

Meeting of the Pacific Jurisdictions to Improve the Utility, Appropriateness, and Reporting of the Mental Health National Outcome Measures

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

Washington D.C.

Meeting Summary¹

Participants

Representatives from American Samoa, Guam, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, SAMHSA/CMHS, SAMHSA/ CSAT, SAMHSA's Office of the Administrator, HRSA, and NRI participated in the meeting. Please see List of Meeting Participants for names of attendees.

Review of the 2008 Pacific Jurisdictions' URS Reporting Capacity

- In general, the reporting capacity of the Pacific Jurisdictions has shown sustained improvement since 2002. In 2008, all Jurisdictions reported URS data except for the Northern Mariana Islands (the first for the Mariana Islands since 2002).
- The number of Jurisdictions reporting data for the 2008 mental health NOMS is shown below:

NOM	Number of Jurisdictions Reporting
Increased Access to Services	5
Employment	5
Evaluation of Care (adult/youth)	3
Social Connectedness (adult/youth)	3
Improved Functioning (adult/youth)	3
Living Situation	3
Evidence-Based Practices	3
30/180 Days Readmission (State Hospital)	0
Readmission (General Hospital)	1
Criminal Justice Involvement	0
School Attendance	0

Review of the Pacific Jurisdictions Workgroup Discussions

The meeting participants reviewed the PJ Workgroup (WG) conference call discussions and proposed plan of actions. The four mental health NOMS that were discussed are Employment, Living Situation, Social Connectedness, and Criminal Justice Involvement. The objective of this meeting was to get a consensus on the NOMS modification and devise a plan of action that will advance SAMHSA's initiative toward improving the appropriateness and utility of the NOMS to the Pacific Jurisdictions.

¹ Refer to the Appendix of this report for background/discussion materials, list of participants, and power point presentations given at the meeting.

EMPLOYMENT

Employed Status Definition: Meeting participants did not have any revisions on the WG’s proposed definition, as follows:

“Employed includes all persons who meet the definition of competitive employment and those engaged in productive activities (regardless of the amount of time spent) that provide subsistence living for the person and his/her family either in monetary or non-monetary form. Productive activities include only farming and fishing.”

Reporting:

The URS reporting of the employment status will be:
Total Employed (Competitive + Productive Activities)
 Competitively Employed
 Engaged in Productive Activities
Unemployed
Not in the Labor Force

See attachment 1 for the URS reporting template.

Possible Next steps: Pacific Jurisdictions agreed to pilot test:

- (1) New data collection/reporting of the expanded employment definition; and
- (2) Data collection/reporting of other productive activities (other than subsistence farming and fishing) as identified by each Jurisdiction

Possible Timeline:

July-December 2009	Preparation
Jan-April 2010	Piloting of new definition
May 2010	Reporting and evaluation of results
June 2010	Evaluation of reporting capacity for the modified NOM

LIVING SITUATION

Private Residence Definition: Meeting participants agreed to add sub-categories for private residence:

- (1) Stable housing – a person has stable housing if s/he has a fixed address, living independently or shares residence with other family members for reasons other than housing assistance.
- (2) Unstable housing or At-Risk for homeless – a person has unstable housing if s/he is heavily dependent with or outside the family network for housing assistance, roams around families, relatives or friends and ‘at risk’ for homeless.

Reporting:

The URS reporting of Private Residence will be:
Total living in Private Residence (Stable + At-Risk)
 Stable Housing
 At-Risk

See Attachment 2 for the URS reporting template.

Possible Next steps: Pacific Jurisdictions will:

- (1) PJs will pilot the data collection/reporting of the proposed sub-categories.

Possible Timeline:

July-December 2009	Preparation
Jan-April 2010	Piloting
May 2010	Reporting and evaluation of results
June 2010	Evaluation of reporting capacity for modified NOM

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

Proposed Definition of Social Connectedness: Meeting participants considered the concept of social connectedness from the 2008 Meeting of the Pacific Jurisdictions in Guam, as follows:

“Social connectedness means participation in family, community, and/or customary systems and practices that support your optimal health, mental health, wellness and abstinence.”

