



Eating Disorders Leadership Summit Meeting Underscores Collaboration and Commitment to Dialogue

WASHINGTON, D.C. (September 26, 2019)—The Eating Disorders Leadership Summit’s virtual gathering in August highlighted the importance of unity, communication, and collaboration across the field of eating disorders.

The Eating Disorder Leadership Summit (EDLS) consists of organizational leaders from the following organizations: Academy for Eating Disorders (AED), Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness, Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action (EDC), Families Empowered and Supporting Treatment for Eating Disorders (F.E.A.S.T.), International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals (iaedp), National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD), National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), Project HEAL, and Residential Eating Disorders Consortium (REDC). The mission of the EDLS is to promote open dialogue, collaboration, and unity across diverse US and international organizations committed to reducing the suffering of people with eating disorders and their families.

Topics of discussion at the August meeting included a joint project called “Eating Disorders by the Numbers” which will outline a common set of eating disorder related statistics and talking points, which, once finalized and adopted, will be published jointly and housed on the AED website. Additionally, there was discussion surround the importance of respectful and direct engagement with each other and with others across the eating disorders field, to further propel the field forward and diminish the distraction of disrespectful and unproductive dialogue.

“The value of EDLS cannot be overstated,” said Chase Bannister, President of the Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action. “Creating a space where diverse organizations can come together to share knowledge, collaborate, and bridge divides across our communities is powerful work. As stewards for public health, the EDC will continue to be a voice of hope and a creator of change for those affected by eating disorders.”

Eating disorders are a public health problem in the United States and there is a compelling need for improved awareness, decreased stigma, and access to quality care. An estimated 30 million Americans will struggle with an eating disorder, and approximately one person dies every hour from eating disorder complications. More than 70% of those affected will not seek treatment because of stigma, access barriers, misinformation, or inadequate access to quality treatment.

EDLS collaborators meet in-person annually, as well as via periodic virtual meetings to discuss collaboration, communication, and maintain a strong and allied voice to the public and the media. As all EDLS organizational participants are EDC members, the EDC is the directing body of EDLS meetings, with various initiatives led by members facilitating collaboration across organizations. Each organization is welcome to share regular updates from EDLS meetings with their constituents via their social media and governance channels.

The Eating Disorder Leadership Summit (EDLS) first convened in 2016 and is comprised of leaders of diverse national and international organizations across the field of eating disorders, including the Academy for Eating Disorders (AED), Alliance for Eating Disorders Awareness, Eating Disorders Coalition (EDC), Families Empowered and Supporting Treatment for Eating Disorders (F.E.A.S.T.), International Association of Eating Disorders Professionals (iaedp), National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders (ANAD), National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA), Project HEAL, and Residential Eating Disorders Consortium (REDC). The mission of the EDLS is to promote open dialogue, collaboration, and unity across diverse national and international organizations committed to reducing suffering of people with eating disorders and their families.

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