

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

May 3, 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

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Agenda:

1. Updated Client Level Manual and Review of State Comments Received to Date
2. Status of the Criminal Justice and School Attendance Workgroups
3. Review DIG Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda and Poster Session
4. Announcements

Updated Client Level Manual and Review of State Comments Received to Date:

Regional user group meetings are being used as a forum for state DIG representatives to ask questions about and suggest modifications to the Client Level Data Reporting Instruction Manual. The first regional user group meeting was held by the southern states on April 28 and 29 in North Carolina. At the SoSMUG meeting, attendees spent time reviewing the Instruction Manual for Client Level reporting, specifically discussing each element, and the process for submission. The group also reviewed timelines and expectations around reporting. One issue that arose during the meeting involves the unique client identifier. The manual currently states that the identifier must be no more than 12 characters in length; however, many states expressed that they already use 15 digit client identifiers, and it would simplify the process if the Client Level Data Reporting system allowed client identifiers to be 15 digits long. NRI is working to make this change in the database to help simplify the reporting process. NRI is also considering a request to generate a report file that identifies only those records with errors in the state data file. For whatever benefit this file may provide, it was emphasized that states still have to resubmit the complete state data files with corrected records. NRI currently cannot accept a file that contains corrected records only but is working to provide this capacity in the future. A complete and final version of the manual, with revisions and examples of data crosswalks, will be made reviewed at the 2011 DIG Annual Meeting in June. Three additional user group meetings will be held in the following weeks. Additional technical assistance will also be provided during a summer meeting for data programmers, as well as through an email set up specifically for questions related to client-level data reporting.

A Summer Technical Assistance Meeting is being planned for either July or August in the Washington, D.C. area for those states who will be submitting Client Level Data in December 2011 . Each of these states may send their data programmer to the training. It has been requested that states be allowed to send their DIG representative who has been working on the project so they may explain the context surrounding the data collection and submission. NRI and CMHS will review available resources to accommodate this request. NRI is also exploring options to broadcast the meeting via webinar for those people unable to travel. It is planned to have a similar meeting next year for those states that plan to submit in 2012.

NRI has set up an email account specifically for states to submit questions and concerns about the Client Level Data reporting. The email is CLDTA@nri-inc.org. From emails received in this account, NRI will compile a list of Frequently Asked Questions to distribute to states.

On this call, several states raised questions related to Client Level Data Reporting:

- Crosswalk:
 - The final version of the crosswalk should be ready before the next User Group Meeting. It is not expected that states fill out the crosswalk until after the regional meetings. States submitting Client Level Data this year may bring their completed crosswalk to the Summer Technical Assistance Meeting for review, or submit the state data crosswalk after the July/August training.
 - The crosswalk provides a one-to-one relationship between the state and the CLD data elements. A question was raised on how to report in the crosswalk if multiple data elements are used to report a particular CLD data element. A reporting guideline will be provided by NRI to address this issue.

Status of School Attendance and Criminal Justice Workgroups

Notes from each of the April workgroup calls will be distributed via the listserv the week of May 9, 2011.

School Attendance

The second call of the School Attendance workgroup was held on April 25, 2011. The workgroup is tasked with making a recommendation to SAMHSA about a more stable measure for children. The first call identified multiple issues with the current measure (school attendance), and began to identify alternative measures for consideration, which is largely around academic performance. This second call discussed alternative measures in more detail; specifically grade-level advancement as monitored by New York State, as well as initiatives taken by CMHS's Systems of Care.

New York State currently administers an annual survey that collects information on age and grade level. This allows the state to determine if the child is advancing into grade appropriate for his or her age. New York is also able to compare their data with national data available through the U.S. Census Bureau, allowing for benchmarking against national averages. States were asked about their views in regard to

this measure on the DIG call, and several expressed that this measure is meaningful and would be relatively easy to report.

CMHS's Systems of Care has a major evaluation component that collects data around school performance every six months. The survey asks multiple questions about academic achievement, including (but not limited to) school attendance, grade level, repeated grades, absent from school, and the type of school the child attends. Such a measure would provide meaningful information, but would be costly to administer to all children engaged with public mental health systems. A report summarizing Systems of Care outcomes is due to be released in early May 2011 and a link with that report will be shared with the DIG workgroup.

