

The Independent Evaluation of the CMHS BG Program

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Dear Planning Council Member:

The Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (CMHS BG), funded by Congress to develop community-based systems of care for adults with serious mental illness and children with a serious emotional disturbance, is the largest Federal program dedicated to improving community mental health services. The sponsor of the program, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Mental Health Services, has contracted with Altarum, to conduct an independent evaluation of this program.

We are soliciting feedback about the CMHS BG from key program stakeholders. As members of the State Planning Council, you have important insights and views about the intent, implementation, and impact of the CMHS BG in your State. We therefore would appreciate greatly your assistance with the evaluation by completing this survey. Most of the questions are closed-ended questions, where you will be asked to check the appropriate answer or answers. In addition, there are several open-ended questions, where you have the opportunity to comment. We urge you to be as honest and thoughtful as possible.

Please be assured that your answers will be strictly confidential. We will report responses to questions only in the aggregate, and we will never attribute specific comments to particular individuals. Your responses will not have any repercussions for your State and will not be used by the sponsoring organization to assess State compliance with the CMHS BG requirements; they will be used solely for the purposes of evaluating the CMHS BG as a whole.

Thank you very much for taking the time to participate.

Background Questions

1) What group do you formally represent on your CMHS BG Planning Council? (Check one)

- Consumers
- Family members
- Advocacy organization representatives
- Mental health providers
- State officials
- Health-related professionals (e.g., physician, nurse)
- Other (please describe) _____

2) In what month and year did you become a member of the CMHS BG Planning Council?

Month: _____
Year: _____

Application Development and Review

3a) Do the five criteria provide an adequate framework for States to describe their State mental health systems?

- Yes
- No

3b) Please explain.

3c) Are there other criteria that could be helpful in developing States' plan?

- Yes
- No

3d) If so, please discuss.

4) What are the strengths of the process for developing the State CMHS BG State plan?

5) What are the weaknesses of the process for developing the State CMHS BG State plan?

6) What are supports that facilitate CMHS BG Planning Council involvement in the CMHS BG State plan development process?

7) What do you see as the barriers to CMHS BG Planning Council involvement in the CMHS BG State plan development process?

8a) Do you have any recommendations for improving the process of developing the State CMHS BG State plan?

- Yes
- No

8b) If so, what are they?

9a) Are there unintended positive results of CMHS BG Planning Council involvement in the CMHS BG State plan development and submission process?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

9b) If so, please describe.

9c) Are there unintended negative results of CMHS BG Planning Council involvement in the CMHS BG State plan development and submission process?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

9d) If so, please describe.

CMHS BG Planning Council Involvement in CMHS BG Activities

10) In Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, how involved was the CMHS BG Planning Council in the following activities?

Activity	Not involved	Somewhat involved	Moderately involved	Very involved	Extremely Involved	Cannot answer
Reviewing the State's CMHS BG State plan						
Monitoring and evaluating the allocation and adequacy of State mental health services funded in part through the CMHS BG						
Educating legislators						
Providing information to the public						
Creating study groups to develop recommendations for the State's CMHS BG State plan						
Developing products (e.g., documents related to cultural competence)						
Implementing surveys (e.g., consumer surveys)						
Drafting State legislation						
Implementing special projects						
Developing the State's CMHS BG State plan						
Participating in a needs assessment						
Reviewing data from the State mental health information system						
Other (please describe)						

11a) Did you have an opportunity to review the FY 2005 State plan?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

11b) If so, how much time did you, as a CMHS BG Planning Council member, have to review the State's FY 2005 CMHS BG State plan?

- Less than a week
- 1 week to 2 weeks
- 2 weeks to a month
- More than a month
- Cannot answer

12) How much time did the CMHS BG Planning Council have to review the State's FY 2005 CMHS BG State plan?

- Less than a week
- 1 week to 2 weeks
- 2 weeks to a month
- More than a month
- Cannot answer

13) To what extent do you agree that the amount of time that the CMHS BG Planning Council had to review the FY 2005 CMHS BG State plan was adequate?

- Strongly disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Strongly agree
- Cannot answer

14) How frequently does your CMHS BG Planning Council meet in a typical year?

- We don't meet at least once a year
- Once or twice
- 3 to 4 times
- 5 or more times
- Cannot answer

15) How does the CMHS Planning Council provide feedback about the State's CMHS BG State plan to the State Mental Health Agency (SMHA)?

16) Please rate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements.

