April 04, 2014

Dear Service Providers,

Many of you participated in the provider presentations held last month across Idaho. Becky Vaughn, who led the presentations, is with the State Associations of Addiction Services (SAAS). SAAS works to support prevention, treatment, and recovery service providers and they are particularly focused on readiness for the coming changes in healthcare services and funding. As a result, they have developed a self-assessment tool for providers so that we can use the data to direct our planning for future training and technical assistance. While the national survey was conducted 2 years ago, since then several states have used it to assess their readiness and develop state specific training based on the outcomes. Becky talked about the opportunity for Idaho to determine its training needs based on this assessment. She will return on Thursday, May 15 at ICADD in Boise with the results and training based on these results.

Given this, you can understand how important it is for every provider to take the time (approximately 30-40 minutes) to participate and give honest feedback. Some providers have used the instrument as part of a staff meeting, so that everyone is aware of the issues facing readiness for the new opportunities under healthcare reforms and the parity legislation and regulations.

There are no embarrassing answers. Most providers have not needed many of these skills in the past. Answering a question with “unsure” is a valid response. We need to know where to focus. Your answers are confidential. We will only be receiving aggregate data from SAAS. It is important that you answer in a way that helps us understand what the needs are.

Click on this link to access the assessment.


The link will be open until April 18, 2014, but we urge you to complete it as soon as possible to avoid continuous reminders from us!

You’ll find Frequently Asked Questions and Instructions on the following page.
Thank you in advance for your help in making sure we can meet the needs of Idaho citizens with addiction needs. I’m counting on you and look forward to our work together to ensure we have the skills and capacity to meet the demand.

*Rosie Andueza*

*Division of Behavioral Health*
Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we conducting this assessment?

In light of the seismic shifts resulting from the recession, shrinking state budgets, the Affordable Care Act and - generally speaking - a business environment that is in a near-constant state of flux, it is critical that:

- providers have a clear understanding of their readiness and capability to adapt to change.
- policy-makers are aware of the technical assistance providers really need.

The data collected through your generous participation will serve to protect and improve the behavioral health field as a whole while assisting individual providers to capitalize on opportunities and new markets.

What do we need from you to better serve you?

- Set aside 30-40 minutes to fully complete the assessment. We need full participation across the spectrum of providers in order to accomplish our collective goals. If you come across a question you do not understand, save your work, ask a co-worker for help answering the question, return to the assessment and complete it. Please do not abandon this effort.
- Please enter one individual's contact name, organization and email address at the conclusion of the assessment to receive your organization's feedback. This person will be the key contact but can ask other members of your organization to assist in completing the assessment as necessary. Selecting "unsure" where applicable is a valid and important finding.

Important:

- This survey in no way reflects the quality of care you provide—only your organization's readiness to conduct business in the new environment.
- Your time is in short supply. The survey allows you to save it and return until it is completed. Please click on the "Save and Continue" link in the grey box at the bottom of the page, and a link will be sent to you.

What will participation do for you?

- Enhance your organization's ability to provide services to individuals whose coverage will change as a result of health care reforms.
- Provide you with an emailed summary of your readiness scores across each domain.
- Benefit those you serve no matter the size of your organization or the kinds of services you provide.
- Strengthen the case for governmental agencies to provide technical assistance.