

**November 9, 2006 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. Issues related to the December 1, 2006 URS Reporting: Ted Lutterman, SDICC/NRI
2. Report on URS/DIG Workgroups: Bernadette Phelan, SDICC/NRI
  - a. T1-T2 Change Measures Workgroup:
  - b. Survey Validation Workgroup
3. February Annual DIG Meeting: Olinda Gonzalez, CMHS
4. Status of DIG Supplements for BRFSS Surveys: Olinda Gonzalez, CMHS

**December 1, 2006 URS Reporting Questions:**

Each of the three Regional Calls devoted time to answering questions from states about reporting the 2006 URS data. Mr. Lutterman started the discussion by reminding the states that a revised set of URS Excel Spreadsheets for the December 2006 reporting were e-mailed to states in October and are available at the SDICC website at:

<http://www.nri-inc.org/SDICC/SDICC06/06files.cfm>

The on-line data entry and editing system is now up and running at the NRI's website for states that elect to enter the data that way.

Issues that were raised by states include:

1. Table 6 now includes categories of Length of Stay of "Up to one year" and "1 year and over". Where should a person with a Length of Stay of exactly 1 year be included?  
**Recommendation:** include them in the first category (Up to one year LOS).
2. Table 11 Consumer Survey Results: One state asked about how to report results for their survey since they conduct a stratified random sample that includes many more responses for one provider that was heavily over sampled this year.
  - a. A number of other states reported they also conduct stratified random samples where particular providers may be over-sampled.  
**Recommendation:** Stratified sample results should be reported on URS Table 11 (and when applicable on Table 9) by adjusting the number of positive responses (numerator) and the number of Total Responses (denominator) to adjust the results to the overall system characteristics (e.g., if a program represents 15% of the overall system, but was over-sampled and represents 50% of the sample size, the results should be adjusted so the program only accounts for 15% of the total responses.
3. Table 18: New Generation Medications information will not be available by December 1, but will be available shortly after that date. Can they report the information when they get it in Mid-December?  
**Recommendation:** Yes, please report the missing data as soon as it is available. Instead of reporting incomplete or inaccurate information on December 1, for one table, instead add a note to the table that the complete data will be submitted by December 15<sup>th</sup> (or the date you expect the information to be available).

4. One state reported they are using the new Social Connectedness items but they were added to their Consumer Surveys while the surveying was already in progress. They have several thousand responses for the Table 11 questions, but only a few hundred Social Connectedness responses. Should they only submit data on Table 11 for which they have all data? Or should they report different numbers of responses on Table 11 (using all responses) from Table 9 (only the Social Connectedness responses)?  
**Recommendation:** They should report all consumer survey responses on Table 11 and then all available Social Connectedness responses (the couple hundred) on Table 9.
5. Table 11a: Consumer Survey Results by Race/Ethnicity: One state asked: We ask the questions of Race and Ethnicity as two (2) separate questions: (1) Race and (2) Hispanic Origin. How should we report the Hispanic Responses on Table 11:

Table 11a reflects that the Adult MHSIP Survey had used a single combined race/ethnicity question that treated “Hispanic” as a race. Therefore Table 11a was designed to allow reporting using the recommended MHSIP question. However, the recent revisions to the MHSIP Survey (with the development of the Social Connectedness and Functioning modules) had recommended changing the Adult MHSIP to the 2 question format of (1) race and (2) Hispanic Origin. But, we know many states are still using the old single format question.

**Recommendation:** (1) If you use the old 1 question for Race (including Hispanic as a race), complete Table 11a as provided in the Excel sheet. (2) If you used the new 2 question format, please list all the responses by race, and then list the number of responses by persons who were of Hispanic Origin in the last column (Hispanic). If you do this, the calculated Totals will double count the Hispanic Responses (since they were already included in the Race responses). Please do 2 things: (1) overwrite the total calculations to exclude the last columns (Hispanic) and (2) add a “Note” that your state used the 2 question format for Race and Hispanic Origin.

**NOMs Consumer Survey Items Validation Workgroup (new workgroup):** Bernadette reported on the conference calls of the workgroup that is developing a testing plan to validate the Criminal Justice and Functioning Consumer Survey modules compared to administrative data. The workgroup calls are developing a study design to work with states that have both administrative data and who implemented the new consumer survey modules.

