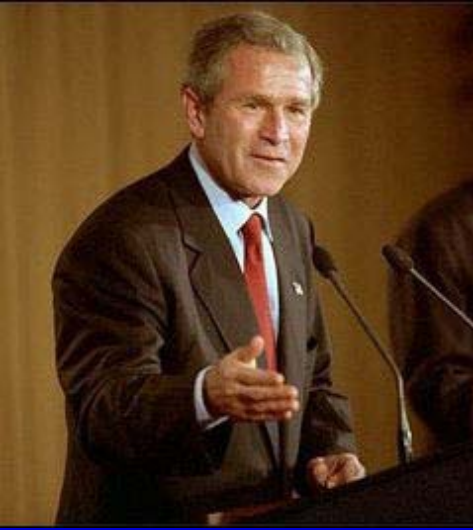
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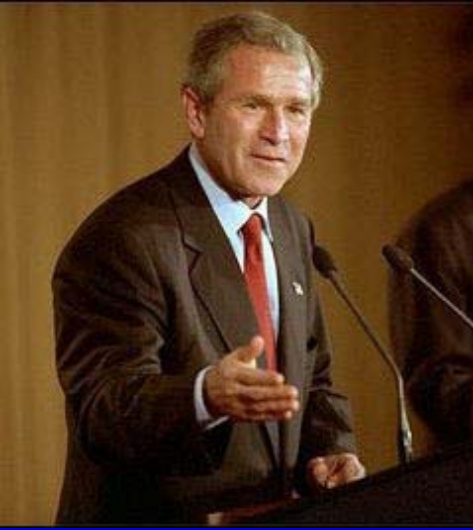
- 2003

- **Legal Framework Established**
 - **Civil/criminal commitment, rights**
 - **System structure**
- **Crises in communities and other settings: jails, child welfare, SSA**
- **Community care uneven**
- **Expanded, but fragmented State & Federal programs, e.g.**
 - **Medicare/Medicaid**
 - **Social Security**
 - **Housing**
 - **Rehabilitation**
 - **Criminal Justice programs**
 - **TANF, Child Welfare**



President George W. Bush
Announcing the Commission
Albuquerque, New Mexico: April 29 2002

- “Our country must make a commitment. Americans with a mental illness deserve our respect...and they deserve excellent care.”



President George W. Bush
Announcing the Commission
Albuquerque, New Mexico: April 29 2002

- Our fragmented mental health service delivery system is an obstacle to quality mental health care... “Many years and lives are lost before help, if it is given at all, is given.”



President George W. Bush
Announcing the Commission
Albuquerque, New Mexico: April 29 2002

- “I announce the New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. It is charged to study the problems and gaps in our current system...and to make concrete recommendations for immediate improvements that will be implemented.”

The Mission

Conduct a comprehensive study of the U.S. mental health system, and recommend improvements to the President.

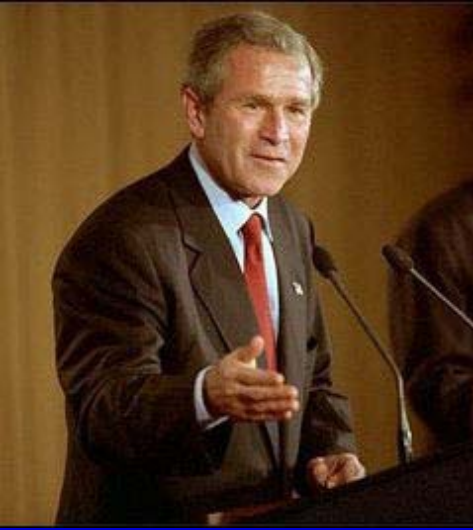




- **Goal:**
“The Commission’s goal shall be to recommend improvements to enable adults with serious mental illness and children with severe emotional disturbance to live, work, learn, and participate fully in their communities.”
President’s Executive Order, April 2002

So, What Really is the Deal?

- Where did this Commission come from?



From Experience and Conviction:
President George W. Bush
Announcing the Commission
Albuquerque, New Mexico: April 29 2002

- “Political leaders, health care professionals and all Americans must understand and send this message: mental disability is not a scandal--it is an illness. And like physical illness, it is treatable, especially when the treatment comes early.”

So, What Really is the Deal?

- Where did this Commission come from?
- Who *are* those guys?

