

**Re: TFSMI/SED Call for Nominations**  
**Deadline: Monday, June 10, 2019**

Dear TFSMI/SED members, liaisons, observers and BPA:

The Task Force on Serious Mental Illness and Severe Emotional Disturbance (TFSMI/SED) is seeking nominations for six members, each to serve a three-year term beginning at the APA Convention in August 2019 and ending August 2022.

The TFSMI/SED was established in 1994 by the APA Council of Representatives and currently falls under the oversight of the Board of Professional Affairs (BPA). Current priorities of the TFSMI/SED include:

- Defining and supporting the unique contributions of psychologists in working with populations with SMI or SED within the changing mental health marketplace.
- Making recommendations to APA / APA Services Inc. concerning practice, research, training, and advocacy issues related to the treatment of people who experience SMI or SED.
- Provide trainings / contribute to the development of educational materials to promote clinical [education](#) of psychologists and provide practice [resources](#) for recovery and improved outcomes for people with SMI or SED.
- Strengthening relationships with groups of people with lived experience, family groups, and advocacy groups, and other professional organizations whose focus is ameliorating the effects of SMI or SED.
- Identifying ways psychologists can function most effectively in treating individuals with SMI or SED in organized systems of care.
- Contribute to and actively [support of the concept of recovery](#) for people with SMI or SED.
- Identifying practical community-based alternatives to institutionalization.
- Development of a post-doctoral [specialization](#) in SMI Psychology.

**Expectations of TFSMI/SED members:**

TFSMI/SED's members meet twice a year. In the spring, the Task Force meets for a day and a half in Washington, DC. All expenses associated with this meeting are covered by the association. The Task Force also meets for two hours during the annual APA convention (the 2019 convention will be in Chicago); expenses associated with the convention meeting are not covered by APA. Participation in both the spring and annual meeting is an important part of membership on the Task Force, and all nominees are encouraged to attend these meetings. Any Task force member who misses two consecutive meetings (Spring and Summer) will risk removal from the Task Force per the TFSMI/SED attendance policy, which has been attached and should be read closely by all nominees.

In addition to the annual meetings, TFSMI/SED members are expected to participate in quarterly calls and be involved in ongoing subcommittee work and projects. Subcommittee and project work typically occurs via conference call and email. Based upon current projects, expected workload demand is approximately 3 to 6 hours per month.

**How to Apply:**

The TFSMI/SED is interested in receiving nominations from clinical practitioners, scientists, educators, and individuals with lived experience of serious mental illness. Most notably, we are seeking individuals who are committed to contributing to the priorities of the Task Force. As such, we encourage applications from early career psychologists as well as seasoned professionals. All candidates must be members of APA. Please self-nominate or nominate individuals to run for election. By nominating, individuals are indicating willingness to prioritize their availability for scheduled conference calls, project work, and in-person meetings.

1. Nominees should submit a one paragraph Nomination Statement, no longer than 500 words, describing their interest in serving on the Task Force and their proposals for Task Force projects and other activities.

2. Nominees should provide a copy of a curriculum vitae or resume documenting experience and knowledge related the goals of the Task Force.
3. Current Task Force Members whose terms expire in August 2019 must be re-nominated if they wish to run for an additional term.

**Nominations and supporting material should be submitted to Susie Lazaroff at [slazaroff@apa.org](mailto:slazaroff@apa.org) by Monday, June 10.** Nomination statements and curriculum vitae will be distributed to the voting task force members along with the ballot in June. Newly elected members will be notified prior to the APA Convention meeting in August.

Additional information about the Task Force may be found at:  
<http://www.apa.org/practice/leadership/serious-mental-illness/default.aspx>.

APA is engaged in a process of transformation, placing a much greater emphasis on making an impact that clearly benefits society and improves lives. In February 2019, the Council of Representatives adopted a new strategic plan that sets APA's organizational priorities for the next three to five years. Going forward, boards and committees will work in an integrated, collaborative, and multi-disciplinary manner since no single board or committee can achieve any of the plan's objectives on their own. Given the importance of this approach to the Association's strategic priorities, nominees are encouraged to review the [strategic plan](#) to become familiar with the larger context in which their expertise and interests will contribute to APA's success.