

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

## July 9, 2009

Group 1 – Northeast, 11AM

Group 2 – Midwest/Southeast, 2PM

Group 3 – Western/Pacific/Territories, 4PM

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 June, due to the June  
CMHS National Grantee Conference on the Mental Health Block Grant and Data*

### Agenda:

1. Discussion of the use of Federal ARRA Stimulus Health IT Funds by MH Systems
2. DIG Workgroup Reports
  - EBP Workgroup Update
  - Developing a Health Question Module for MHSIP Consumer Surveys
  - DIG Supplements (BRFSS) Workgroup
3. DIG Supplement Update
4. Update on the Client Level Data Pilot on mental health NOMS
5. URS Output Tables on the SAMHSA Website
6. Summary of Roundtable discussion at the National Block Grant Conference
7. Next regional calls (August 13, 2009)

1. **The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) impact on SMHA Systems:** Ted Lutterman briefly reviewed the Health Information Technology (HITECH) portions of the economic stimulus program (the ARRA) passed earlier this year. The ARRA will be contained up to \$2 billion in funds to work on Health Information Technology and includes several provisions such as Section 3013 that will provide grants to state governments to work on the implementation of EHRs and the exchange of EHR data and Section 3014 that will provide “Competitive Grants to States and Indian Tribes for the Development of Load Programs to Facilitate the Widespread Adoption of Certified EHR Technology”. Funds have been appropriated for both of these initiatives, but moneys have not yet started flowing to state governments.

In each regional call, SMHA staff from several states discussed how their SMHA is working within their state government to prepare for the release of HITECH funds to their state. The presenting SMHAs discussed how they are working with their Health and/or Medicaid Agencies to make sure that mental health is included in the development of plans for the promotion of EHRs and the development of “Health Information Exchanges” (HIE)—systems that will exchange electronic health information from various providers within a state. For example, Alabama is working on plans for an HIE that will include information from their seven state hospitals, from all Alabama’s state-funded Community Mental Health Centers, and merge this with data from Medicaid and the state’s Blue Cross/Blue Shield plans.

Special thanks to Alabama (Melanie Harrison), Oklahoma (Tracy Leeper), Indiana (Sue Lummus), and Oregon (Jon Collins) for their agreeing to discuss the status of their state's activities to date.

Next month's regional calls will continue the discussion of how SMHAs are working to make sure mental health is included in the plans for using these new funds. States are encouraged to volunteer to present on their state's activities over the next several month's Regional DIG Calls.

## 2. DIG/URS Workgroup Reports:

- a. **Children's EBP Workgroup:** Jeanne Rivard reported on the status of Pilot Testing the recommended new **Optional** URS table on additional Children's Evidence Based Practices. Nine states are currently pilot testing the proposed table and results are due by the end of July. Pilot states will complete the new tables, as well as to document the time required to complete the tables and identify any issues that arise as they work on the tables. Following the Pilot, a call of the EBP workgroup will be held in August to review the results of the pilot and make any needed changes to the tables before they are sent to OMB for review and approval.
- b. **Developing a Health Module for the MHSIP Survey:** On July 8, 2009, the first conference call was held of a new workgroup reviewing the experiences of states adding health questions to their MHSIP Survey. A number of states have followed the lead of Maine, and have added a set of physical health questions (usually taken from CDC's BRFSS) to their Adult MHSIP Consumer Surveys. The workgroup reviewed the health questions states asked and their experiences collecting and analyzing these data. It appears that at least 11 states have added some health questions to their MHSIP Surveys and 9 states have added many of the same BRFSS based questions.

Dr. Elsie Freeman reviewed the 2 years of experience Maine has in collecting and analyzing their use of the health questions (a copy of Maine's presentation at the 2009 DIG Annual Meeting is available at: [http://www.nri-inc.org/projects/SDICC/DIGMeeting/2009/2009\\_DIG\\_Glew.pdf](http://www.nri-inc.org/projects/SDICC/DIGMeeting/2009/2009_DIG_Glew.pdf) )

This workgroup will review the experiences of states adding health questions: are they finding similar results? As well as, what is the impact of adding health questions to the overall survey response rates? The ultimate goal is to identify a small set of potential health questions that could be made an optional module for the consumer surveys.

The next steps for the workgroup are to develop a common template to help states analyze their survey results in a common framework. The next conference call will focus on developing a set of recommended analyses for states to run on their data so comparable information can be shared across states. During the fall, the workgroup expects to receive results from most of the state using health questions and will review their data to identify if results are similar across states. Persons interested in participating in this workgroup should e-mail Ted Lutterman at [ted.lutterman@nri-inc.org](mailto:ted.lutterman@nri-inc.org).

- c. **DIG Supplement (BRFSS) Workgroup:** Bernadette Phelan discussed a series of article and analyses that have been completed on the PHQ-8 and K6 modules to the BRFSS by CDC and other authors. Dr. Phelan e-mailed to the DIG listserv a set of articles and links to articles recently published using these new modules. Over the next several months, the workgroup will be inviting some of the authors of these articles to discuss their findings with states.

- 3. DIG Supplements -- the PHQ-8 module implementation (depression) for the BRFSS:** Olinda Gonzalez reported that eight states submitted applications for the new DIG Supplement module to add depression questions to the BRFSS. Work on the SAMHSA/CDC Intra-agency Agreement has been processed successfully to support these modules during 2010.
- 4. Client Level Data Pilot Project:** Ted Lutterman updated the progress of the CLDP on Mental health NOMS. The pilot states are continuing to revise their initial T1 data submission and the NRI is analyzing results. A comparison of CLDP data with URS submissions for the NOMs is underway. States will be submitting a second year of data (T2) in September 2009 and a draft report on the project will be completed by the end of 2009. A few additional data elements related to the admissions status for some of the NOMS (such as employment status at admission, Living situation at admission, Level of Functioning at admission) are being added to the T2 reporting dataset.
- 5. 2009 National Grantee Conference on the Mental Health Block Grant and Data:** The 2009 meeting was held on June 17-19 in Washington, DC. Dr. Gonzalez reported that a summary of the Roundtable discussion on the impact of the economic slowdown on state MHBG plans and targets will soon be posted at: [www.nationalgranteeconference.com](http://www.nationalgranteeconference.com) and <http://www.nri-inc.org/projects/SDICC/>
- 6. URS Output Tables on the SAMHSA Website:** Dr. Gonzalez reported that the 2008 URS Output Tables have been approved for posting on the SAMHSA website and should soon be available online. The 2007 URS Output Tables are now available on the SAMHSA website at in both PDF and Excel format at: <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs/MentalHealthStatistics/URS2007.asp>.
- 7. Next Monthly Regional Calls (August 13, 2009):**  
The next set of regional DIG calls will be held on August 13, 2009. Northeast will meet at 11:00 AM (EDT), the South/Midwest at 2:00 PM (EDT), and the West/Pacific Jurisdictions at 4:00 PM (EDT).