

Transforming Children's Mental Health in America

There are many exciting events on the horizon. As you can see in this issue of the Branch Update, Children's Mental Health Awareness Day has really taken off, and we are continuing to bring children's mental health into the national spotlight. Through a new competitive process, we are making additional funds available so that existing grantees can develop even more creative and innovative approaches to service delivery.

Our summer grantee meeting will focus on trauma-informed care, and will be held in New Orleans from August 1-3. We are also planning for the possibility of issuing a new system of care RFA in FY 2008, and we remain open to your input as to ways we can improve our program. Please keep sharing your ideas!!

Sincerely,

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Children's Mental Health Awareness

May 8, 2007 marks the second annual National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. This year's theme "thriving in the community" will have a special focus on the integration of mental health and education. Events will take place on both the national and local level.

National Event

In response to requests from the field, there will be an Educational Briefing in Washington, D.C. The Awareness Day Founding Partners sponsoring this event include the Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health as lead, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, Mental Health America, National Alliance on Mental Illness, and the National Association of Social Workers. In addition to the Founding Partners, the School Social Work Association, the National Association of School Psychologists, the American School Counselors Association and the American Counseling Association will serve as co-sponsors.

This year, we are excited to have a broad panel of experts, consumers, and family members speak on the podium. Scheduled to appear are Howie Mandel, a nationally known celebrity and host of NBC's hit show "Deal or No Deal," who will be joining us in Washington to participate in the briefing as the Honorary Consumer Spokesperson and sharing his experience living with obsessive compulsive disorder. Deborah Marriott Harrison, Honorary Family Spokesperson and youth mental health advocate, and her son Scott will also share their stories. Debbie's twin sons have bipolar disorder and the family had difficulty accessing appropriate services. Marvin Alexander, Honorary Youth Spokesperson and youth coordinator of SAMHSA's ACTION for Kids, will share his story and represent Youth MOVE (Motivating Others through Voices of Experience).

Other speakers include Dr. Mark Weist, Honorary Education Spokesperson and director of the Center for School Mental Health Analysis and Action at the University of Maryland and Dr. Carl C. Bell, panel moderator and professor of Psychiatry and Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago. In addition, Dr. Gary Blau will present outcome data demonstrating that youth can thrive in schools. A press conference featuring Howie Mandel will follow the Briefing.

Local Events

Above all, Awareness Day is about community driven partnerships and activities. We look forward to learning about what you will be doing in your local System of Care community.

What Can You Do?

- Reach out to the local affiliates for the national partners listed above.
- Thirteen National Child Traumatic Stress and 7 Safe Schools/Healthy Students sites will host Awareness Day activities. Contact your local social marketing technical assistance provider.
- Send your pledge cards back to the Campaign staff as soon as possible.
- Join us on our scheduled conference calls and webinars: April 11, 2007 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. EST - *Media Outreach*, May 1, 2007 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST - *Data and Media webinar*, June 12, 2007 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. - *Best Practices and Lessons Learned webinar*.

Request for Applications (RFA): New Grant Supplement up to \$100,000

The Child, Adolescent and Family Branch, within the Center for Mental Health Services, is pleased to announce the availability of Program Supplements to enhance grant activities under the currently funded CMHI cooperative agreement. Eligible applicants are those grantees currently in their first through sixth year of funding. Matching requirements, which are statutorily required for this program, will remain the same.

The RFA can be found by following these steps from the SAMHSA homepage (www.samhsa.gov):

1. Click on "grants"
2. Click on "FY 2007 Grant Announcements"
3. Scroll down and click on "SM-07-016: Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and their Families Program Supplements"

Suggested areas of focus include: language adaptation of materials, addressing the needs of sexual minority youth, etc. Please note that these are only suggestions and you are encouraged to be creative. We expect to award at least 8 supplements of up to \$100,000 each.

The **deadline** to apply for this grant supplement is May 16, 2007.

Good Luck!

New Translated Materials Bank Available Through SOC Website

In response to numerous requests from communities, the SOC program has created a bank of translated materials that sites can access to meet some of their translation needs. These materials are being provided by your fellow grantees in the Comprehensive Community Mental Health Services for Children and Their Families Program, and have been translated into languages that reflect the culture of their community's population of focus.

Communities should feel free to use any of the translated products available through the translation bank with the understanding that these products have been "locally-developed." Therefore, please remember that they have not been reviewed for technical accuracy or linguistic equivalence by CMHS or other translation specialists. Also, these materials are not approved or endorsed for use within any given population. If you wish to use any of the available materials, you can direct your questions or comments to the identified community contact person.

It is hoped that these items will be helpful as materials are developed to meet the cultural and linguistic needs of System of Care communities.

Upcoming Portland RTC National Conference!

Portland Research and Training Center will host their State of the Science Conference "Effective Services for All: Strategies to Promote Mental Health and Thriving for Underserved Children and Families" at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon on **May 31-June 2, 2007**. This national conference will emphasize state of the science and best practice information about (1) increasing family and youth participation and empowerment; family-centered, youth-guided, and culturally competent services, and (2) building the capacity of communities to support children and families.



In the Spotlight

Recently, Andy Hunt of the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch was presented with an Achievement Medal for "Exceptional contributions in the development, coordination, and implementation of American Indian/Alaska Native issues into SAMHSA programs." This is the second highest Public Health Service Individual Honor Award that can be given at the agency level. This very prestigious award was bestowed upon Andy by Admiral Eric Broderick, Acting Deputy Administrator. This is Andy's 3rd Achievement Medal received during his service with the Commissioned Corps.

CONGRATULATIONS, ANDY!!!

New Clearinghouse

SAMHSA's Health Information Network includes the National Mental Health Information Center (NMHIC) and the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI). While both clearinghouses will continue to serve their own constituencies, they now operate under the same roof. Now you can have quick access to both substance abuse and mental health information and materials by calling one telephone number.

Call 1-877-SAMHSA-7 or visit <http://www.samhsa.gov>.