Possible Next steps: Pacific Jurisdictions will conduct a consumer focus group. The primary objective of the focus group is to gather mental health consumers’ perspective with respect to what the meaning of social connectedness is for them, measurement, and reporting. At the focus group, participants will review the cultural appropriateness of the current operating concept(s) of social connectedness and the set of consumer survey questions for measuring social connectedness. Through this process, the focus group may identify needed adjustments to the existing definition and reporting process.

Possible Timeline:

July-December 2009	Preparation
Jan-April 2010	Conduct of focus group and reporting of results
May 2010	Evaluation of results and discussion of next steps
June 2010	Evaluation of PJ capacity to report social connectedness NOM

CRIMINAL JUSTICE INVOLVEMENT

Proposed Definition of Criminal Justice Involvement: Meeting participants discussed the difficulty in collecting and reporting arrest data. A number of the Pacific Jurisdiction representatives said that asking the current URS criminal justice questions in the survey is too invasive for consumers while collecting arrest data from criminal justice agencies is equally challenging. The group asked CMHS for alternate proxy indicator(s) for this NOM, i.e. reporting the outcome of arrest rather than the number of clients arrested. For example, did the police arrest the concerned person or did they refer (diverted) the person for a mental health treatment? Did the person spend time in jail? If so, how long was the time spent in jail?

Possible Next steps: Dr. Olinda Gonzalez of CMHS commented that in order for CMHS to provide a judicious action on the request, each Pacific Jurisdiction has to assess the criminal justice involvement NOM as it applies or does not apply to their Jurisdiction. CMHS will then review the Pacific Jurisdiction’s assessment report and corresponding recommendations.

Possible Timeline:

July-December 2009	PJs conduct internal assessment of the criminal justice involvement NOM (i.e., arrest) on its relevance to their Jurisdiction
--------------------	---

Jan-April 2010	Write an assessment report and submit to CMHS
	CMHS reviews each PJ's assessment report
May 2010	CMHS provides guidance and PJs discuss next steps
June 2010	Evaluation of PJ capacity to report criminal justice involvement NOM

OTHER DISCUSSIONS

Representatives of the Pacific Jurisdictions agreed to discuss the above-proposed modifications to the four NOMS with their counterpart in the substance abuse program. The intent is to evaluate where similarities between the two Programs exists for a possible streamlined process of reporting the NOMS.

The SAMHSA and CSAT representatives were present at the meeting, and discussion insured incorporation of similarities between both agencies for the NOMS discussed, including employment. The group agreed that similarities across agencies for some of the NOMs can be further explored.

CONSOLIDATED POSSIBLE TIMELINE FOR NOM MODIFICATIONS

July-December 2009

Employment and Living Situation NOMS: PJs will develop a plan to pilot the expanded definition of Employment (including productive activities) and Living Situation. This includes assessment of the impact on current data collection/reporting processes, operationalizing the definitions, revision of existing data collection tools, IT/database programming, and training of staff.

Criminal Justice Involvement NOM: PJ's will conduct internal assessment of the NOM as it applies/does not apply to the Jurisdiction. Write a report and recommendations to CMHS.

Social Connectedness NOM: PJ's will develop a plan to conduct a consumer focus group. This includes setting the goal and objectives of the focus group, development of logistical plan (identifying a facilitator, venue, time, date, who and how to invite consumers, stipends, note taking, scribe, etc.), preparation of materials for the focus group, and development of a uniform format to report the results of the focus group.

January-April 2010

Plan implementation.

Piloting of the employment and living situation NOMS

Conducting consumer focus group and reporting of results

Submission of the PJ criminal justice involvement assessment report

CMHS provides guidance on the criminal justice involvement NOM/

PJs start next step discussions

May 2010

Mid-term evaluation. Review and evaluation of the implementation results, including preliminary reporting of the NOMS using proposed templates. Issues and problems are discussed, including adoption of plan adjustments/revisions.

June 2010

Evaluation of PJ's reporting capacity. Reporting of PJ's readiness to report the modified NOMS.

December 2010

Earliest date for reporting of modified NOMS.

December 2011

Latest date for reporting of modified NOMS.