

**National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
Statement on Performance Measures**

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) is committed to providing leadership and support for the development of performance measures that reflect the missions, goals and values of public mental health systems.

Performance measures are value-based and reflect the public mission of ensuring quality and access at reasonable cost.

Performance measurement systems include measures for persons for whom the mental health system is responsible. Measures are related to outcomes for consumers, the quality of care, to access and to the cost and efficiencies of the services provided.

Performance measurement systems are conscious of the cost and burden imposed by data collection. The results produced by such systems are easy to understand, especially by persons for whom services are intended.

To this end, NASMHPD endorses the values and concerns in the MHSIP Report Card and its use as a guide to the development of mental health report cards and performance measurement systems. Some aspects of the MHSIP Report Card that are critical to any comprehensive mental health performance measurement system include:

1. The inclusion of consumer and family members and their perspectives of performance;
2. Outcomes such as those related to functioning and symptom distress and, where appropriate, the ability to live, work, volunteer, attend school and have social relationships in the community;
3. Access and appropriateness measures related to the availability of a range of options, including those that minimize disability and promote recovery; cultural and linguistic accessibility; optimal continuity of care; voluntariness of treatment; inclusion of consumers in planning and quality improvement processes; and services that are based on best practice guidelines;
4. Measures that focus on vulnerable populations, including persons with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbances.

NASMHPD is committed to promoting the position reflected in this statement at both the national and state levels.

**Adopted by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
July 20, 1996**