

# CMHS/SAMHSA Data Infrastructure Grants/ Uniform Reporting System Regional Conference Call Report

## February 4, 2010

Group 1 – Northeast at 11 AM

Group 2 – Midwest/Southeast at 2 PM

Group 3 – Western/Pacific/Territories at 4 PM

**Meeting Facilitator: Olinda Gonzalez, Ph.D (CMHS)**

Meeting Summary Prepared by State Data Infrastructure Coordinating Center (SDICC) at NRI

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*Note: No calls were held during January 2010*

### Agenda:

1. **2009 URS Reporting**
2. **Client Level Data Pilot Project:**
3. **URS/DIG Returning Veteran, Active Duty Military, and their Families Workgroup**
4. **New Employment NOM Workgroup**
5. **Discussion of the New DIG Grant Announcement—Roger George, CMHS Grants Management**
6. **Next Month's Regional Call Topics**

1. **December 1, 2009 URS Reporting:** Ted Lutterman provided a brief update on the December submission of URS data. All 50 states, the District of Columbia and five territories have submitted URS data and all data has been imported into the URS database. Edit reports have been generated and follow-up questions sent to states for review, correction, and comments. States with any questions about their data submissions are encouraged to contact Azeb Berhane at [azeb.berhane@nri-inc.org](mailto:azeb.berhane@nri-inc.org) or by phone at 703-682-7549.
2. **Client Level Data Pilot Project:** Ted Lutterman provided an update on the progress of the CLDP on Mental health NOMS. A draft Final Report will be sent to CMHS by the end of February and the project will be completed by March 2010. The focus of this project is on the "process study" of the pilot. Were states able to report complete CLD? Where are there gaps and differences in data? What will it take to help states report complete CLD for all persons served? Pilot states documented the work and expenses involved in completing their T1 and T2 data files, as well as what further work and expenses would be required to standardize state and provider information systems to report standardized client level data in the future.

To assist states working on the new DIG Grant Application, the Client-level project's User Guide with data definitions was sent to states via the DIG listserv and has been posted to the NRI website. The report can be found at:

[http://www.nri-inc.org/projects/SDICC/forms/Client\\_Level\\_Data\\_Users\\_Guide\\_1-14-10.pdf](http://www.nri-inc.org/projects/SDICC/forms/Client_Level_Data_Users_Guide_1-14-10.pdf)

3. **DIG Returning Veteran's Mental Health Workgroup:** Ted Lutterman reported about the second call of the new DIG workgroup on Returning Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their Families. Twenty-three states participated in the February call. During the call states discussed the extent to which their state

mental health information systems include information about Veterans, Active Duty Military, and the families of Veterans and Active Duty Military.

The workgroup discussed three sets of activities it will pursue:

1. **Checklist of SMHA Returning Veterans' Initiatives:** Work with SMHAs and states to develop a list of various Initiatives and programs that SMHAs have developed to help meet the needs of returning veterans and their families. This list will cover various screening, outreach, training, prevention, coordination and service initiatives that SMHAs have developed. The workgroup will ultimately recommend an optional table for states to report on the types and number of such initiatives and programs they have.
  
2. **Enhance SMHA Client data collection about Returning Veterans:** To help states that are interested in expanding their client-level collection of information about Veterans to gather information about which conflicts the person served in (the recent Iraq or Afghanistan conflict or earlier conflicts), as well as if the person is a Veteran, current member of the Military, or a Family Member, that examples of some of the coding schemes already implemented by states be shared with other states. This optional task would inform states that are considering collecting additional data about Returning Veterans by letting them learn from the experiences of other states that have already expanded their collection of this information.
  - a. James Elzey from West Virginia agreed to share Military Status variable with the states. Other states that have expanded their data collection to gather similar information are also encouraged to send examples of their operational definitions and coding to the NRI to share with other states.
  
3. **State Hospital Use by Veteran's Study:** Following on the analysis in Vermont, SMHAs that have information about the use of their State Hospitals by Veterans and interested in sharing results will discuss a project to coordinate data across states to describe the use of State hospitals by Veterans. States interested in this special study should notify Ted Lutterman at the NRI. A conference call will be held for those states interested in learning more about this study.

The workgroup will meet again in March and will start to develop a checklist of various state initiatives to meet the needs of Returning Veterans. The workgroup will then determine if there are a common set of programs and initiatives that could become the basis for compiling information from SMHAs about their activities for Veterans.

4. **New Workgroup on the Employment NOM:** CMHS has approved establishing a new Data Infrastructure Grant/Uniform Reporting System workgroup to address the Employment NOM in light of the recession and the high rates of unemployment among the general population.

The primary goal of the workgroup is to establish a general understanding of the impact of the economic recession on persons with mental illness that will aid states to set more reasonable employment targets in the Community Mental Health Block Grant and that will help CMHS/SAMHSA better understand and potentially adjust national NOMS employment data. The workgroup will hold its first conference call during March 2010.

**5. New DIG Grant Announcement:** Dr. Gonzalez discussed the new DIG Grant Announcement for the next 3 years of DIG Grants. State DIG Grant applications are due by March 4, 2010

**6. Next Monthly Regional Calls:**

The next set of regional DIG calls will be held during March 2009 (date to be determined). The calls will discuss the following items

1. Veteran's Workgroup
2. Employment Workgroup
3. Health-Mental Health Workgroup
4. Plans for the June 22-25 National Conference/Annual DIG Meeting
  - a. Discussion of topics and sessions of interest to states
  - b. Should there be a DIG Poster Session on Uses of Data?