



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration

Center for Mental Health Services
Center for Substance Abuse
Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse
Treatment
Rockville MD 20857

October 23, 2009

Dear System of Care Colleague:

As you are aware, the cooperative agreement requires that each funded community attend two meetings during FY 2009. One of these required meetings will be the 2010 Training Institutes sponsored by Georgetown University, will be held July 14 – 18, 2010 at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in Washington, DC. For this event, each community will be required to bring a contingency of at least ten participants which would include, but not be limited to, the project director, principal investigator, evaluator, lead family contact, two youth/young adults, youth coordinator, communications manager, state children's mental health director, and either the clinical director, technical assistance coordinator, the cultural and linguistic competence coordinator and/or other stakeholders.

For the second meeting, it is my intention to provide you with flexibility and latitude. In conjunction with your Government Project Officer (GPO) and Technical Assistance Coordinator (TAC), you are required to create a plan to use the budgeted funds so that staff in your program can participate in conferences that further your specific goals. Examples may include the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Annual Conference, December 4 – 6, 2009 in Washington, DC; NICWA's annual "Protecting our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, April 11 – 14, 2010 in Portland, Oregon; and the University of South Florida Research and Training Center's Annual Research Conference, March 7 – 10, 2010 in Tampa, Florida.

It is important to note that you have the ability to send different staff and/or community members to different meetings. In fact, I don't recommend putting "all of your eggs into one basket." Rather, you may decide to have representation at a variety of meetings or conferences in order to maximize learning opportunities and facilitate strategic partnerships. I would also recommend that you consider "cross fertilizing." By that, I mean it might be interesting for evaluators to attend the National Federation Conference or family members to attend the Research Conference.

In order to document that you have met your cooperative agreement requirement, I am requesting that each system of care community discuss their technical assistance needs and meeting attendance plan with their GPO and TAC. Each community must receive final approval for the plan from your GPO so that we all have a "paper trail" that you have met the requirement.

Please contact Project Officer with any questions or for additional information. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of children, youth and families.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Blau, Ph.D.

Chief

Child, Adolescent and Family Branch