

Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5158, MSC 7844, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1242.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: October 15, 1999.

Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Georgetown Inn, 1310 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20007.

Contact Person: Carole L. Jelsema, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5222, MSC 7850, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1249, jelsemac@drg.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, ZRG1-HEM-1 (01).

Date: October 15, 1999.

Time: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Holiday Inn, 5520 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Contact Person: Robert T. Su, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4134, MSC 7840, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1195.

Name of Committee: Surgery, Radiology and Bioengineering Initial Review Group, Diagnostic Imaging Study Section.

Date: October 17-19, 1999.

Time: 5 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Chevy Chase Holiday Inn, 5520 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Contact Person: Lee Rosen, PhD, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5116, MSC 7854, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1171.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: September 20, 1999.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 99-25200 Filed 9-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Call for Public Comment: Changing the Conversation—A National Plan To Improve Substance Abuse Treatment

AGENCY: Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, DHHS.

ACTION: Request for public comment on five issues (domains) of concern to the substance abuse treatment field when assessing substance abuse treatment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) is formally inviting public comment on five issues (domains) that are of concern to the substance abuse treatment field and require development and exploration. Via several mechanisms, including public hearings, CSAT intends that findings from the exploration of individual domains will ultimately be synthesized into a coherent national strategy to guide substance abuse treatment program and policy development for the future. Individuals and organizations are encouraged to comment in one of several ways: (1) In writing, by submission through the U.S. Mail or courier service; (2) via the National Treatment Plan web site (<http://www.NaTxPlan.org>); or (3) in person at one of the remaining two public hearings scheduled at locations across the country. The final cutoff date for comments is December 1, 1999. This notice discusses the public hearings at which interested individuals/organizations may testify regarding the five substance abuse treatment domains discussed below.

DATES/LOCATIONS: In addition to the public hearings held on July 8 in Hartford, Connecticut; September 16 in Chicago, Illinois; and October 18 in Washington, DC, CSAT plans to conduct two more public hearings in 1999—October 26 in Portland, Oregon, and November 8 in Tampa, Florida. The next hearing will be held at The Portland Building, 1120 S.W. Fifth Avenue, Meeting Room C-Second Floor, Portland, Oregon 97204, on October 26, 1999, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Specific details regarding subsequent hearings will be published in the **Federal Register** approximately one month prior to each hearing.

Requests to testify at the Portland, Oregon, public hearing must be submitted to the addressee indicated below by October 20, 1999. Seating is limited. In the event that interpretive services for the hearing-impaired are required, please indicate these special needs to the addressee.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information regarding the hearing and/or testimonies, as well as requests to testify must be addressed to: Carol Coley, [Tele: (301) 443-6539; e-mail: ccoley@samhsa.gov; Fax: (301) 443-

8345], Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA, Rockwall II Building, Suite 880, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857.

Written comments (without a request to personally testify) will also be accepted by the above addressee.

Written testimonies are limited to five (5) typed pages using 1.5 line spacing and 12 point font.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Building on recent advances and studies, CSAT has initiated plans to focus on how to apply its extensive knowledge to the practical objective of improving treatment outcomes. The plans include synthesizing current knowledge and recommendations about treatment, service systems, application of best practices, diffusion methods, and organization and financing of substance abuse treatment services. Federal Government and outside experts, as well as the interested public, will explore the current state of the knowledge, resources, needs, and service and organizational capacity. The objective is the culling of priorities for action by the government and by others in the substance abuse treatment field. As noted above, CSAT is inviting the public to comment on five domains as part of the initial step of the plan. The domains, as well as some initial questions for exploration, include:

(1) Closing the Treatment Gap

Where are the gaps? How big are they for different populations? For different types of settings and treatment modalities? How big are gaps in other related systems of care, e.g., welfare, child welfare, housing? What are the policy, organization, and financing issues that must be addressed in the private and public systems, including Medicaid and Medicare, to close the treatment gap?

(2) Reducing Stigma and Changing Attitudes

What are the nature, causes and consequences of addiction stigma? What can CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families do to address stigma related to addiction, substance abuse treatment and individuals with substance abuse disorders? How do other stigmas impact/compound the stigma of addiction?

