



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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A group of people are sitting in a circle in a room, possibly a meeting or discussion. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The people are engaged in conversation, with some looking towards the center and others looking towards each other. The room has a modern, minimalist feel with a white wall and a dark floor. There are some lights visible on the ceiling.

WE ARE REDEFINING PSYCHOSIS.

**WE ARE REIMAGINING MENTAL
HEALTH CARE.**

WE ARE ISPS-US.

OUR MISSION:

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.

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear ISPS-US Community,

As I look back on the past year, I feel deeply grateful for the ISPS-US community. At a time when providing mental health care at the intersection of other societal systems can feel increasingly challenging, our work has stayed rooted in relationship, meaning, and the belief that people deserve support that honors their full humanity.

Our annual conference in Chicago brought that spirit to life. Connecting with local clinicians, peers, and advocates reminded me of the incredible work happening there, often under difficult conditions. Despite the backdrop of a record-breaking government shutdown and Midwestern snow, the ISPS-US community still showed up in force to produce one of our most insightful programs to date. The sense of togetherness and mutual support was palpable.

For me personally, this year provided multiple "full circle" moments as our educational programming featured thinkers who shaped my own journey. From being inspired by Peter Bullimore's story as a young person seeking to understand my own experiences, to first reading Dirk Corstens' contributions in *50 Stories of Recovery* as an early-career First Episode Psychosis Team member, and later integrating Philip Yanos's stigma research into my graduate studies, it was a privilege to feature voices such as these that have been so formative to my own journey.

We also marked a leadership transition this year. Our Operations Director, Leon Fisher, retired shortly after our Chicago conference. I want to thank him for his service and wish him the very best in his next chapter.

Thank you to our members, donors, presenters, volunteers, and partners who showed up for ISPS-US this year. Your presence makes this work possible, and it is a privilege to work alongside you.



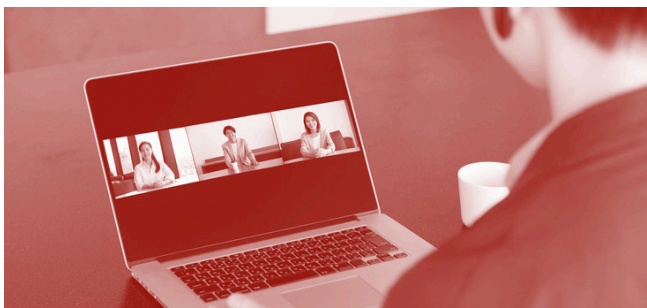
Leah Giorgini, Executive Director



EDUCATION

In 2025, ISPS-US expanded its educational programming by 22%, hosting 28 webinars and workshops that reached more than 40,000 people through live attendance and recorded views. A significant milestone this year was the introduction of continuing education credits for all offerings, alongside a recent transition from live-only access to now also including recorded content. Together, these developments allow us to build a permanent, accredited educational resource for practitioners committed to challenging the dominant biomedical paradigm through learning grounded in lived experience, emerging research, and global best practices.

Our curriculum addressed a wide range of core clinical, theoretical, and ethical questions in contemporary psychosis care. Programming featured structured approaches such as Narrative Enhancement Cognitive Therapy to address internalized stigma, the Maastricht Interview for voice hearing, and Social Recovery Therapy developed in the UK. Additional sessions explored philosophical perspectives on delusions, psychoanalytic understandings of psychophobia, and critical debates surrounding coercion and involuntary treatment.



40,009
People
Reached

28

Webinars &
Workshops



EDUCATION

2025 Webinars & Courses



Attendee Feedback

"This was an incredibly powerful training for me. I have a history of many hospitalizations, and I could relate to the situations described. The chat felt like a community. I really appreciated the training and dialogue."

- Webinar Participant

"The presenter exuded empathy, curiosity, and a desire to really understand. I loved that individuals with lived experience also participated. It offered such a unique experience as part of a training, which will stay with me as a clinician."

