

IV: Narrative Plan

G. Consultation With Tribes

Page 43 of the Application Guidance

Narrative Question:

SAMHSA is required by the 2009 Memorandum on Tribal Consultation to submit plans on how it is to engage in regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have Tribal implications.

Consultation is an enhanced form of communication, which emphasizes trust, respect and shared responsibility. It is an open and free exchange of information and opinion among parties, which leads to mutual understanding and comprehension. Consultation is integral to a deliberative process, which results in effective collaboration and informed decision making with the ultimate goal of reaching consensus on issues. For the context of the Block Grants, SAMHSA views consultation as a government to government interaction and should be distinguished from input provided by individual Tribal members or services provided for Tribal members whether on or off Tribal lands. Therefore, the interaction should include elected officials of the Tribe or their designee. SAMHSA is requesting that States provide a description of how they consulted with Tribes in their State. This description should indicate how concerns of the Tribes were addressed in the State Block Grant plan(s). States shall not require any Tribe to waive its sovereign immunity in order to receive funds or in order for services to be provided for Tribal members on Tribal lands.

Footnotes:

Office of Adult Mental Health Services

DHHS/Office of Adult Mental Health Services for the first time has posted the FY2012 SAMHSA Mental Health Block Grant on our State of Maine Web Site. The Web site also has a link that will allow the community to comment directly on the block grant and those comments come directly to the DHHS Office of Adult Mental Health via email to review. This feedback mechanism is located at <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mh/>

DHHS/Office of Adult Mental Health Services has reached out to all State of Maine tribal members. Currently there are no tribal members on the State of Maine QIC but the committee has been reaching out to tribal members for membership and representation. We will continue to work with the QIC by encouraging more tribal representation and membership. Future communications will make an effort to meet with the tribes at a location of their choosing. Below is a copy of the template sent to the tribal community:

July 8, 2011

John
Aroostook Band of Micmacs
7 Northern Road
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Dear Tribal Health Director:

The State of Maine , Department of Health and Human Services , Office of Adult Mental Health Services is applying for approximately \$800,000.00 SAMHSA Mental Health Block Grant for FY 2012-2013. (MHBG) The Block Grants are grants given to States to allow them to address their unique behavioral health issues. States will use the MHBG program for prevention, treatment, recovery supports and other services that will supplement services not covered by Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance. Specifically the MHBG funds will be directed toward four purposes:

- Fund priority treatment and support services for individuals without insurance or for whom coverage is terminated for short periods of time.
- Fund those priority treatment and support services not covered by Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance for low income individuals and that demonstrate success in improving outcomes and/or supporting recovery.
- Fund primary prevention – universal, selective and indicated prevention activities and services for persons not identified as needing treatment.
- Collect performance and outcome data to determine the ongoing effectiveness of behavioral health promotion, treatment and recovery support services and plan the implementation of new services on a nationwide basis.

The State of Maine is committed to an effective tribal consultation process and as representatives of the Office of Mental Health Services for Maine SAMHSA Block Grant we would like to reach out to you for your comments and feedback as well as ongoing consultation for this particular grant. At the tribes request, the Office of Adult Mental Health Services will designate a meeting time to further discuss the Block Grant and develop a work plan to insure ongoing consultation and feedback.

The SAMHSA Block Grant has been posted on the Office of Adult Mental Health (OAMHS) home page: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mh/>. This link connects you to the FY 2012-2013 SAMSHA Block Grant for review and opportunity to comment section.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Cynthia McPherson 207-592-2279 or email at Cynthia.McPherson@Maine.gov .

We look forward to working with you on this and future efforts.

Sincerely,

Sheldon W. Wheeler
Policy Development Manager