

## **April 17 and 18, 2006 Data Infrastructure Grant Regional Conference Calls:**

*Northeast Call at 11:00, 4/17/06*

*Midwest/Southern Call at 2:00 and Western Call at 4:00 (EST) 11/18/06*

### **The major agenda items for the calls:**

1. 2006 National Conference on May 30 to June 2 (Olinda Gonzalez, CMHS)
2. Workgroup Reports
  - a. Evidence Based Practices: Vijay Ganju, SDICC/NRI
  - b. Benchmarking: Al Bidorini
  - c. Prevalence: Olinda Gonzalez, CMHS
  - d. Consumer Surveys and NOMs: Ted Lutterman, SDICC/NRI
  - e. Change Measures Workgroup: Ted Lutterman, SDICC/NRI
3. SDICC Technical Assistance Updates
4. Scheduling the May URS/DIG Regional Calls

### **Plans for the 2006 CMHS Joint National Conference (Olinda Gonzalez and Marie Danforth from CMHS Reported):**

1. States should have received their invitations to attend the conference. There are 2 different CMHS logistics contractors arranging travel (one for the Block Grant Planners and one for the data contact). If States have not yet registered:
  1. State Planners should check with their Commissioner's office to obtain conference materials, if they have not yet done so, or call 301-270-0841 and ask for Pat Height.
  2. State data/MIS staff should go to the website <http://www.juc2006.org>
2. There will be several Pre-Conference sessions states may wish to attend on Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a workshop for the Territories, a briefing on the DIG Grants for new attendees, an all day leadership training for Planning Councils, a presentation on URS data on Tuesday afternoon, and a meeting of the MHSIP Policy Group on Thursday. On Friday, June 2, the MHSIP Policy Group will facilitate a "Town Hall Meeting" on transformation.
3. A draft Agenda will be emailed to the DIG listserv latter this month.

### **Evidence-Based Practices Workgroup (Vijay Ganju, SDICC/NRI reported):**

1. States are having improvements in the reporting of EBPs. The number of states reporting Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) has increased from 18 to 20, to 31 states. Supported Employment has increased from 19 to 24 to 29 states reporting. Supported Housing increased from 15 to 22 to 25 states.
  - a. However the other EBPs (especially the child EBPs still have only a few states reporting their implementation.
  - b.
2. The number of consumers being reported as receiving these EBPs still varies widely. Some states are reporting 100% of adults with SMI are receiving an EBP. This raises questions of interpretation of reporting to address.
  - a. Except for Supported Employment and ACT, only a few states report they are measuring the fidelity of EBPs.

3. Calculation of SAMHSA National Outcome Measures (NOMS) related to EBPs. The SAMHSA NOMs is labeled as “Cost Effectiveness”, but then lists 2 specific measures related to EBPs:
  - a. Number of EBPs implemented by states
  - b. Percent of Consumers receiving at least one EBP.

This leads to issues related to how the NOMs should be calculated from URS data and what changes to URS reporting are needed to generate NOMs.

The EBP Workgroup will convene (by phone) prior to the National Conference to start addressing these issues.

**Benchmarking Workgroup:** (Al Bidorini, Connecticut Reported)

The workgroup arranged presentations at the DIG annual meeting of state, county, and federal examples of benchmarking performance measures. The workgroup is exploring follow-up activities to assist SMHAs in their benchmarking work.

The workgroup is planning to develop a resource document of examples of state benchmarking efforts. The resource guide examples may be posted on-line for other states to access. Along with examples of benchmarking, states will be asked to describe several elements of their benchmarking:

1. How did they benchmark
2. What worked? What problems did they face?
3. What resources were needed
4. Did they link with other databases/systems (e.g., with corrections, health data, etc)

The workgroup will meet (by phone) in May 2006, and may have a follow-up face-to-face meeting.

**Prevalence Workgroup** and the Supplements to states for mental health modules in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS): (Olinda Gonzalez Reported)

1. BRFSS will be adding the K6 as an optional module for serious psychological distress to next year’s BRFSS survey. They only have \$1 million for the K6 (less than last year), so CDC will handle adding supplements to states to conduct the K6. CMHS will be notifying states about their selection (and states selected will be eligible for a DIG grant supplement to work with the K6 data). States should be notified in the next 4 weeks.
2. The DIG Prevalence Workgroup met last week with CDC representatives. CDC is willing to work with the DIG Prevalence Workgroup to design a minimum set of standardized reports from the PHQ 8 and other BRFSS modules. These reports would then be run for each state that conducted the PHQ8 module.
3. The workgroup will explore with CDC representatives, how the new mental health modules in the BRFSS can be used to help generate information for the URS Prevalence Table 1 and Need for Mental Health Services (Table 13).

