

IV: Narrative Plan

P. Comment On The State Plan

Page 50 of the Application Guidance

Narrative Question:

SAMHSA statute requires that, as a condition of the funding agreement for the grant, States will provide opportunity for the public to comment on the State plan. States should make the plan public in such a manner as to facilitate comment from any person (including Federal or other public agencies) during the development of the plan (including any revisions) and after the submission of the plan to the Secretary. In the section below, States should describe their efforts and procedures to obtain public comment on the plan in this section.

Footnotes:

Office of Adult Mental Health Services

- OAMHS has reached out for public comment by posting the SAMHSA Block Grant on the Office of Adult Mental Health (OAMHS) home page:
<http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mh/>
This link connects the public to the FY 2012-2013 SAMSHA Block Grant for review and opportunity to comment section.
- OAMHS has met with the QIC on three separate occasions to obtain their input and include their recommendation to the application. The Web site and link was also emailed to the QIC to share with other consumers and members.
- OAMHS sent letters out to State of Maine Tribal community directing them to the OAMHS home page and link to the Block Grant application and comment sections. We also invited the tribal community at their request to set up a meeting to discuss their recommendation and input.
- The QIC have reached out to the Maine Tribal community for their representation and membership on the QIC.
- OAMHS sent out an email to MH community providers requesting that this link and site be shared with providers, family, consumers etc.

P. Comment on the Plan

The Children's Committee of the Quality Improvement Council took an active role in the review of the Block Grant submission guidance beginning with the first release of the document.

The Children's committee dedicated several meeting to the review and development of the plan.

Children's Committee Recommendations for 2012/2013 Plan

This year the Children's Committee worked on standardizing the content of the Transformation Award proposals.

The Children's Committee discussed in detail recommendations for the award of block grant funds for new initiatives and for continuing support of funding for programs. The committee expressed a strong commitment to transformation in considering funding with block grant dollars, accountability for programs that have received block grant funds, and certainty that funding would be used for children with high emotional/ behavioral needs. The committee discussed some examples of transformational priorities such as new and innovative approaches to reaching these children and youth, family driven care, youth development and evidence-based practices.

On several occasion in July 2011 the Children's Committee met to review the four transformation initiatives seeking continuation of support or for a new initiative using FY12 Block Grant funding. As in the previous year, each applicant presented its accomplishments, progress and goals and measurable objectives for the coming year. The Children's Committee reviewed and voted to approve or disapprove the proposal. If a proposal was disapproved and opportunity was given to the applicant to meet with the committee and discuss the reasons why the proposal was rejected. An opportunity to revise and resubmit the proposal was given. Two proposals were rejected and revised to meet the requirements that the services be transformational in nature.

After committee discussion with each presenter, and specific suggestions for change, emphasis or addition, all three proposals were recommended for funding.