



iSPS-US

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

**The International Society for Psychological & Social Approaches to
Psychosis – US Chapter**

ISPS-US promotes psychological and social approaches to states of mind often called "psychosis" by providing education, training, advocacy, and opportunities for dialogue between service providers, people with lived experience, family members, activists, and researchers.

A word from our

PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



CLAIRE BIEN, BOARD PRESIDENT

2022 was a year of tremendous change for ISPS-US. Thanks to an anonymous bequest made in 2021 to "help support future educational and research efforts that promote humane, comprehensive, and in-depth treatment for individuals suffering from psychosis and extreme states," ISPS-US embarked on a effort to increase organizational capacity and become a greater influence in approaches, understandings, and treatments for "psychosis" and extreme states. Our national search for a new executive director brought us Leah Giorgini, whose lived and professional experience, combined with strong human rights perspectives, presence, creativity, and passion for our organizational mission and values, made her our clear first choice. We were pleased and excited when Julie Kipp, a founding member of ISPS-US, was elected chair of ISPS International in summer 2022, allowing the U.S. to have, over the next several years, a more significant leadership role in the international organization.



LEAH GIORGINI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Upon joining ISPS-US in March 2022, I have been honored to be part of what has been a transformative year for our organization. We have revamped our internal systems and processes to better support the organization's expansion. We are proud to have hired Kristine Vliet as our Operations Director, whose expertise and experience have been invaluable in supporting our work. We have continued to host breakthrough webinars on "psychosis" featuring diverse perspectives, reaching audiences worldwide. Our first hybrid conference in Sacramento was also our first opportunity to meet in person since the pandemic started. It was personally inspiring to share both physical and virtual spaces with like-minded individuals passionate also about rights-based, humane approaches. I am incredibly excited to see where 2023 will take us as our revitalized community comes together to promote new ways of working with and understanding "psychosis."

Last year's EDUCATION

Throughout 2022, ISPS-US continued our webinar program, designed to showcase the multifaceted understandings and approaches to "psychosis." We were honored to feature a diverse lineup of speakers who presented on an array of thought-provoking topics, including human rights, spirituality, psychotherapy, and literary representations. ISPS-US also provided 49% more scholarships to low-income registrants than the previous year.

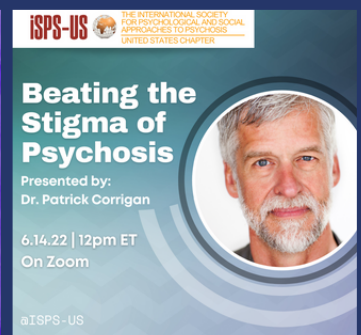
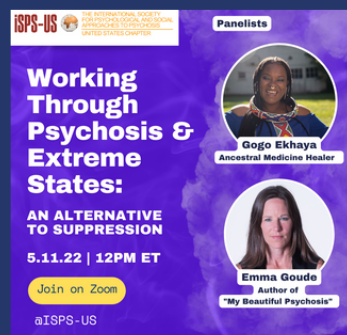
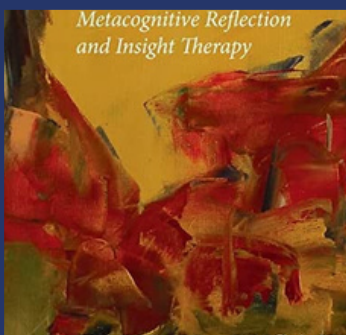
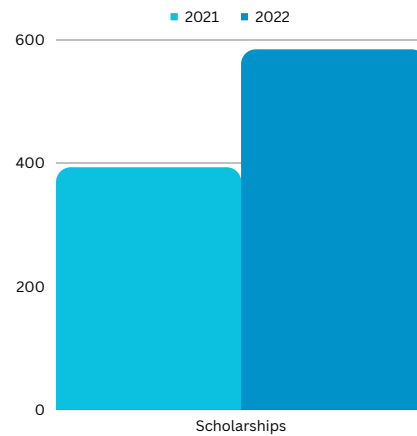
1,486
Audience Members

7
Webinars

"This is wisdom we can all learn from whether or not we experience 'psychosis' or extreme states....very inspiring"
Webinar Attendee, 2022

"Thanks for the webinar... makes me feel really hopeful about future interventions with clients"
Webinar Attendee, 2022

WEBINAR SCHOLARSHIPS (FREE REGISTRATION)



