



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

August 1, 2011

Dear Tribal Leader:

We are pleased to share with you the first public draft of the Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery's (DBHR's) Unified Block Grant (Mental Health and Substance Abuse), feedback form, and supporting documents (<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/stakeholders.shtml#dbhr>). You will note that there are significant changes in both the application and our approach to it. This material will be discussed in our final roundtable scheduled for Friday, August 5, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The meeting locations are:

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| Region 1 – Spokane | (8517 E Trent Avenue, Colville Conference Room) |
| • Region 2 – Yakima | (1002 N 16 Street, Administrative Conference Room) |
| • Region 3 – Everett | (840 N Broadway, ACES Room) |
| • Region 4 – Seattle | (3600 S Graham Street, Martin Luther King, Jr. Executive Conference Room) |
| • Region 5 – Tacoma | (2121 S State Street, Conference Room 2) |
| • Region 6 – Olympia | (1115 Washington Street, Executive Conference Room) |
| Jamestown S'Kallam Tribe | (808 North Fifth Avenue, Sequim) |

The Department of Social and Health Services and DBHR have a strong history of Tribal involvement in the formation and management of our programs. Our Tribal partners have a stake in our future and the future of the Block Grant. A formal consultation with the tribes is scheduled for August 11, 2011 and we look forward to hearing additional feedback at that time and during the feedback period following the consultation. We ask that if you have specific comments on the draft that you submit them by August 17th so that these comments can be incorporated into our submission of the application.

We did not try to answer all the questions regarding how our system will shift between now and FFY 2014; or, how our funding allocations will change. We will be doing that together with you over the next year or two as we learn more about how health care reform will affect the future of behavioral health.

We have included Section G separately. This section speaks specifically about how we will be working through the Indian Policy Advisory sub-committee to develop our plan in this upcoming year. Also, we describe our current mental health and substance use systems and some of our current initiatives, which fall within the requirements of the block grant application. We are asking for your feedback on what has been written and your input on how we need to move forward.

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 of Tribal behavioral health services.

As we finalize our work on the UBG application, due September 1, we will be incorporating your input about what would be the most effective ways for us to engage in shaping our future together over the coming two years and beyond. We would appreciate your thoughts on the following questions, included on the feedback form located at the website above, to help us think through how best to involve you and others in the important work ahead:

- 1) Who are the partners who need to be included besides those that will plan and deliver behavioral health services? Employment programs? Housing? Justice system? Veteran's services? Others?
- 2) How would you suggest we identify representatives from the various groups?
Tribal Leader
- 3) How should we engage these groups in the decision making process? Create a "Partner Group" in addition to the Behavioral Health Advisory Council? Have a series of regional meetings?
- 4) Do you have any other thoughts or suggestions about what makes for effective participation in important decisions like this? Are there specific things we should do, or not do?

Please submit your feedback by close of business on August 17; feedback should be provided using the feedback form at the website (<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dbhr/stakeholders.shtml#dbhr>). Feedback received after the deadline will be looked at later in the year. A summary of feedback will be available on our website around the end of August. We will also be bringing it to the October ADSA subcommittee and IPAC meetings.

Thank you very much for taking the time to review our draft UBG application for 2012 – we appreciate your comments and welcome your participation in the grant application process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Dickinson", written in a cursive style.

David A. Dickinson, Director