(3) Improving and Strengthening Treatment Systems

What are the clinical and organizational challenges facing treatment organizations in the public and private sectors? What can CSAT,

the treatment field, consumers and families do to improve and strengthen treatment organizations so that they can adapt to the new imperatives of the changing treatment system, and to improve the relationship between the general health care system and the specialty substance abuse treatment system? What should be done at the State, county and/or local levels to improve and strengthen substance abuse treatment?

(4) *Connecting Services and Research*

What are the best methods by which CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families can foster and support evaluation of proven research findings in community-based settings and identification and adoption of best practices?

(5) *Addressing Workforce Issues*

What are the issues facing clinicians treating addictions? What can CSAT, the treatment field, consumers and families, and professional associations do to foster training, appropriate credentialing, and licensure in all settings in which treatment occurs, and to support treatment organizations in developing appropriate policies for clinical training?

Hearing Format

The hearings will be divided into five segments (*i.e.*, the five domains described above) of approximately 60 minutes each. Each individual/organization participant will be limited to three (3) minutes of oral testimony and five (5) pages of typed testimony per domain. All oral testimonies must be accompanied by a written testimony of no more than five (5) typed pages using 1.5 line spacing and 12 point font. Five copies of written testimonies may either be submitted before the hearing to the addressee listed above or to the registrar at the hearing. As the hearing schedule allows, unscheduled testimonies will be accommodated. All testimonies (recorded and written) will become a part of the public domain.

Dated: September 22, 1999.

Richard Kopanda,

Executive Officer, SAMHSA.

[FR Doc. 99-25229 Filed 9-27-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4162-20-P

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4486-D-01]

Delegation and Redefinition of Authority To Award and Administer Native American Rural Housing and Economic Development Grant Funds

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of delegation and redefinition of authority.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development delegates the power and authority to award and administer the Native American Rural Housing and Economic Development Initiative grant funds to the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing. The Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing redefines this power and authority to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs, who further redefines certain specific power and authority, as noted herein, to the Alaska Office of Native American Programs Administrator; the Director, Office of Loan Guarantees; the Director, Office of Grants Management; and the Director, Office of Grants Evaluation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 9, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Bullough, Office of Native American Programs, Office of Public and Indian Housing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 4130, Washington, DC 20410. Telephone number: (202) 401-7914 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing or speech-impaired persons may access this number via TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Pub. L. 105-65, approved October 27, 1997; 111 Stat. 1344) (the "FY 1998 HUD Appropriations Act") contained the following provision:

Of the [\$4,675,000,000] made available under this heading, \$25,000,000 shall be made available for the Secretary [of HUD], in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, to make grants, not to exceed \$4,000,000 each, for rural and tribal areas, including at least one Native American area in Alaska and one rural area in each of the States in Iowa and Missouri, to test comprehensive approaches to developing a job base through economic development, developing affordable low- and moderate-income rental and homeownership housing, and increasing the investment of both private and nonprofit capital.

HUD refers to those portions of the above-referenced grant funding that are designated specifically for Native Americans as the Native American Rural Housing and Economic Development Initiative grant funds. This document delegates and redefines power and authority with respect to the Native American Rural Housing and Economic Development Initiative grant funds.

The present action delegates from the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing the Secretary's power and authority with respect to the Native American Rural Housing and Economic Development Initiative grant funds, except for the authority to sue or be sued. The Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing redefines this power and authority to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs, except for the authority to terminate grants pursuant to 24 CFR 85.43. The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs further redefines certain specific authority, as noted herein, to the Alaska Office of Native American Programs Administrator; the Director, Office of Loan Guarantees; the Director, Office of Grants Management; and the Director, Office of Grants Evaluation.

Accordingly, the Secretary delegates, the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing redefines, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs redefines as follows:

Section A. Authority Delegated

The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development delegates to the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing all power and authority to award and administer the Native American Rural Housing and Economic Development Initiative grant funds, except for the authority to sue or be sued.

Section B. Authority Redefined

The Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing redefines to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs all power and authority to award and administer the Native American Rural Housing and Economic Development Initiative grant funds, except for the authority to terminate grants pursuant to 24 CFR 85.43.

Section C. Authority Further Redefined

The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs redefines