



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

July 18, 2013

Dear Adult Residential Providers and County Coordinators:

You may be aware that for several years DBHR has been collaborating with Brandeis University under federally funded grants to examine how to improve service delivery and treatment outcomes through the use of substance abuse performance measures.

As we all know, there are individuals seen in detox or residential settings that fail to receive timely substance abuse treatment after being discharged. In outpatient settings, some individuals who start treatment may have difficulty engaging in treatment. To help address this problem, we are currently working with researchers at Brandeis University on a grant funded by the National Institutes of Health to examine the impact of incentives and client-specific alerts on agency performance. This will involve random assignment of agencies to receive one, both, or neither of these interventions over a period of a year and a half. Performance refers generally to the percent of clients receiving recommended levels of services in a timely fashion. The details of how performance is measured are included in the attached materials.

Together, we have been designing the format of the alerts as well as developing methods for calculating incentives based on performance. Our Brandeis collaborators have presented at the last three Systems Improvement Workgroup (SIWG) meetings, where we have obtained and incorporated feedback on the project along the way. We are at this point finalizing details of the design of the interventions.

Attached is summary of the project, including information on the study goals and design and the performance measures that will be used.

The interventions will begin on October 1, 2013. Your agency will know to which group it was assigned (i.e., control group, incentives-only group, alerts-only group, or incentive *and* alerts) in late August or early September. We will be providing detailed information on the project at the Co-Occurring Disorder Conference on September 16 and 17. We also plan to conduct online webinars the week prior to October 1. The webinars will be specific to treatment modalities and the research group agencies are assigned to.

For these interventions to be useful, we ask that you enter data into TARGET in a timely manner. Information on treatment admissions, treatment activities, and discharges will be the basis of the information sent on the alerts to those in the alerts groups, and the basis of

Adult Residential Providers and County Coordinators
July 18, 2013
Page 2

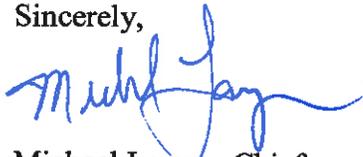
calculating the incentives for those in the incentives groups. Late submission of data could impact the evaluation of your performance, the usefulness of the alerts, and the eventual incentive awards. Therefore, we ask that you submit data into TARGET as soon as possible after the admission, discharge, and treatment activities have occurred.

We are planning a conference call that will be held on August 21, during the Systems Improvement Workgroup, to answer any questions. Details will be sent out once finalized. I hope you can join us.

We are excited about the potential of this project to improve care for substance abuse treatment clients across the study, and look forward to working with you as the project proceeds.

If you have any questions regarding this initiative, please contact Eric Larson, Behavioral Health Treatment Manager, at 509-225-6232 or eric.larson@dshs.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael Langer, Chief
Office of Behavioral Health & Prevention

By email

cc: Alice Huber, Chief, Office of Decision Support and Evaluation
Kevin Campbell, Research Manager
Tiffany Villines, Behavioral Health Administrator
Behavioral Health Treatment Managers