1. National Coalition (NC) Involving Consumers as Active Citizens

In October, 2008 the coalition was awarded a $20,000 from the Blaustein Foundation to integrate mental health consumers into civil society and promote system transformation through their exercise of active citizenship by the development and enactment of legislation to transform the Mental Health system.
2. NC Teaches Crisis Support through Emotional CPR (eCPR)

The NC is developing eCPR, a peer-developed educational program for the general public designed to teach individuals to assist people through an emotional crisis by three simple steps of C=Connecting, P=emPowering, and R=Revitalizing. eCPR is based on the principles of trauma-informed care, counseling after disasters, peer support for recovery from mental health problems, emotional intelligence, suicide prevention, and cultural attunement.

3. NC Organizing Effort

Consumer Health Foundation funded NC to carry out statewide/regional organizing. “Speak Out for Mental Health in the Wash, DC Metropolitan Region,” held September 16, 2008 in Washington, D.C.

One hundred and fifty participants formulated recommendations to transform mental health care in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Region so that the consumer/client voice is heard and so that we can better meet the real needs of people.
4. NC influencing Block Grant Policy to fund Consumer-run Statewide groups

Several coalition members met with SAMHSA staff (including the Branch Chief for Mental Health State Planning and Systems Development). One outcome of the meeting was that in August, 2008 we submitted recommendations focused on increased consumer input and involvement at all levels and increased accountability and transparency.

5. NC participation in Presidential Forum

Columbus Ohio, July 26, 2008

Sen. Harkin (Iowa) with Dan Fisher, Rachel Freund, & Lauren Spiro

6. At Campaign for Mental Health Reform's Gala Dinner

Washington, DC, April 16, 2008

Dan Fisher shares with Senator Kennedy how grateful the mental health community is that the Senator has helped the recovery of consumers.

7. Spiro Addresses National Health Care

Santa Fe, NM, March 14, 2008

The session included from R to L: Tommy Thompson, Lauren Spiro, Andrew Kessler & Ron Mandershied

Lauren Spiro introduced NCMHCSO and invited the audience to contact their statewide group or start one.
8. NC testifies before Congress
Washington, DC, March 13, 2008

Steering Committee member Peter Ashenden testifies before US House of Representatives' Labor, Health & Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies Sub-committee.

9. NC co-hosted Presidential Candidates’ Forum
Manchester, NH
November 2, 2007

Sen. Chris Dodd (D-CT) and Lauren Spiro (NC Policy Dir)
NC with 20+ other national disability rights organizations, co-hosted A National Forum on Equality, Opportunity and Access.
10. Our second annual meeting in St. Louis, Missouri

October 12, 2007

resulted in the
National Coalition Policy Priorities for 2008

11. Press Release

“Mummies of the Insane”
Galvanizes National Coalition of People with Psychiatric Histories

This press release resulted in 4 interviews with news reporters, each of whom did a news story either based on or inspired by the press release.
12. History exhibit of mental health consumer movement

With a SAMHSA/CMHS contract the coalition began what we hope will someday will be a comprehensive, objective record of our history.

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It has been a great year:
Nothing about us without us

National Coalition of Mental Health Consumer/Survivor Organizations
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