Commissioners



Not the Usual Suspects

- Mike Hogan, Ohio Dept. MH
- Jane Adams, Keys to Networking, Kansas
- Rudy Arredondo, Texas Tech University, Texas
- Dan Fisher, National Empowerment Center, Mass.
- Anil Godbole, Advocate North Side Health Network, Illinois
- Henry Harbin, Magellan Health Services, Maryland
- Larke Huang, Georgetown University, Maryland
- Norwood Knight-Richardson, CareMark Behavioral Health Services, Oregon
- Ginger Lerner-Wren, Judge, Florida

- Steve Mayberg, Cal. DMH
- Bob Postlethwait, retired Eli Lilly Neuroscience, Indiana
- Wally Prechter, Chair, Heinz Prechter Foundation, Michigan
- Nancy Speck, Telehealth Consultant, Texas
- Randolph Townsend, Nevada State Senate
- Dee Yates, Psychologist, Texas
- 7 Ex Officio Members (SAMHSA, NIH, CMS, HUD, Labor, VA, Education)

So, What Really is the Deal?

- Why did this happen?
- Who are those guys?
- How does such a diverse group function effectively within the federal rules?

**Achieving
Extraordinary
Teamwork
Among Diverse
Members is
Essential:**

**A Subcommittee
in Action**



Commission Subcommittees



- Employment and Income
 - Housing and Homelessness
 - Older Adults
 - Children and Families
 - Evidence Based Practices
 - Cultural Competence
 - Medicaid and Medicare
 - Criminal Justice
 - Consumer Issues
 - Rights and Engagement
 - Rural Issues
 - Medications
 - Interface with General Medicine
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Co-Occurring Disorders
 - Acute Care
- Each Subcommittee: develops a Subcommittee Report which identifies key issues...analyzes the problem or program....identifies federal programs involved and models of excellence on the issue...considers policy options...lists recommendations for consideration



PRESIDENT'S NEW FREEDOM

COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

www.MentalHealthCommission.gov

--How the Commission gathered information:

--Public hearings, expert testimony

--Field visits; Chicago, Los Angeles

--Review of reports and documents

--Public comment at all meetings

--Outreach by members and staff

--Web site (www.mentalhealthcommission.gov)

1m. hits, 50,000 visitors)

Subcommittees/Consultants

- Employment and Income: **Judith Cook**
- Housing and Homelessness: **Ann O'Hara, Lynne Aronson**
- Older Adults: **Steve Bartels**
- Children and Families: **Bob Friedman, Beth Stroul**
- Evidence Based Practices: **Howard Goldman**
- Cultural Competence: **King Davis, Steve Schon, Ruby Martinez,**
- Criminal Justice: **Hank Steadman Ethleen Iron Cloud-Two Dogs**
- Medicaid and Medicare: **Pam Hyde, Steve Day**
- Consumer Issues: **Jeanne Campbell**
- Rights and Engagement: **John Monahan, Susan Stefan**
- Rural Issues: **Dennis Mohatt**
- Medications: **Richard Frank**
- Interface with General Medicine: **Jurgen Unutzer**
- Suicide Prevention: **Eric Caine**
- Co-Occurring Disorders: **Ken Minkoff, Doug Ziedonis**
- Acute Care: **Members and staff as resources**

