

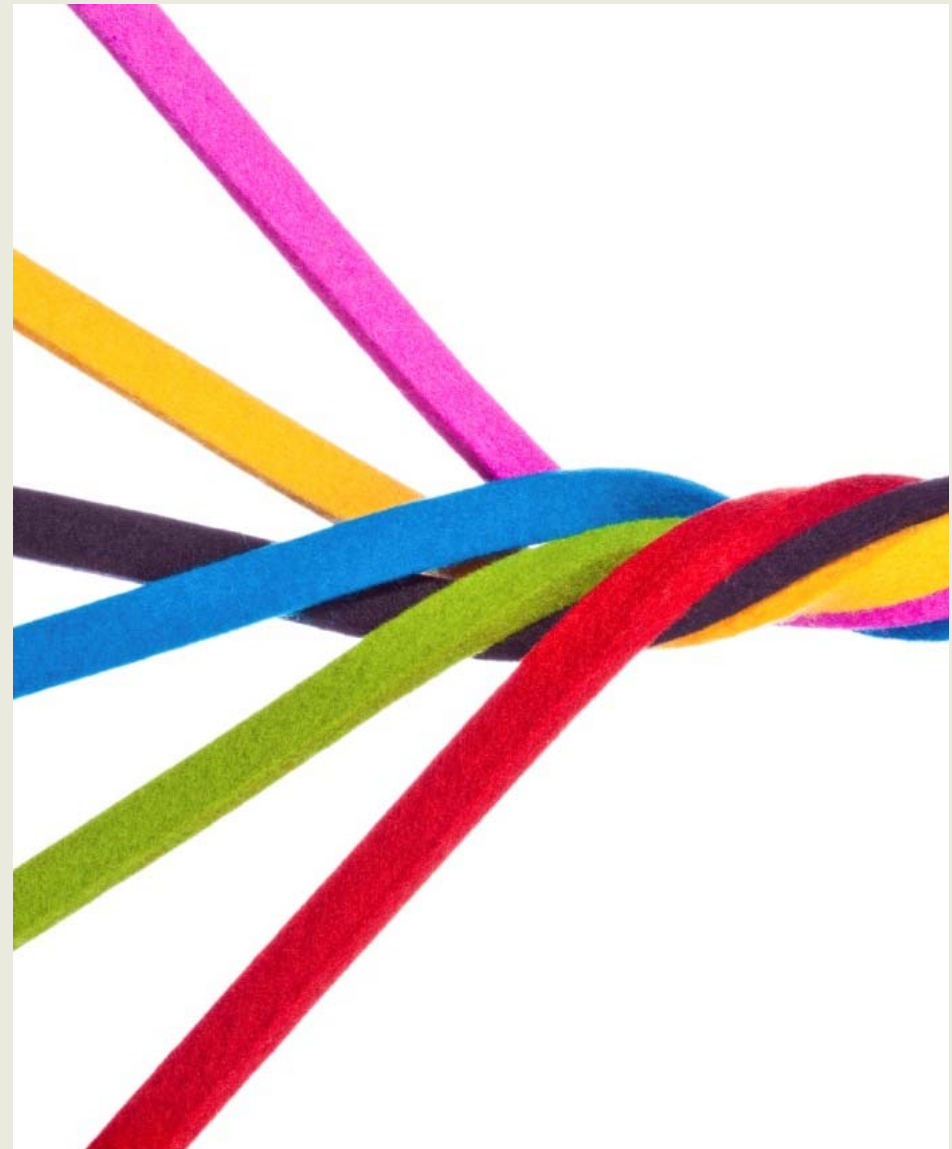
The SOPHIA Mental Health Workgroup

THE SOCIETY OF
PRACTITIONERS OF
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT
SOPHIA

Our Mission:

SOPHIA is an association of individuals and organizations providing leadership and promoting excellence in the practice of health impact assessment.

www.hiasociety.org
info@hiasociety.org



HIA of the Americas is a 2-day workshop hosted by SOPHIA every 18 months.

It is designed for people who are already HIA practitioners.

Participants actively engage in working group sessions on topics of their choice.

Working groups continue to address their identified next steps by producing and disseminating work products between meetings.

Examples

Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for HIA
Guidance and Best Practices for Stakeholder
Participation in HIA

- Working group session on integrating mental health considerations into HIAs
- Group tasked with:
 - Identifying the challenges
 - Exploring ways to address these challenges
 - Taking action on next steps

Facilitators:

- Holly Avey, Human Impact Partners
- Tiffany McDowell, Adler School of Professional Psychology

Attendees:

- Angela Angel, Habitat Health Impact Consulting
- Jimmy Dills, Georgia Health Policy Center
- Megan Gaydos, San Francisco Department of Public Health
- Bethany Rogerson, Health Impact Project
- Ame-Lia Tamburrini, Habitat Health Impact Consulting
- Roxana Witter, Colorado School of Public Health

- Definitions can vary, definitions needed
- Lack of agreement among mental health experts that it's possible to consider or measure population-level mental health
- Identifying what's already been done, what's still needed
- Identifying tools/sources for measurement, unpacking different concepts

- Identified topics that still need to be explored in order to better integrate mental health into HIAs
- Discussed mechanisms for sharing this information
 - Decided on a series of resource sheets
 - Recent decision to release entire series all at once so they can be as cohesive as possible
 - May eventually combine them into a white paper that could be cited by HIA practitioners as “guidelines”

Definitions. stress, mental health/illness, symptoms of mental illness, social cohesion, social capital, behavioral health, well-being

Pathways. How to explain connections in pathways that mention mental health (both positive and negative pathways)

Resources for Assessment. Where do you find the experts that can contribute to the discussion? What indicators should be used? What data sources are available?

Recommendations. What recommendations can address mental health impacts? (what can be done to impact mental health determinants?)

Reporting/Communications. How do you translate that information into accessible information for engaging decision-makers?

- Completed two quarterly calls
 - next one scheduled for Oct. 1
- Developed system for creating series of resource sheets
- Acquired three new members
 - Kim Gilhuly, Fabiola Santiago, and Brooke Staton, all from Human Impact Partners
- Drafted first resource sheet

Want to join the Mental Health Workgroup, provide feedback on the draft of the first resource sheet, or just stay informed?

Contact:
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