Last year's

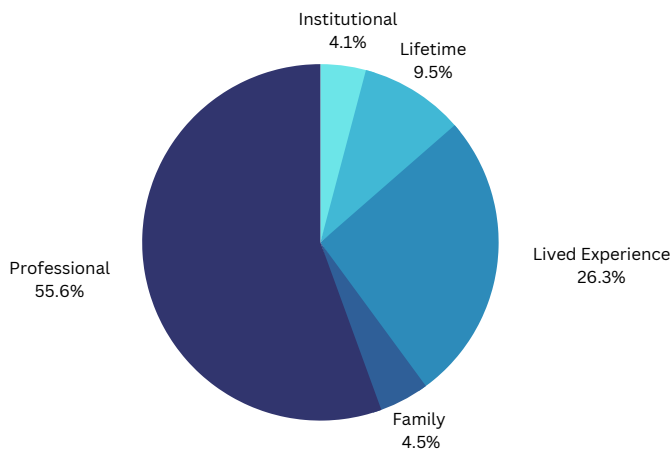
MEMBERSHIPS

ISPS-US membership increased 30% in 2022 and remains diverse, with over a quarter in the lived experience/low-income category.

Our updated 2023 membership form will capture demographic and background data to better understand and track diversity among our members, including race, gender, and those in the professional membership category who also have lived experience.

Members enjoyed a range of ways to connect including the 2022 launch of the ISPS Creative Online Sharing space, featured at the ISPS International Conference and ISPS-US Sacramento Conference, and continuations of our book club and email discussion groups.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES



246

Members at EOY

30%

Increase in members over 2022

ISPS-US THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL APPROACHES TO PSYCHOSIS UNITED STATES CHAPTER

ISPS CREATIVE ONLINE SHARING SPACE (ICOSS)

CREATE SHARE REFLECT CONNECT

TWO OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTEND ON THE 3RD THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH:

12-1:30 PM ET WITH TOSHIKO AND MAXINE
7-8:30 PM ET WITH CLAIRE AND TERESA

EMAIL CONTACT@ISPS-US.ORG TO JOIN

ICOSS is:

- An online interest group for ISPS members
- A space to share creative expression of all kinds
- Non-judgemental, welcoming of all perspectives

ICOSS members say:

- "I felt heard"
- "I am finding my own voice"
- "The arts offer the power of self-discovery"
- "The arts can be healing"
- "A sense of community and safety"
- "A thoughtful energy"

"As an organization that includes clinicians, people with lived experience and family members there's always a rich cross pollination of ideas going on... enriching, stimulating, inspiring, there is no other organization like it." - Member, 2022

Last year's

CONFERENCE

"Opportunity Through Experience: Psychosis, Extreme States, and Possibilities for Transformation" was an inspiring three-day event featuring talks, workshops, and community building.

The conference was held in Sacramento, CA, from November 4-6, and was facilitated as a hybrid event, our first event with an in-person component since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Through the use of new technology, we were able to reach people from all over the world. The event proved to be a valuable learning experience for ISPS-US, and we intend to apply the lessons learned to our future conferences, in order to make them as impactful and successful as possible.

ISPS-US also takes this opportunity to mark the passing of Celia Brown, who so sadly passed away just weeks after appearing as a keynote speaker at our 2022 conference. Rest in Power.

328

Attendees
(Up from 197 in 2021)

Conference feedback:

"[N]on-medicalized approaches to treating psychosis will be readily welcomed by my team and boost morale, as well as encourage deeper consideration and work"

"I found the combination of clinicians and people with lived experience, and the way the conference seemed to genuinely embrace and center multiples types of "expertise" to be invaluable and deeply refreshing."

"I believe my participation in the conference broadened my understandings of intersectionality and perspectives on approaches to providing support as a "peer support specialist/peer professional". Additionally, I expanded my understanding of the experience of "altered states/psychosis/unshared or alternative realities"



"The stories of lived experiences radically changed my views on how to practice psychiatry" - Conference Attendee, 2022

Last year's

ADVOCACY

Two months before the ISPS-US conference in Sacramento, the Californian state governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 1338, the "CARE court" bill into law. It empowers providers, family members and first responders to petition for court orders that will enforce treatment on "people with schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders.

As an organization that promotes humane psychological and social approaches to psychosis, ISPS-US released a press release inviting Sacramento's Mayor, who supported the bill, to our conference. The press release was titled *Mayor Steinberg: There are better ways to care than CARE Courts.*

Press Release Excerpt

Humane treatment is not rocket science; and there is much that we already know.