**The Usual
Suspects**

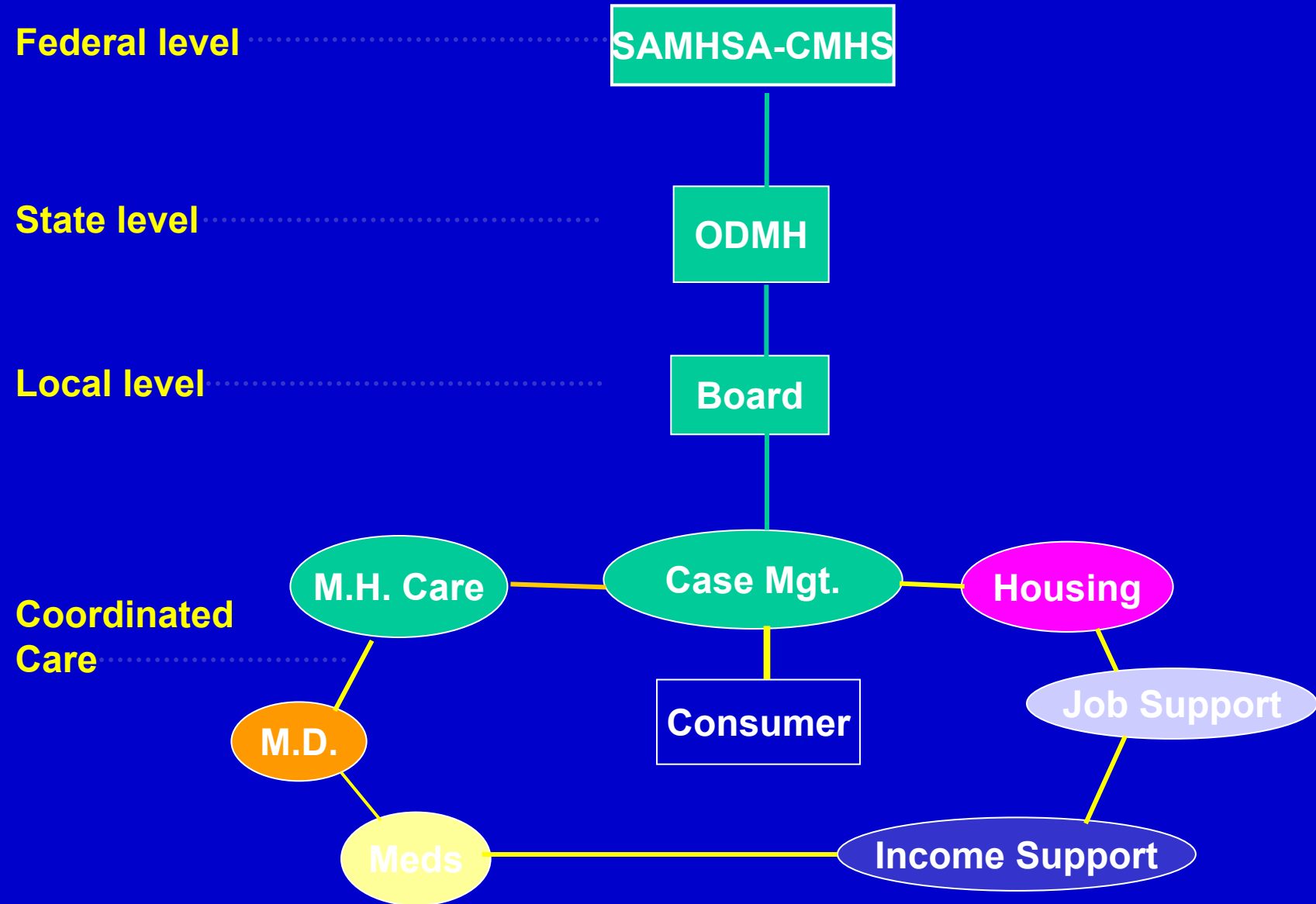
Interim Report Findings: Barriers to Care



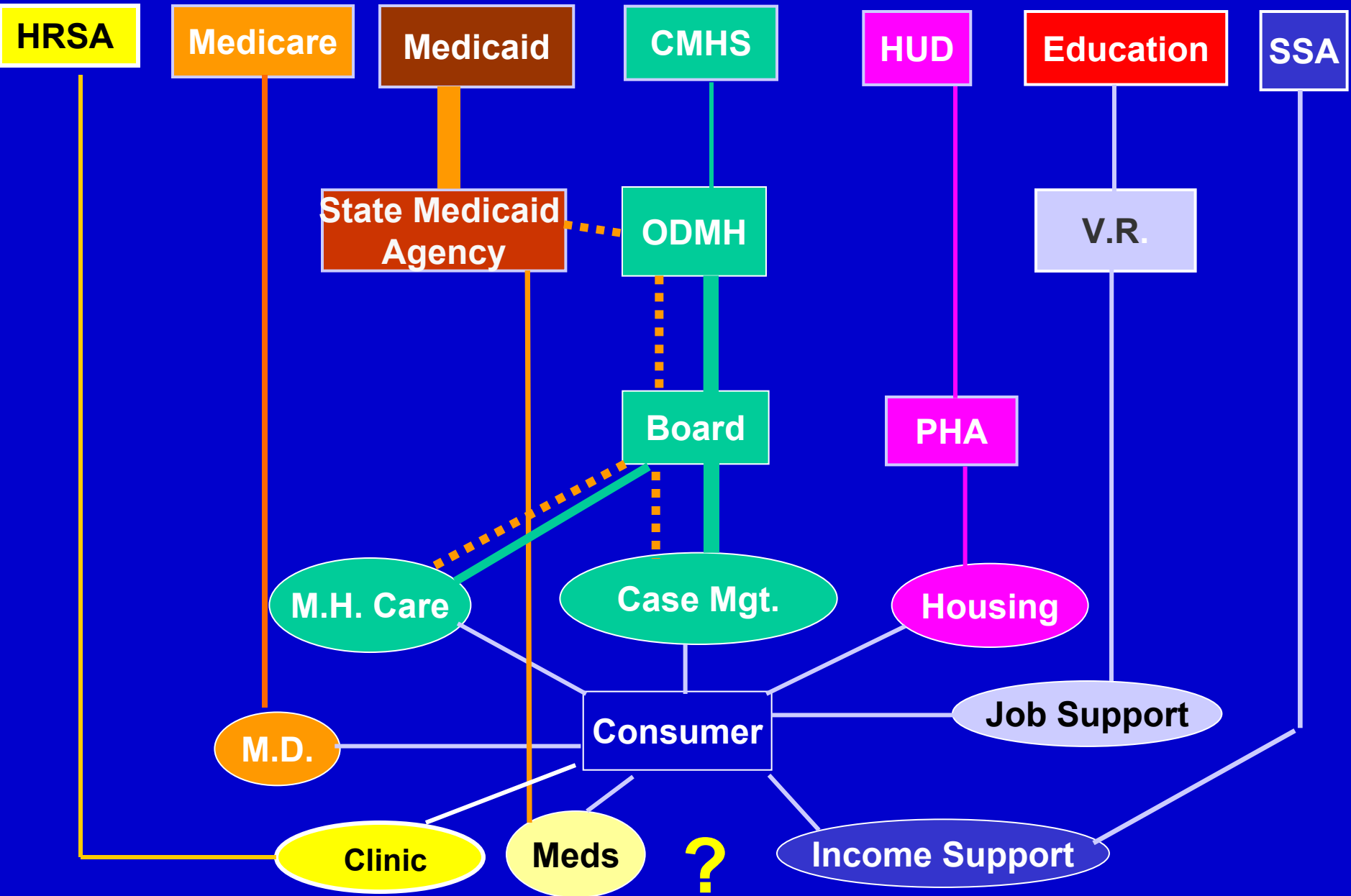
- **Fragmentation and Gaps in Care for Children**
- **Fragmentation and Gaps in Care for Adults with Serious Mental Illness**
- **High Unemployment, Costly Disability**
- **Older Adults with Mental Illness Are Not Receiving Care**
- **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Are Not Yet National Priorities**