Statement	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Cannot answer
The CMHS BG Planning Council solicits my opinion as a council member						
The CMHS BG Planning Council respects my opinion as a council member						
The SMHA staff respects the opinions of the CMHS BG Planning Council						
The SMHA staff solicits the opinions of the CMHS BG Planning Council beyond what is legislatively required						
The CMHS BG Planning Council supports my participation (e.g., transportation, reimbursement for expenses, stipend)						

17a) Does the CMHS BG Planning Council work with the SMHA to implement CMHS BG activities?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

17b) If so, please describe the quality of this working relationship.

18) What are the strengths of the CMHS BG Planning Council's involvement in the CMHS BG Program?

19) What are the weaknesses of the CMHS BG Planning Council's involvement in the CMHS BG Program?

20a) Do you have any recommendations for improving the CMHS BG Planning Council's involvement in the CMHS BG Program?

- Yes
- No

20b) If so, what are they?

21a) Are there unintended positive results of the CMHS BG Planning Council involvement in State Mental Health Agency (SMHA) activities?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

21b) If so, please describe.

21c) Are there unintended negative results of the CMHS BG Planning Council involvement in SMHA activities?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

21d) If so, please describe.

22a) Do you think that your CMHS BG Planning Council influences State-level policy?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

22b) If so, which of the following activities did your CMHS BG Planning Council engage in to influence State-level policy? (Check all that apply)

- Developing special reports
- Providing testimony
- Sponsoring public meetings or hearings
- Collaborating with other agencies or groups
- Advocating within the council (e.g., for a specific issue or population)
- Disseminating planning-related information
- Other (please describe) _____

22c) If yes to question 21a, please describe how State-level policy was influenced by your CMHS BG Planning Council's activities.

CMHS BG Allocation and Distribution

23) What are the strengths of the process for allocating and distributing CMHS BG funds?

24) What are the weaknesses of the process for allocating and distributing CMHS BG funds?

25a) Do you have any recommendations for improving the process for allocating and distributing CMHS BG funds?

- Yes
- No

25b) If so, what are they?

Regional Review Process

26) What are the strengths of the regional review process?

27) What are the weaknesses of the regional review process?

28a) Are there unintended positive results of the regional review process?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

28b) If so, please describe.

28c) Are there unintended negative results of the regional review process?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

28d) If so, please describe.

Implementation Report Process

29) In a typical year, does the CMHS BG Planning Council review the draft implementation report?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

30) Please rate the extent to which your State's implementation report examines adherence to the CMHS BG State plan.

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Mostly
- Completely
- Cannot answer

31) What impact does the ability to modify your State's CMHS BG application (including target performance indicators) after Federal approval have on the implementation report's utility in assessing adherence to the CMHS BG State plan?

- No impact
- Some impact
- Moderate impact
- Considerable impact
- Cannot answer

32) What are the strengths of the implementation report?

33) What are the weaknesses of the implementation report?

34a) Do you have any recommendations for improving the implementation report?

- Yes
- No

34b) If so, what are they?

35a) Is the implementation report used for anything other than satisfying CMHS BG requirements?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

35b) If so, how is it used?

Program Development and Support

36) What are the strengths of CMHS BG program development and support provided by your State to subrecipients?

37) What are the weaknesses of CMHS BG program development and support provided by your State to subrecipients?

38a) Do you have any recommendations for improving CMHS BG program development and support provided by your State to subrecipients?

- Yes
- No

38b) If so, what are they?

39a) Are there any unintended positive results of CMHS BG program development and support provided by your State to subrecipients?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

39b) If so, please describe.

40a) Are there any unintended negative results of CMHS BG program development and support provided by your State to subrecipients?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot answer

40b) If so, please describe.

CMHS BG-related Outcomes

41a) In FY 2005, did your CMHS BG Planning Council receive CMHS BG-related technical assistance (TA)?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot say

41b) If so, on what topics?

41c) Has your CMHS BG Planning Council experienced a change because of that TA?

- Yes
- No
- Cannot say

41d) If so, please discuss that change.

42) Please rate the extent to which you agree with each of the following statements.

Statement	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Cannot answer
The CMHS BG Planning Council is an active, integrated part of the State CMHS BG planning process						

Statement	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither disagree nor agree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Cannot answer
As a result of CMHS BG activities, States have improved their coordination of State mental health services and programs						
There has been an increase in the number of evidence-based practices and innovative services available because of the CMHS BG program						
The CMHS BG program has contributed to improving the quality of States' mental health services						
The CMHS BG program has contributed to a decrease in unmet treatment need						
As a result of CMHS BG activities, there has been an increase in consumer involvement in the State mental health system						
As a result of CMHS BG activities, there has been an increase in utilization of community-based treatment services						
Programs initiated with CMHS BG funds have been continued using State and other funding sources						
States have leveraged CMHS BG resources to implement policy changes						

43) How has your CMHS BG Planning Council helped move your State's mental health system in a positive direction?
