



Eliot Spitzer
Governor

NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM
AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES
1450 Western Avenue
Albany, New York 12203-3526

Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo
Commissioner

April 27, 2007

Ms. Summer King, Reports Clearance Officer
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
One Choke Cherry Road, Room 7 -1044
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Ms. King:

In New York, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) is a cabinet level State agency, operating 13 Addiction Treatment Centers and overseeing approximately 1,200 addiction treatment and 300 prevention providers, based in schools and communities throughout New York State. OASAS has been designated by the Governor to administer the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, Governor's portion of the State Program – Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program, and the Enforcing the Underage Drinking Laws Block Grant Program. This letter offers OASAS' comments on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) proposed Town Hall Meeting survey as published in the February 28, 2007 Federal Register.

In order to expand the usefulness of the survey results, we recommend that the following questions be added. Once the feedback information is collected, it is further recommended that a report be sent to each State Substance Abuse Agency. For New York, this information would be helpful in understanding the scope of local coalition efforts funded by SAMHSA.

- ✓ Are you a grantee under the Drug Free Communities Program (DFC) administered by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy? (*In 2006, CSAP provided support for all DFC grantees and twenty local coalitions identified by the National Prevention Network (NPN) representative in each State. New York would be interesting in knowing how many nominated community coalitions and DFC grantees hosted town meetings.*)
- ✓ Since the 2006 Town Hall Meeting, have you interacted with the State Substance Abuse Agency /National Prevention Network representative about next steps? (*All sites were provided with the NPN contact in their State and it was suggested that they coordinate their activity with the NPN.*)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the proposed Town Hall Meeting feedback form.

Sincerely,

Reba Architzel, Assistant Division Director
Division of Systems/Program Performance & Analysis

cc: J. Ernst
F. Harding
R. Piculell
T. Williams





June 01, 2007

Ms. Summer King, Reports Clearance Office
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
One Choke Cherry Road, Room 7 – 1044
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. King:

I have reviewed the response to the letter of New York State's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, dated April 27, 2007 to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's proposed Underage Drinking Prevention: Town Hall Meeting Feedback Form published in the February 28, 2007 Federal Register.

It has been requested that we ascertain if respondents are a Drug-Free Communities Program grantee and whether they have interacted with the State Substance Abuse Prevention Agency/National Prevention Network representative in their State about next steps. The purpose of the process assessment of the Town Hall Meetings (THM) Initiative is to help guide decision making and planning for future THMs. Information will be collected from approximately 1200 separate THMs; therefore, it would be inappropriate to collect data on one State's local Town Hall Initiative. It would be more appropriate for the State to collect these data from each of their local programs, not through this national effort.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra S. Chipungu".

Sandra S. Chipungu, Ph.D.
Senior Evaluator

cc: Gwyndolyn Ensley