“The system is in shambles”

Coordinated Mental Health Services in Theory



“Coordination” of Mental Health Services in Reality



Interim Report: “System in Shambles” ...
Working Conclusion for Final Report:

**Incremental reform of the mental health system
is no longer a viable option.**

**A FUNDAMENTAL TRANSFORMATION
IS NEEDED.**

Vision For A Transformed Mental Health System

We envision a future where recovery and resilience are the expected outcomes and when mental illnesses can be prevented or cured.

We envision a nation where everyone will have access to early detection and the effective treatment and supports essential to live, work, learn and participate fully in their communities.

National Goals and *Potential* Action Steps To Transform Mental Health Care

- **Establish Mental Health as Essential to Health**
 - Stigma/Help seeking...Suicide Prevention...Health Reform
- **Provide Consumer and Family Centered Care**
 - One empowered plan for consumer, family
 - Use the Skills of Consumers and Families
 - Federal program realignment
 - **Housing. Jobs. Medicaid. Criminal Justice Diversion**
 - A real, comprehensive state plan
 - **Federal program flexibility in return**
 - Enhance Rights
- **Eliminate Disparities in Mental Healthcare**
 - End discrimination based on Race and Place: Access to Quality, Culturally Competent care
 - A new commitment to address workforce shortages

President's New Freedom Commission: National Goals and *Potential* Action steps to Transform Mental Health Care

- **Early Mental Health Screening and Treatment**
 - Early childhood mental health
 - Mental health in schools
 - Screen and treat/refer in primary care
 - Screen and treat/refer for co-occurring disorders
- **Provide The Best Care Science can Discover and Offer**
 - Accelerate research: recovery, resiliency, cure
 - Put science to action: promote EBP use
 - Focus science on what's relevant
 - Improve & expand the workforce
- **Capitalize on Communications and Information Technology**
 - Protecting privacy, put mental health in front of informatics use
 - Use telemedicine in the heartland

Where do we go from here?

- Report goes to the President, White House Domestic Policy Council.
- White House may charge various Federal agencies to implement components of transformation.
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) may take the lead.
- Several recommendations may imply significant changes for Federal agencies and State governments.

Continued...

Where do we go from here? (continued)

- Commission subcommittee reports will be published as a resource for the field
- State Departments of Mental Health may collaborate with other departments to develop a single State Plan for Mental Health.
- Advocacy and professional groups at all levels will use the Commission's recommendations and findings in education and lobbying efforts.

- Thank You

Go for it!