- Course Participant

- **January 10:** Clinical Introduction to Narrative Enhancement and Cognitive Therapy (NECT) – Dr. Philip Yanos
- **January 16:** Trauma, Psychosis, and Recovery Through Psychological Therapy – Dr. David van den Berg
- **February 8:** Drunk On Too Much Life: Film Screening and Q&A – Michelle Melles & Pedro Orrego
- **February 16:** Psychoanalytic/Psychodynamic Clinical Consultation Group with Chicago Center of Psychoanalysis
- **March 5:** Talking to Voices: AVATAR Therapy for Auditory Verbal Hallucinations – Dr. Thomas Jamieson-Craig
- **March 21 – April 4:** Social Recovery Therapy Course – Dr. Joanne Hodgkins
- **April 10:** Involuntary Commitment and its Potential Impacts: A Multidisciplinary Dialogue – Dr. Pim Welle, Dr. Morgan Shields, & Dr. Awais Aftab
- **June 5:** Psychophobia: Psychosis, Agency, and Radical Freedom – Dr. Michael Montgomery
- **July 22 – July 30:** Maastricht Interview for Hearing Voices (4 sessions) – Peter Bullimore
- **August 13:** Talking with Voices: A Survivor-Informed Dialogical Approach – Dr. Dirk Corstens & Dr. Alison Branitsky
- **October 7:** Depathologizing Delusions and Conspiracy Theories – Dr. Lisa Bortolotti
- **November 7:** Psychosis, Trauma, and Psychotherapy – Dr. Michael Garrett
- **December 3:** Intruders in the Mind: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Thought Insertion – Dr. Clara Humpson, Dr. Matthew Broome, Dr. Pablo López-Silva.

CONFERENCE

The 2025 ISPS-US Annual Conference took place from November 8–9, 2025, at the University of Illinois Chicago, with pre-conference activities held on November 7 at the Fine Arts Building and Center of Mad Culture. The conference theme, *From Fragmentation to Connection in Psychosis and Society*, took on added relevance as the event coincided with a complex series of external disruptions, systemic pressures, and city-wide challenges.

Despite these logistical and social hurdles, 214 in-person attendees and 109 virtual participants joined us for this vital gathering. Plenaries and breakout sessions engaged deep questions of fragmentation, connection, and collective healing. Keynote addresses by Tanya Luhrmann, Jonathan Metz, Candice NunnTelfort, and Sasha Warren helped anchor conversations that bridged lived experience, social context, and clinical practice.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we awarded 36 conference scholarships and exceeded our Together We Rise scholarship campaign goal, raising \$4,423.61. These funds expanded access and reinforced the conference's role as a key space for connection, learning, and shared commitment to more humane and socially grounded approaches to psychosis.

323

Attendees

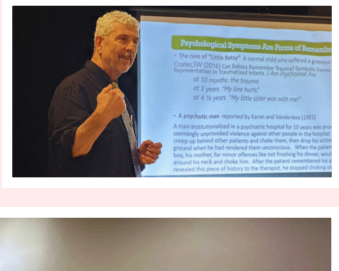
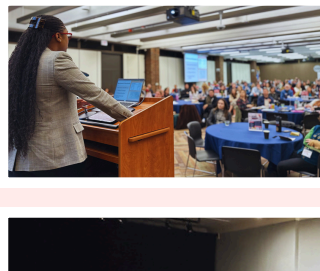
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Speakers



"I think that this conference was one of the best that ISPS has put forth in many years. This was a combination of "how to" strengthen skills while integrating lived experience and applying real life strategies to clinical work and advocacy." - Conference Attendee

CONFERENCE



MEMBERSHIP

In 2025, ISPS-US continued to grow, with membership increasing by 9%, highlighting the expanding reach of our community. Our members continue to represent a wide range of perspectives, with 21.5% identifying as having lived experience of psychosis. This year, we expanded opportunities for connection by launching two new member groups: the *Family Support Group* and the *Research Interest Group*. We are grateful to the dedicated volunteer facilitators whose efforts make these vital spaces possible.