The NRI will be sending out a study design that outlines the analyses to be conducted and requests states to either submit the data needed for the analysis to the NRI, or to conduct the comparisons in state and send results to the NRI. A draft of the study design will be completed and sent to the workgroup shortly. Any states that have both administrative data on either arrests or functioning measures who also implemented the recommended survey modules is encouraged to join this study.

**Change Measures Duration Workgroup:** (Employment and Increased Stability in Family and Living Situation). The workgroup met again in November by conference call to develop a work

plan and study design to test the effects of duration of various time intervals for measuring change between at Time 1 (T1) and Time 2 (T2). The workgroup is currently addressing:

**What are the appropriate time intervals to measure change?** T1 and T2 should be either calculated for a 12 month interval (or possibly 6 months). The workgroup recommended that volunteer states analyze their data and report back to see how much difference there is in observed changes at the different intervals. States can also participate by submitting data to NRI for analysis. A study protocol will be issued by NRI.

We are looking for a few states that update the Employment and/or Living Situation of consumers on a frequent status (at least every 6 months) to participate in a special analysis. The goal of the analysis is to determine what existing state data suggests as an appropriate time intervals to measure change in public systems.

#### **Prevalence Workgroup and State Grant Supplements for BRFSS Modules:**

Olinda reported that States applying to the DIG Supplement Grant Application this summer were notified in Mid October regarding award notification. The DIG Supplement awards are a second round in the SAMHSA/CDC Intra-Agency Agreement where 35 states will in 2007 be implementing the Mental Health and Stigma Module through the BRFSS and State Public Health Agencies.....and 20 DIG grantees have been funded to provide coordination and data analyses related to the project. The Mental Health and Stigma module includes the K6 questions on serious psychological distress.

If your state is one of the 20 states to receive this supplement, please review the Remarks section on the first page of the NOGA for requested re-budgeting, and send it as soon as possible to Gwen Simpson, Grants Management, preferably by email- [gwen.simpson@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:gwen.simpson@samhsa.hhs.gov).

You will need to provide a brief narrative on how the total budget will be spent, provide a new budget with budget justifications for each line item. Please review the bullets in the original RFA for areas of effort allowable. If you have program content questions, please call Olinda at 240-276-1762, and if you have budget or grants management questions, please contact Gwen Simpson by email.

There have been discussions between CMHS and the CDC to develop preliminary analyses of the PHQ-8 module in states, and more information will be provided as this develops. There will be opportunity to have a workshop on the Mental Health and Stigma Module in the spring of 2007, and the SDICC is working on ways to further incorporate addressing of the PHQ-8 analyses this fall.

#### **DIG/URS National Meeting:**

Olinda announced that the DIG National Meeting will be in the Washington, DC area on February 14 and 15, 2007. The DIG annual meeting will be held immediately following the NRI's annual State Mental Health Services Research Conference. Each DIG grantee is expected to send two participants: The state MH Planner and the DIG Grant PI.

The DIG meetings will run from 2:00 EST on February 14 to 5:30 PM on February 15<sup>th</sup>. A block of rooms for the meeting have been reserved at the Hilton Washington Hotel. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE YOUR OWN TRAVEL AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS. To make hotel accommodations, please contact the hotel at [1-800-HILTONS](tel:1-800-HILTONS) and mention the NRI Annual Conference. Indicate which nights you are staying and be prepared to give a credit card number to hold your reservation.

Also, the NRI has set up an on-line registration system so we can track registrations and prepare appropriate meeting materials and participants lists. To register for the DIG Annual Meeting, please go to: <http://www.nri-inc.org/ConfMeet/defconf.cfm> . Note, there is no registration fee for the DIG Annual Meeting.

Dr. Gonzalez reviewed the proposed agenda items and will be sending out a proposed agenda shortly.

CMHS has indicated that attendees of the DIG Annual Meeting who also wish to attend the NRI's Research Conference may use DIG funds to cover additional hotel nights to attend the NRI conference, but cannot use DIG funds to cover meeting registration expenses.

#### **Next DIG Regional Calls**

The next round of Regional Calls will be held on Thursday, December 14 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.