

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

March 29, 2011

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

For more information contact:

Ted Lutterman (ted.lutterman@nri-inc.org) 703-682-9463 or

Bernadette Phelan (Bernadette.phelan@nri-inc.org)

Agenda:

1. Updated Client-Level Manual
 2. DIG Annual Meeting and National Block Grant Conference
 3. School Attendance and Criminal Justice Workgroup Reports
 4. Announcements
1. **Updated Client-Level Manual, Bernadette Phelan, Ph.D. from NRI reviewed the draft manual:** The draft manual for Client-Level Data Reporting was e-mailed to all states via the DIG Listserv. The manual was developed to be as comprehensive as possible and includes information on reporting framework, scope of reporting, data dictionary, and record layouts. Information on data crosswalk, preparation of test files, submission protocol, and data edits are also included. The final version of the manual will include all the appendices cited in the Table of Contents.

To avoid confusion with the User Guide that was developed for the pilot, the current document bears the title *Instruction Manual*. New rules have been established, and guidelines used in the pilot have been updated or revised.

NRI and CMHS are requesting that states share the manual with those members of their staff who will be involved in the development of the data crosswalk and data extraction processes. They are encouraged to identify any areas of the Manual that are not clear, raise questions and cite state-specific issues that the Manual may ambiguously and not directly address. States may e-mail their comments or questions to NRI before the April/May User Group meetings or raise them during the meeting. Please send any questions, comments, or concerns to NRI (**note: since the Regional Call, an NRI IT Support e-mail address had been developed for this purpose. Please wait for the announcement and use this e-mail address to submit your comments, questions, suggestions, etc).**

At the User Group meetings, NRI staff will provide an in-depth walk-through of the Manual and address any issues states may have to comply with the reporting standards. NRI will also present

some ideas for client-level data analysis. The User Group meetings are also intended to provide a forum for states to discuss with CMHS/NRI when they plan to submit client-level data, issues they anticipate to face, and for those states that are not planning to report this year, what are the barriers that are keeping them from reporting. This information will assist CMHS/NRI to identify the type of technical assistance that states would need and correspondingly plan for strategies to support states in developing their reporting capacity.

The plan is to present the final version at the 2011 DIG Annual Meeting based on states' feedback and discussions at the April/May User Group Meetings. A face-to-face training will be held in July or August in the Washington, D.C. metro region. This training is intended for state IT staff primarily involved in the development of the State Data Crosswalk and data file extraction. States intending to submit client-level data in December 2011 have the priority to attend this training. CMHS and NRI are hopeful that a similar TA meeting will be held for all other states next summer.

Important information for states submitting Client-Level Data:

- States that elect to submit client level data this year must ***also*** submit the URS data tables by December 1, 2011. (All states will be required to submit URS tables by December 1).
- States are required to submit two data sets: 1) Basic Client Information data file which is due on December 1, and 2) State Hospital Readmission data file due on March 1 of the following year
- Both data sets use the same reporting period.
- Client-Level NOMs reporting on Criminal Justice Measures and School Attendance/Education Measures will not be required this year as updated measures have not yet been established for reporting. Two workgroups have convened to discuss these measures and will submit their final recommendations to CMHS by September of this year. Reporting of these two NOMs is planned to start in Year 2 (December 2012 reporting).
- States beginning to prepare the FY2012 Block Grant Applications should continue to use the URS tables to inform the NOMs until the states are informed otherwise.

2. **DIG Annual Meeting and National Block Grant Conference:** The DIG Annual Meeting will be held at the Washington, D.C. Omni Shoreham Hotel on June 29th, 2011. **The National Block Grant Conference** will be held over the course of two days, June 30-July 1, immediately following the DIG Meeting. The Block Grant Conference will cover issues related to both mental health and substance abuse block grants and will include representatives from all three agencies, CMHS, CSAT, and CSAP. Commissioners will be invited to appoint a data representative to send to the meetings; attendance is expected all three days. The Olmstead Conference will be held in conjunction with the DIG meeting.

In the past, the DIG Annual Meeting has hosted a poster session for states to demonstrate their work highlighting examples of how data are used by States. This is an overwhelmingly popular feature to the DIG Annual Meeting and states would like to see it continued. If held, the poster

session would take place the evening of June 29th, immediately following the DIG Annual Meeting. Refreshments would be served. A potential focus area may be the monitoring client services during within current economic confines. Please contact Ted Lutterman with ideas for themes and if your state is interested in presenting. Posters from past years' conferences are available online at http://www.nri-inc.org/projects/SDICC/meeting_reports.cfm.