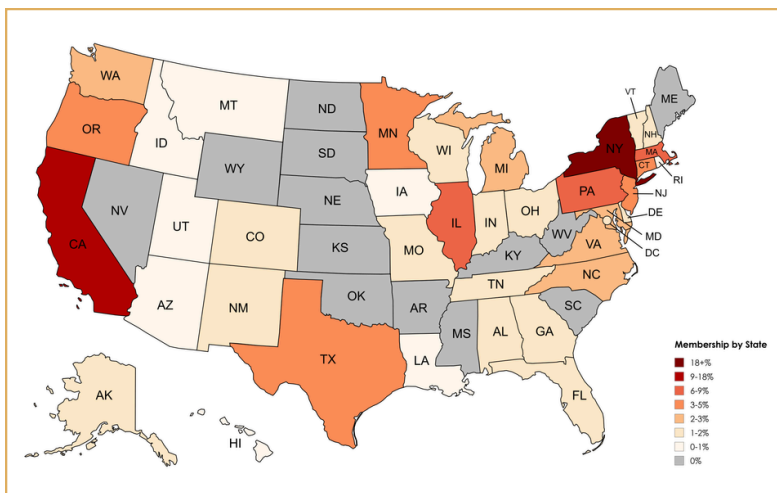
TYPES OF EXPERIENCE	
Service Provider	67.1%
Researcher / Academic / Student	38.3%
Person with Lived Experience of "Psychosis"	21.5%
Family Member of Someone with Lived Experience	19.9%
Other	3.1%

Percentages are calculated based on the total number of responses to each category. As members can select more than one category to describe their role and experience, the total percentage exceeds 100%

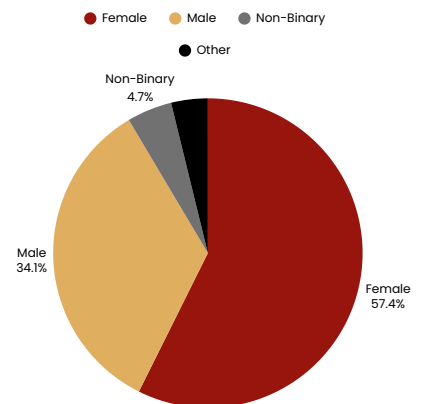
413
Memberships
across 2025

9%
Increase
2024-25

Percentage of Membership by US State



Gender



MEMBERSHIP - CREATIVE GROUPS

ISPS-US's offers opportunities for connection, reflection and feedback for creatives through our groups ISPS Creative Online Sharing Space (ICOSS) and Life Writing. The following pieces are examples of those created by our group members. View more on our website, under membership.



King of Pain

By !Ojo! and ?Free Krypto?

4 Questions, 10/10/23

Where is the moon when we are blind?
How does direction work?
Where is the Sun to the starving?
If I saw you again for a moment,
would I be more or less
afraid of dying?
(Scott Norman Rosenthal)

ADVOCACY

In 2025, ISPS-US sharpened its focus on resisting the national trend toward coercive care while championing rights-aligned alternatives. We directly engaged state legislatures by submitting formal testimony to **New York, Oregon, and California** lawmakers, urging them to reject the expansion of involuntary commitment in favor of evidence-based, voluntary supports like **Housing First** and **peer-led crisis teams**. Nationally, we joined disability rights allies in calling on Congress to protect **Medicaid** and **Mental Health Parity**, and we endorsed the **PEER Support Act** to ensure the wisdom of lived experience remains a properly resourced cornerstone of the mental health workforce.

