

**May 22, 2007 Data Infrastructure Grant Regional Conference Calls:**  
*Northeast Call at 11:00, Midwest/Southern Call at 2:00 and Western Call at 4:00 (EDT)*

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

1. Report on EBP Measures Workgroup: Vijay Ganju
2. Report on URS/DIG Workgroups: Bernadette Phelan, SDICC/NRI
  - a. T1-T2 Change Measures Workgroup:
  - b. Survey Validation Workgroup
3. Issues related to the December 1, 2006 URS Reporting: Ted Lutterman, SDICC/NRI
4. DIG Supplements for BRFSS Surveys: Olinda Gonzalez, CMHS
5. New Client-Level Data Project: John Morrow, CMHS & Ted Lutterman

1. Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Workgroup: States continue to identify issues related to the reporting of EBPs to the URS. A number of states have asked for additional clarification regarding when to report EBPs. States are concerned that some states measure fidelity and other states do not measure it. Even states that measure fidelity are asking if just measuring fidelity is sufficient, or if a minimum threshold of fidelity is needed before an EBP should be reported to the URS. To address these issues, the NRI is planning a workshop that will be held this summer to address the reporting of EBPs. The proposed workshop will involve both state DIG staff from the EBP committee, along with EBP experts who have developed the EBP models and the EBP fidelity measures. This workgroup will probably meet in August.

2. Validation Workgroup: Criminal Justice Involvement

The WG met briefly on May 16 and reviewed new data analysis from South Carolina and additional data analysis from Wisconsin. Several observations were made, including a pattern showing a higher rate of arrest using survey data if the information for the administrative data is reported by the provider as opposed to data from criminal justice agency.

The WG will continue to review data from OK and CO. A tentative conference call is to be held in the week of June 11<sup>th</sup>. After this meeting, a WG report will be written and disseminated to the group. The SDICC is recommending to SAMHSA to convene a meeting of criminal justice experts to solicit comments on the findings of the WG and guidance in evaluating the method in which this measure is currently reported.

Validation Workgroup: Improved Functioning

The WG did not meet during May. Colorado is preparing data analyses of the relationship between functioning measures maintained in client records and the Consumer Survey module results. The workgroup will meet in June by conference call to continue its work.

### T1 and T2 Employment Change Measure:

The WG did not meet in May but most likely will convene in June. The SDICC has completed 3 of the 5 states data (the 4<sup>th</sup> will be completed this week) to be presented to the WG.

### **3. 2006 URS Output Tables: Lutterman:**

In March, the NRI SDICC sent out each state copies of the 2006 URS Output Reports for their final review. Two sets of tables were sent to each state: (1) the single year reports with detailed tables for each URS Tables, and (2) Multi-year Reports that show URS data for the last 4 years for many URS Tables. States are asked to complete their review and send any corrections or additional data by April 13, 2007. States also have an opportunity to submit additional footnotes or comments about their tables. Most states have responded, but a few states are still reviewing the data or sending in revised data. States are encouraged to finalize their review of the tables in the next couple of weeks. Even if your state has no changes to make, please then notify the SDICC that your data is “okay”.

### **4. BRFSS K-6 and Stigma Module Workshop:**

The SDICC is working closely with CMHS on a workshop that will assist states to better understand the BRFSS Mental Health and Stigma Module. The module has been funded for implementation this year in 35 states. This one-day workshop, which be held on September 10<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria, Virginia. This workshop will provide:

- a) information on recent research work and issues related to the prevalence of mental illness and stigma, including a review of the SMI definition;
- b) historical perspective in the development of the K-6 and stigma module; and
- c) basic understanding of the BRFSS module data.

The SDICC can sponsor only 1 representative per state from each of the 35 states conducting the BRFSS K6 and Stigma Module. The SDICC has sent invitations to all 35 qualifying states. You may express your interest by e-mailing us (Ted or Bernadette). Please let us know if you plan to send more than one person. The state will be responsible in finding the funds to support the additional person.

### **5. New CMHS Project on Client-Level Data:**

John Morrow and Ted Lutterman described a new project being initiated by CMHS to explore the feasibility and issues involved in reporting mental health NOMs via client-level data reported by SMHAs. The NRI has been tasked by CMHS to prepare 3 reports over the next few months.

- a. A report detailing the use of the URS for calculating mental health NOMs, with a focus on issues related to consistency and standardization of reporting by states and comparing how the URS calculates NOMS measures with other SAMHSA NOMS initiatives. The NRI will be using a new State Profiles NOMS survey to gather information on state ratings of the utility and burden and levels of standardization of

- state reporting. States are encouraged to complete the Profiles NOMS questions and sent them to NRI by early June. Please contact Ted Lutterman with any questions.
- b. The NRI will prepare a second report that addresses the capacity of states to submit client-level data to be used to generate the NOMs. For this report, the NRI will prepare a report on the types of client level data maintained by states, as well as the frequency with which such data are updated and the information systems that support the data. The report will also address privacy and other concerns with client level reporting. A revised State Profiles Information Management component will be sent to the states in early June to help compile information for this report. This report will likely lead to a 2-year pilot study to work with a small group (5-7) states to test the feasibility of their reporting NOMs data via client-level data.
  - c. A report on the Mental Health Block Grant Expenditures and Activities of States will be prepared. The NRI is currently analyzing every state's annual Mental Health Block Grant Application and Implementation Report and is developing an outline for this new report for CMHS. The report will help CMHS better describe the specific uses of the MHBG by each state. A work session on this report will be held at the CMHS Joint National Conference on May 30, 2007 from 4:45 to 6:00. All interested state staff are encouraged to participate in this session to provide guidance in the development of this new report.

#### **6. Next DIG Regional Calls**

The next round of Regional Calls will be held on June 26 at 11:00 EST for the Eastern Region, at 2:00 EST for the South/Midwest Region and 4:00 EST for the Western Region.