

MSC 7812, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1223, haydenb@csr.nih.gov.

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Dated: October 4, 1999.

LaVerne Y. Stringfield,

Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 99-26476 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

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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 the remaining public hearing. 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; October 18 in Washington, DC; and October 26 in Portland, Oregon; CSAT plans to

conduct a public hearing on November 8 in Tampa, Florida. The hearing will be held at the County Center, Corner of Kennedy Boulevard and Pierce Street, Tampa, Florida 33602 on November 8, 1999, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Specific details regarding any subsequent hearings will be published in the **Federal Register** approximately one month prior to the hearing.

Requests to testify at the Tampa, Florida, public hearing must be submitted to the addressee indicated below by November 2, 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: Marjorie Cashion (Tele: (301) 443-3821; e-mail: mcashion@samhsa.gov; Fax: (301) 480-6077), Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, SAMHSA, Rockwall II Building, Suite 618, 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. Four 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: October 4, 1999.

Richard Kopanda,

Executive Officer, SAMHSA.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4445-N-23]

Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request; Cooperative Membership Exhibit

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Housing, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The proposed information collection requirement described below will be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget, (OMB) for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act. The Department is soliciting public comments on the subject proposal.

DATES: Comments due date: December 13, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments regarding this proposal. Comments should refer to the proposal by name and/or OMB Control Number and should be sent to: Wayne Eddins, Reports Management Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street, SW, L'Enfant Building, Room 8202, Washington, D.C. 20410.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Willie Spearmon, Office of Business Products, Office of Multifamily Housing Programs, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20410, telephone (202) 708-3000 for copies of the proposed forms and other available information.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department is submitting the proposed information collection to OMB for review, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended).

This Notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information to: (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) Evaluate the

accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

This Notice also lists the following information:

Title of Proposal: Cooperative Membership Exhibit.

OMB Control Number, if applicable: 2502-0025.

Description of the need for the information and proposed use: The form is necessary to provide evidence to HUD of compliance of selling the property or project to an eligible cooperative group. The form is used to list prospective cooperative members. HUD uses the form to ensure that the property or project is being sold to an eligible cooperative group.

Agency form numbers, if applicable: HUD-93203.

Estimation of the total numbers of hours needed to prepare the information collection including number of respondents, frequency of response, and hours of response: The estimated number of respondents is 300; frequency of response is 1; and the estimated hours of response are: 5 hours per response; and the total annual burden hours requested is 150.

Status of the proposed information collection: Reinstatement without change.

Authority: The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C., Chapter 35, as amended.

Dated: September 30, 1999.

William C. Apgar,

Assistant Secretary for Housing—Federal Housing Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 99-26506 Filed 10-8-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-M

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4410-FA-09]

Announcement of Funding Awards for the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative Program; Fiscal Year 1999

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice of funding awards.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 102 (a)(4)(C) of the Department of

Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989, this announcement notifies the public of funding decisions made by the Department in a competition for funding under the Super Notice of Funding Availability (SuperNOFA) for the Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) Program. This announcement contains the names of the awardees and the amounts of the awards made available by HUD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Donner Buchet, Director, Community and Economic Development Services, Office of Community Planning and Development, 451 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-2290 (this is not a toll-free number). Hearing- and speech-impaired persons may access this number via TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service toll-free at 1-800-877-8339. For general information on this and other HUD programs, call Community Connections at 1-800-998-9999 or visit the HUD Website at <http://www.hud.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) program was enacted in 1998 and is intended to complement and enhance the Section 108 Loan Guarantee program. The BEDI program is authorized under Section 108(q), Title I, Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, (42 U.S.C. 5301-5320) (the Act); 24 CFR part 570. The competition was announced in the SuperNOFA published in the **Federal Register** on February 26, 1999 (64 FR 9801). Applications were rated and selected for funding on the basis of selection criteria contained in that Notice.

BEDI is designed to help cities redevelop abandoned, idled, or underutilized industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. BEDI provides funding to local governments to be used in conjunction with Section 108 loan guarantees to finance redevelopment of brownfield sites. The purpose of BEDI grant funds is to minimize the potential loss of future CDBG allocations by: strengthening the economic feasibility of the projects financed with Section 108 funds; directly enhancing the security of the guaranteed loan; or through a combination of these or other risk mitigation techniques. BEDI and Section 108 loan guarantee funds are intended to finance projects and activities that will provide near-term results and demonstrable economic