Our Advocacy Committee also worked to shift the clinical and public narrative surrounding psychosis. We formally welcomed the **WHO's 2025 Guidance on Mental Health Policy and Strategic Action Plans** and submitted a rebuttal to the **New York Times** to challenge the false claim that medication is the only evidence-based treatment for schizophrenia. From advocating for the **Written Informed Consent Act** for veterans to providing public comment on the **APA's statement to reduce seclusion and restraint**, ISPS-US remained a steady voice for a more humane system. We are proud of these efforts and remain committed to a future where autonomy, choice, and dignity are the standards of care.



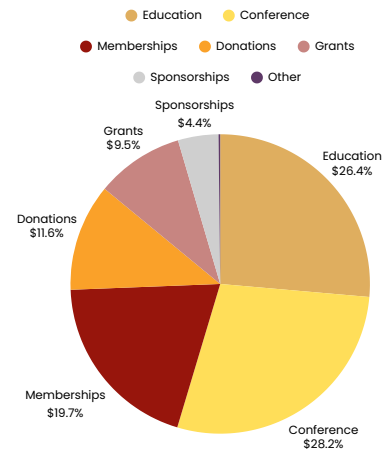
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ISPS-US concluded 2025 with \$147,787 in total assets and \$144,343 in net assets. This strong financial foundation was supported by a 15% increase in individual donors and a 23% rise in sponsorship revenue, reflecting a consistent base of support for our mission. While 2025 presented a challenging landscape for the nonprofit sector, we remained resilient through strategic cost-saving measures. A key transition involved moving our continuing education (CE) model from live events to recorded content, which reduced overhead and established a permanent library of educational resources. Our 2026 budget reflects this disciplined approach, prioritizing long-term stability and measured growth.

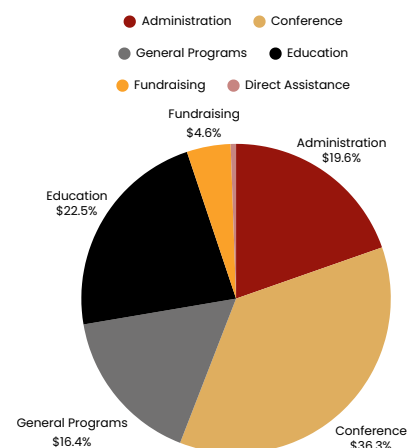
Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/2025

ASSETS	
Bank Accounts	\$48,773
Investments	\$98,490
Fixed Operating Assets (FOA)	\$2,284
Depreciation - FOA	(\$2,284)
Other Assets	\$523.56
TOTAL ASSETS	\$147,787
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,444
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$144,343
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$147,787

2025 INCOME BY SOURCE



2025 EXPENSES BY CATEGORY



15%

Increase in Individual Donors

23%

Increase in Sponsorships

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

ISPS-US 2025 Board of Directors

Marie Brown - President, Nancy Burke - Vice President, Lindsey Doyle - Secretary, Deb Bushong - Treasurer, Claire Bien, Elan Y Cohen, Sydney Harris, Candice NunnTelfort, MV Perry.

2025 Lifetime Members

Ronald Abramson, Jessica Arenella, Marie Brown, Nancy Burke, Kirsten Byrnes, John Thor Cornelius, Martin A. Cosgro, Charles Feldman, Bruce Flagg, Michael D. Garrett, Ben Cooley Hall, Rebecca Hatton, Noel Hunter, Tina Ireland, Barbara S. Kane, Robert Kirk, Eric R. Marcus, Nancy McWilliams, Louisa Putnam, Navraj Sandhu, Constance Shope, Stuart B. Silver, Ross Tappen, Charles E. Turk, Ruvanee Vilhauer, Leslie A. Wolowitz.

2025 Sponsors

Advocacy Unlimited, Chicago Center of Psychoanalysis, INSPIRE Training at Stanford, Windhorse Integrative Mental Health.

2025 Donors

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2025 Funders

Sidney R. Baer, Jr. Foundation.

We thank you for your continued support.