- *That respecting the agency of people from diverse backgrounds and marginalized groups is paramount to unravelling the systemic oppression that makes them sick.*
- *That the "mentally ill" are too often disregarded in movements supporting diversity.*
- *That coercive interventions, including forced treatments, overmedication and unnecessary hospitalization, are correlated with less likelihood of recovery.*
- *That coercive practices will impact people of color the most*
- *That psychological and social approaches are more effective in restoring personhood and health.*
- *That psychological and social approaches are less expensive over time to provide than coercive "quick fix," practices that treat people as objects first, rather than as subjects.*



Panel Discussion

ISPS-US hosted "Psychosis & Homelessness: CARE Court Panel Discussion" at the 2022 Sacramento Conference. Presenting were ISPS-US Executive Director, Leah Giorgini, MS, CalVoices Assistant Director Matt Gallagher, JD, and Kathleen Herling, MS. The panel discussed their perspectives from places of lived experience, as advocates, and clinicians experienced working with houseless populations.



Webinar

A couple of weeks prior to the conference, ISPS-US hosted *Psychosis and Homelessness: Resisting Coercion, Promoting Human Rights* with Eve Garrow, Homelessness Policy Analyst and Advocate from ACLU Southern California, and Deborah K. Padgett, Professor at NYU Silver, researcher, and author of *Housing First: Ending Homelessness, Changing Systems and Transforming Lives.*

The speakers presented the evidence base behind non-coercive approaches to homelessness, such as "housing first."

"Around the US and world... programs have emerged that are offering superior treatment outcomes in ways that do not coerce vulnerable or marginalized populations." ISPS-US Press Release, 2022

Last year's

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

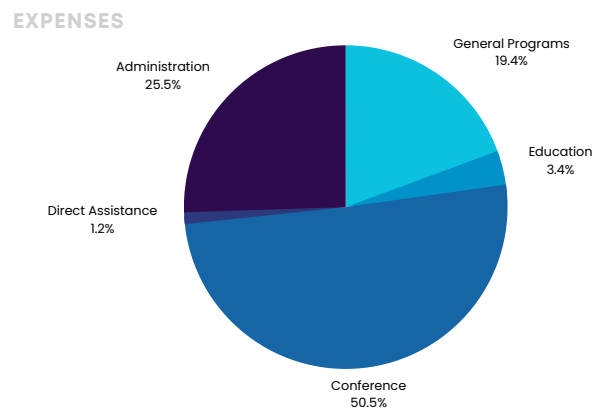
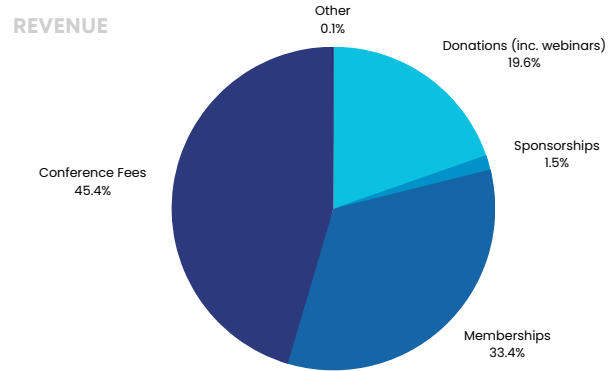
In 2021, ISPS-US received a generous bequest from a passionate supporter, which enabled us to make strategic investments toward our organization's growth and future. In 2022, we expanded our staffing from 0.5 to 1.0 FTE by hiring an Operations Director alongside our Executive Director. We also successfully trialed new technologies during our hybrid conference and acquired essential infrastructure such as a constituent relationship management system and professional bookkeeping and accounting services.

These strategic investments have set the stage for continued expansion, growth and innovation. Already, ISPS-US has increased our membership, benefits, organizational relationships, and programs. In 2023 we seek to further diversify our revenue.

