



Eating Disorders Coalition Spearheads US Department of Health and Human Services Inaugural Meeting on Eating Disorders and Obesity Messaging

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 10, 2019) – The Eating Disorders Coalition joined scholars, advocates and advisors for a convening on March 29 hosted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women’s Health (HHS/OWH) entitled, “How to Talk About Healthy Weight and Healthy Eating: A Cross-Disciplinary Dialogue on Messaging to Promote Healthy Behaviors and Positive Body Image”. This meeting served as the latest iteration in implementation of the EDC’s flagship legislation—Anna Westin Act, which passed in 21st Century Cures (P.L. 114-255).

The EDC worked closely with HHS/OWH to bring together a wide array of academicians, researchers, and federal agencies including: Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration, Office of Adolescent School Health, Office of Women’s Health at Health and Human Services, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Conversations were robust and constructive as participants worked to lay a strong foundation for future dialogue between the eating disorders and obesity communities.

“This meeting served as another shining example of the EDC’s leadership and collaborative spirit,” said EDC Board President Chase Bannister, MDIV, MSW, LCSW, CEDS. “There is no doubt the conversations that occurred served as the springboard that propels us forward with deeper understanding, respect, and knowledge across disciplines.”

The EDC will continue to serve as a strong partner with the HHS/OWH and the interagency working group on eating disorders as they actively compile the facilitated feedback to determine next steps.

The Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC) is a Washington, DC-based, federal advocacy organization comprised of advocacy organizations, academics, treatment providers, family/loved ones of children with eating disorders and people experiencing eating disorders nationwide. The EDC advances the recognition of eating disorders as a public health priority throughout the United States. Additional resources can also be found at eatingdisorderscoalition.org.###