



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Behavioral Health and Service Integration Administration
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
PO Box 45330, Olympia, WA 98504-5330

August 10, 2015

Dear Stakeholder/Consumer/Interested Party:

We are pleased to share the first draft of the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery's (DBHR) FY 2016-17 Unified (Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder) Block Grant State Plan. The DRAFT 2016-17 Unified Block Grant Application is available on the DBHR website for public review and comment.

The Block Grant State Plan describes our current mental health and substance use disorder systems and some of our current initiatives, which fall within the requirements of the block grant application. We are asking for your feedback on the application.

The Department of Social and Health Services and DBHR have a strong history of tribal and stakeholder involvement in the formation and management of our programs. These stakeholder groups include, but are not limited to, the Behavioral Health Advisory Council, the Association of County Human Services, Regional Support Networks, community coalitions, and our many mental health and substance use disorder provider groups. All of these groups have a stake in our future and the future of the block grants.

We are approaching this process with a strong commitment to consumer voice, choice, and a recovery orientation. We also recognize the importance of the perspectives and practical experience of providers, local and county governmental structures, and our allied systems. As we finalize the Unified Block Grant application, we will incorporate your input about the most effective ways to shape our future together over the coming two years and beyond.

The application is due September 1, so please submit the FFY2016-2017 Unified Block Grant Feedback Form by August 25 through blockgrantfeedback@dshs.wa.gov. If you have any difficulties viewing the draft application or feedback form, please contact Scott McCarty at scott.mccarty@dshs.wa.gov or 360-725-1497. Feedback received after August 25 will be reviewed later in the year. A summary of feedback will be available on our website around the end of September.

Thank you for taking the time to review our draft Unified Block Grant application for FY 2016-17. We welcome and appreciate your participation in the grant application process.

Sincerely,


For Chris Imhoff, LICSW
Director

cc: Scott McCarty, DBHR
Michael Langer, DBHR