**Consumer Survey Items Workgroup:** (This workgroup has been developing consumer self-report items for 4 of the SAMHSA National Outcome Measures (NOMS): Social Connectedness, Improved Functioning, School Attendance, and Criminal Justice Contacts): Ted Lutterman (SDICC/NRI reported)

At the February Annual URS/DIG meeting, the workgroup presented the results of the testing of new questions related to these four (4) new NOMs. Based on the analysis of the state pilot work, new consumer self-report questions were added to the recommended set of Adult MHSIP Survey and Family YSS-F survey items. The new items included: 4 new questions for Improvement in Functioning, 4 new questions for Social Connectedness, 3 new questions for Criminal/Juvenile Justice Involvement, and 3 questions for School Attendance. CMHS has asked state to add these questions to their next round of consumer surveys.

The Consumer Survey workgroup is planning several steps for this year to support state's use of these new items and the overall consumer survey process:

- **Validation Study:** For several of the NOMs that can be calculated from the consumer survey items, a number of states also have administrative data. The Workgroup plans to work with these states to compare consumer self-report results to the administrative data to look for any biases in reporting. The workgroup is looking for states who are adding the new Consumer Survey items that also have administrative data on either Functioning or Criminal Justice Involvement to participate in the validation study.
  - **Please contact Ted Lutterman at the SDICC/NRI if your state is interested in participating in the Validation study.**
- **Recommending modifications to the consumer surveys:** As the workgroup pilot tested the self report questions related to the 4 new NOMs, it identified a number of areas in the overall MHSIP and YSS-F surveys that they would like addressed. The workgroup is preparing recommendations to the MHSIP Policy Group related to changes (such as aligning scoring between the adult and child/family surveys, dropping unneeded questions, and simplifying wording in some questions). The workgroup's recommendations will be used by the MHSIP Policy Group as they develop version 2 of the MHSIP surveys.
- The workgroup will coordinate and monitor other SAMHSA efforts that use consumer surveys, such as new CMHS GPRA measures for discretionary mental health programs that will use some of the new consumer survey items developed by the URS/DIG workgroup.
- The workgroup will meet by conference call during May. If you are interested in joining the workgroup, or if you have recommendations about any of the issues the workgroup will be addressing, please contact Ted Lutterman at SDICC/NRI or Olinda Gonzalez at CMHS.

**Change Measures Workgroup:** (Employment and Increased Stability in Family and Living Situation) Ted Lutterman, SDICC/NRI reported

Two of the SAMHSA NOMs, are currently being generated from the URS as consumer status measures: (1) Employment: What percent of consumers were competitively employed at their last assessment? And (2) Living Situation: what percent of consumers were living in various living situations at their last assessment? SAMHSA has indicated that they would like to see the reporting of these measures move to “Change over time” measures that would compare employment rates at a T1 to a latter T2.

The Change Measures workgroup met several times last year and this winter and assessed the extent to which states have data for multiple time points for consumers employment and living situations. The workgroup has now been asked to develop recommended change measures for testing.

The workgroup will hold a conference call in May to resume its work. Major issues to address include:

1. What are the best time points for measurement:
  - a. Should T1 be admission, the start of the year, start of the month?
  - b. What should T2 be? Discharge (missing for many states and not relevant for current clients)? Annual update? Quarterly update?
2. How can states operationalize “Stability in Family and Living situation”?

**Technical Assistance Update**

The SDICC held a TA workshop on Unduplication and Unique Client Identifiers on April 3-4, 2006 that was attended by 20 states. The workshop addressed various approaches and examples of how to unduplicate client counts and develop unique identifiers. The workshop also addressed legal restrictions on the development of unique IDs posed by federal statutes such as HIPAA Privacy Rules and 42CFR. All workshop presentations and links to additional resources related to unduplication and unique IDs will be posted on the SDICC website: <http://www.nri-inc.org/SDICC/defsdicc.cfm>

Additional TA on state specific issues related to enhancing state information systems to report and utilize URS data is available from the SDICC/NRI. An application form for TA is available on the SDICC website or interested states can contact SDICC staff.

**Next DIG Regional Calls**

1. Northeast: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 11:00 Eastern
2. Midwest/Southern: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 2:00 Eastern
3. West/Territories: Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 4:00 Eastern