

WISE (Initiative for Stigma Elimination) Values



WISE, a national coalition of organizations and individuals, promotes inclusion and support for all affected with mental health and other challenges by advancing evidence-based practices for stigma reduction efforts. We promote the power of authentic human connections to advance hope and improve understanding of what works. As such we collectively share the following values as we support one another and work both internally and externally to achieve the goals of WISE.

Wholeness.

We believe that people are resilient; that every individual is fundamentally whole and equal, and brings strengths and contributions vital to the success of our work.

We work in collaboration with healthcare, workplace, education, and other systems to raise awareness and recognition that health is fluid and mental health essential to wholeness.

Integrity.

We are honest and transparent about our own concerns, conflicts, and limitations.

We challenge ourselves, our partners, and non-partners alike to integrate WISE values and mission in our work. We treat each other and ourselves with compassion and respect; and are committed to honesty, transparency, and a willingness to work through conflict.

Story.

We believe that people have choice and control when sharing their individual stories of adversity and recovery which can be self-healing and change hearts and minds. We speak from our own individual experience, while recognizing the power of our collective voice.

All of our work and collaborations will place personal story and experience at its core. We actively advocate and support people to find and use their own voice and story as fundamental to the mission of WISE.

Continuous Learning.

With a commitment to curiosity, we seek opportunities for growth, and strive to remain humble in the pursuit of understanding one another's worldviews.

Through collaboration, we seek to capture and share the knowledge that individuals and communities already have, and offer the tools to utilize that knowledge to effect change locally. We believe effective methods of evaluation should drive planning and program revision.

We connect with one another and our work by participating in action teams, meetings, and events, sharing lessons learned and new ideas. We create a culture of questioning to help both ourselves and those around us understand and be well-informed about how our beliefs and practices are shaped.

Change Agency.

We believe that we must serve as agents of change in order to achieve our mission. Because our work is part of a larger civil rights movement, we must recognize our connectedness to history so that we do not perpetuate oppression.

We strive to build a culture that honors our voices and stories. We advocate for our mission within systems, sharing new ideas and approaches, challenging the status quo, and inviting others to join us.