281%
Increase in individual donations from 2021

132%
Increase in donation revenue* from 2021
*individual, non- bequest

Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/2023	
ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	\$184,338
Paypal	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$184,338
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	\$1,979
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(\$64)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$186,317



*2022 Administration costs are higher than previous years includes one-off expenses: infrastructure improvement and financial review

"I am deeply committed to subverting the current groundless and harmful paradigm and practice of "mental health care" so that we can instead promote actual care that respects people's dignity and autonomy and recognizes the importance to well-being of supporting people in addressing practical human needs like connectedness, housing, personally meaningful activity, and income. I am so glad to connect with others who are aligned in this mission!" Donor, 2022

Looking to

THE FUTURE OF ISPS-US

After dedicating 2022 to rebuilding and laying the groundwork, we're excited to announce that 2023 is the year we bring our vision to life.

Our goal is to challenge the biomedical reductionism often associated with "psychosis" by promoting alternative approaches. We're committed to amplifying the voices of those with lived experience and tapping into the collective wisdom of our community. Our advocacy efforts will extend beyond our current circles of influence to a national scale. We welcome you to join us on this journey and explore our plans for 2023 listed below.



Advocacy

ISPS-US's will expand upon our advocacy efforts, with the help of our newly formed advocacy committee. Together we will advocate for humane, rights-based social and psychological approaches to "psychosis." We will also identify other agencies to form alliances with, maximizing our collective power.

Education

As well as continuing our successful webinars, ISPS-US is working on creating short courses in cutting-edge psychological and social approaches to psychosis. We hope these courses will help create a paradigm shift, and be highly accessible and affordable to all. Watch out also for our 2023 hybrid conference coming to Newark, Delaware and online from October 27-29.



Membership

ISPS-US will revitalize our membership benefits with more opportunities to connect and build community. We have started regular "community chat" events and look forward to beginning our Trans-theoretical Peer Supervision group in April 2023.

Website

With all the exciting growth and expansion ISPS-US is experiencing, we would be remiss not to have our online home reflective of this new energy. ISPS-US's website is in the middle of being revamped to be easier to use and navigate, with a fresh new look that embodies our mission.



Thank you to our

SUPPORTERS

ISPS-US BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Claire Bien - President, Marie Brown - Vice President, Nancy Burke - Secretary, Halle Thurnauer - Treasurer, Bret Fimiani, Julie Kipp, Denise Maratos, Ron Unger.

2022 LIFETIME MEMBERS

Ronald Abramson, Jessica Arenella, Marie Brown, Nancy Burke, John Thor Cornelius, Martin A. Cosgro, Charles Feldman, Bruce Flagg, Michael D. Garrett, Tina Ireland, Barbara S. Kane, Robert Kirk, Eric R. Marcus, Nancy McWilliams, Louisa Putnam, Navraaj Sandhu, Constance Shope, Stuart B. Silver, Ross Tappen, Ruvanee Vilhauer, Leslie A. Wolowitz.

2022 SPONSORS

Alliant International University, California School of Professional Psychology, Advocacy Unlimited, Ron Unger LCSW

2022 DONORS

Colleen J. Allison, Jessica Arenella, Catherine Adams, Barri Ann Belnap, Ariel Benson, Claire Bien, Kenneth Blatt, Marie Brown, Kirsten Byrnes, Jane Christol, Amy Colley, Ben Cooley Hall, Tim Dreby, Michael Eigen, Andrew Fleming, Toni J. Fudge, Charles Fuller III, Gabriel Fields, Thomas E. Fink, Cynthia Fisher, Stephanie Greer, James E. Gorney, Leah Giorgini, Murphy Halliburton, Jamie Hatzis, Leah Harris, Debbie Holderle, Edward Hug, Tina Ireland, Jacob Kader, Maurine Kelber Kelly, Robert Kayne, Julie Kipp, Toshiko Kobayashi, Brigitte Ladisch, Ruth Leibik, Luiza Lodder, Christine W. Lynn, Denise Maratos, James A. Marley, Cherry Maurer, Lorraine McKenzie, Christopher Meyer, Yulia Mikhailova, Sylvia Mitsopoulos, Ita O'Sullivan, Shannon Peterson, Samantha Reznik, Carsten Ribbe, Manny Rich, Mark Richardson, Rocio Lorena Ruiz, Richard C. Sanko, Judy Schermer, Diane Schaffer, Althea Schoen, Laura Lee Scott, Burton N. Seitler, Jeanne L. Seitler, Donald Sherak, Catherine Siegel, Felicia Sitrin, Alex Smith-Michaels, Ross Tappen, Gladys Valdez, Linda Voith, Andrea Wanger, Harry Wells Fogarty, David W. Wilson, Victoria Yoshen, Sara Zoeterman.

We thank you for your continued support.