Criminal Justice

The second call of the Criminal Justice Workgroup was held on April 26, 2011. The first call discussed the current measures being used by the URS and TEDS systems. The URS system collects a consumer's history of arrests within the year, while the TEDS system focuses on the previous 30 days. The workgroup is tasked with identifying which of these timeframes captures the most meaningful information to make a recommendation to SAMHSA by September 2011. The discussion of the first call centered on the idea that the arrest measure may not be very meaningful in providing insight into how mental health services impact criminal justice involvement. One reason for this is that data are often collected through unreliable self-reports. To avoid the faults with self-reporting, Nebraska and other states have been able to gather data from a statewide arrest database. The Department of Justice mandates that all states have a central repository of arrest data that they submit to the FBI. Many states experience difficulty in locating where such a database is stored, and also face structural challenges in obtaining the data. States that have had success indicated that building relationships between agencies in order to access the data takes time and perseverance. Olinda is working within SAMHSA to identify a contact person at the Federal Level who can then help states locate which agency houses the information at the state level.

Even though an entirely new measure is unlikely to be used in the first year of reporting, SAMHSA is interested in recommendations the group makes about alternative measures that are specifically meaningful to mental health that could be easily reported across all states. Alternative measures discussed on the call included reduced level of incarceration, diversion programs, reducing incarceration, and collecting the number of days in jail.

Review of DIG Annual Meeting Proposed Agenda and Poster Session

DIG Annual Meeting

The 2011 DIG Annual Meeting will be held June 29 at the Omni Shoreham in Washington, D.C. The meeting will last for one day before the Block Grant Conference. The proposed DIG meeting agenda is as follows:

- Annual update of the 2010 URS results.

- NOMs reporting.
- Discussion about the impact the recession has had on states. Will discuss how the NOMs have changed due to the economic downturn, specifically employment and the correlations between overall state and URS employment rates. Will also discuss the impact on the counts of clients served by SMHA systems.
- Client Level Reporting Initiatives. By the time of the DIG Meeting, all four User Group Meetings will have occurred. Based on the recommendations received at the User Group Meetings, the final Client Level Data Reporting Instruction Manual will be reviewed.
- Block Grant Application for Data and Planning. Within the Federal Register, SAMHSA has proposed a set of changes for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Block Grant Applications. The intent is to invite SAMHSA leadership to discuss the intents, goals, and implications of the revised application. This will be an overview as this topic will be discussed in more depth at the Block Grant Conference the following day.
- There will be 2 break-out sessions in the afternoon. At the first break-out session, participants may choose to attend either:
 - An update on the Criminal Justice and School Attendance Workgroups and discussions on alternative measures
 - A condensed presentation of the client-level data reporting process and requirements which is offered for state planners and/or other State staff who were not able to attend the regional User Group Meetings.
- At the second break-out session, participants may choose to attend either one:
 - State policies around administrative discharges and when to close a case for those who do not show up for services
 - States sharing how they are using data to monitor the impact of the recession.
- The meeting will close with a plenary about how DIG fits into Block Grant planning over time.

Please note that funding for travel is different this year than in years' past. The DIG Principal Investigator is also assumed to be the Block Grant data representative. This person is covered by Block Grant funds and will need to register for both the DIG and the Block Grant conferences through the Block Grant Conference Website. If the state would like to send a second person, they also need to register through the Block Grant Conference Website and can be funded by the state using its DIG funds. As we need to maintain a list of those attending from this group, please contact Olinda to inform her about this registrant. Also, it is anticipated and hoped that State Planners will attend the DIG meeting as well. For those who are attending both meetings and have already registered, if you were unable to register for the DIG Meeting, please go back to the website and register for this meeting. A glitch in the online registration system has been fixed. If you have any problems, please email Courtney Kirk at Magna Systems who can assist (ckirk@magnasystemsinc.com).

DIG Poster Session

In the past, the DIG Annual Meeting has hosted a very successful Poster Session. If you are interested in presenting a poster at this year's DIG Annual Meeting, please email Kristin Roberts (kristin.roberts@nri-inc.org) as soon as possible.

Announcements

Conference Calls for State Planners on Block Grant Application Guidance

Several conference calls will be held for state planners about Block Grant Application guidance. While these calls are not specifically targeted toward data representatives, all DIG representatives are invited to participate in these calls. The calls will be held May 17 (10:00am and 3:00pm EDT), May 24 (10:00am EDT), and May 26 (3:00pm EDT). Olinda will send out call information shortly.