

Dear State PATH Contacts,

On behalf of the Homeless Programs Branch (HPB), within the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), I extend a heartfelt gratitude for your contributions, participation, and support of our 2010 PATH Grantee Meeting. To those of you who presented at the meeting and or facilitated sessions, I thank you for the extra time and work you put in to do this. This historic meeting enabled us to broaden the PATH community as we welcomed providers, HMIS Administrators, Continuum of Care leads, and others who joined us via the internet for selected live, web cast sessions.

In keeping with the theme, *Creating Effective PATH Programs in the Era of Health Care Reform*, the future direction of the PATH program will be informed by SAMHSA's eight (8) Strategic Initiatives (especially the Recovery Support Initiative of which housing and homelessness is incorporated), health care reform, the integration of behavioral health and primary care, data and outcomes, and meeting the Nation's challenge of preventing and ending chronic homelessness in five years. Our PATH program of the future will be supported by the following activities:

- The PATH program will return to its core mission of serving individuals with serious mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders who are literally homeless as the priority population, and will provide outreach and case management as priority core services;
- Each State will migrate its data into local Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) as soon as it is practicable;
- An effective PATH program design will be created from criteria developed by the Administrative Workgroup to measure the effectiveness of the PATH program;
- Consideration will be given to bringing model programs to scale that are occurring at the State and local levels. This would include evidenced-based and practice-based programs, and
- Consumer involvement in the PATH program will be increased at the national, State and local levels

Please keep in mind that staff at the PATH Technical Assistance (TA) Center are available to assist you in implementing the activities listed above. You can reach the TA Center by visiting <http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov>. We are also in the process of preparing the web-streamed sessions so that you can view them online. Information is forthcoming on how to access these sessions, how many viewers were in attendance, and other related information.

I do want to acknowledge your input and suggestions in regards to this year's grantee meeting. While it is still preliminary, the feedback we have indicates that our meeting was very well received. As we continue to further develop our PATH story, I invite you to join the Data Advisory Committee and Administrative Workgroup. These workgroups assist me in my role as SAMHSA's lead to administer, monitor, and provide oversight of the nation's PATH programs. I encourage applications from rural, urban, suburban, and racially and ethnically diverse communities. Please send a statement of interest to Laura Gillis, Director of the PATH Technical Assistance Center at [lmgillis@center4si.com](mailto:lmgillis@center4si.com).

Additionally, I encourage you to continue to partner and collaborate with your State agencies, as well as local providers, consumers, and national organizations to ensure that, to the best of our ability, we can provide what makes PATH so unique – effective outreach and case management to those individuals with serious mental illnesses and those who may have co-occurring substance use disorders who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness - - individuals who otherwise would go un-served.

Happy holidays to all of you. I look forward to our continued relationship as we create effective PATH programs in the era of health care reform.

Regards,



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