3. **School Attendance and Criminal Justice Workgroup Reports:** The initial calls of both the School Attendance and Criminal Justice Workgroups were held last Thursday (3/24) and Friday (3/25), respectively. Approximately 15 people representing various state agencies were present on each of the calls, representing multiple regions across the U.S. Similar calls will be held at least monthly over the next several months. The purpose of these workgroup calls is to determine how these two measures should be operationalized for client-level reporting. The notes from each workgroup call are being distributed to the committee members. Once NRI receives feedback from the workgroups the minutes will be distributed via the DIG Listserv. If after reading the minutes you find that you would like to be more involved in either workgroup, or know someone else who would be, please let Ted Lutterman know. Discussion on the DIG Regional Calls emphasized the importance of maximizing consistency between mental health and substance abuse measures whenever possible.

School Attendance Workgroup: The School Attendance measure as it currently stands is challenging for SMHAs to operationalize for client level reporting. The current URS Reporting System relies on a set of survey questions about school attendance that were developed in 2004 and 2005. When SAMHSA identified the NOM of Improved School Attendance, a DIG/URS workgroup was convened to determine if there were any administrative data sources available that states could easily access to collect information around children's school attendance. No administrative data source for school attendance was identified that was available to all SMHAs. Because of this void, CMHS approved the development of a set of survey questions to gather school attendance information.

A new workgroup was convened that consisted of consumers, families and parents to identify questions and pilot them as an addendum to the YSS-F (family members for children's mental health) survey. The final version includes three questions to determine success of mental health treatment as it related to school attendance:

- 1) Was your child expelled or suspended in the prior year?
- 2) Was your child expelled or suspended this year?
- 3) Since your child began receiving services, was the number of days your child in school greater than, less than, or the same as before receiving services?

The third question resonated most with the parents and family members who served in the workgroup. Based on this feedback, SAMHSA has used this question to generate the Mental Health Block Grant NOM on School Attendance from URS data. However, since these three questions are usually collected by SMHAs as part of anonymous consumer surveys, they do not work well for client level reporting. The current workgroup has been task with determining how to move forward.

In the discussion, multiple states indicated that the current measure of school attendance is vague and may not be very meaningful, and may not relate to the receipt of mental health services. For example, schools may be very intolerant of bad behavior resulting in children more likely to be suspended. Another issue is determining attendance rates for children who are home schooled or who attend virtual teleschools using e-learning systems. Members of the group suggested alternatives, including identifying whether a child is progressing in grade level and attending age appropriate schools. Members of the workgroup are submitting examples of alternative measures their states use. The workgroup is attempting to identify a measure that is both meaningful and readily available through inexpensive means.

Criminal Justice Workgroup: The current focus of the criminal justice measure is on the number of arrests within the year, or since the person began services. The URS data shows that only eight percent of adults are arrested each year; of those eight percent, 40-50 percent is likely to be rearrested. The 92 percent of the population showing no arrests only have a five to eight percent chance of being arrested in subsequent years. These figures suggest that the current measure is also not very meaningful. Another issue is the reliability of self-reporting is in question. Some consumers may assume some interactions with police officers were an arrest, when no arrest actually occurred. Another topic the group discussed is whether the 12 month window was appropriate. The substance abuse measure has a 30 day arrest window, but the group expressed concerns that the 30 days focus was not very meaningful for substance abuse, let alone mental health. The time frame issue is still being discussed.

The group did, however, offer potential alternatives to number of arrests within the year. Alternatives included monitoring the seriousness of the crime (e.g., classifying misdemeanors vs. felonies), history of criminal involvement, issues around community safety, impact of peer pressure on criminal involvement, and diversion programs (reducing use or days in jail). This workgroup will be convened again in approximately three weeks.

With increasing collaboration between substance abuse and mental health, it will be important to work toward having increased correspondence of measures; therefore, the workgroup is tasked with making a recommendation to CMHS about which time frame should be used: 12 months or 30 days. The committee is also working to develop a second criminal justice measure, should there be flexibility to change the measure in the future.

4. **Announcements:**

- DIG Grant Continuation Applications have been processed by SAMHSA Grants Management without any problems. Continuation announcements will be sent out to contact persons around the same time the grant continuation notices have been distributed to states.
- The National Leadership Forum on Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Services will be held April 5. Pam Hyde will be presenting.
- SAMHSA initiative to guide states on implementing home health benefits. Expect information from SAMHSA about strategic initiatives on Health Information Technology to provide assistance on behavioral health aspect of integrative healthcare management.

- NRI has almost completed 2010 URS data that were submitted in December. Several states have yet to respond to data edit reports. NRI is about to send draft output tables, but we have been holding off on using bad data, but we are going to have to use the data we have. If you have any outstanding data issues, please contact NRI as soon as possible.