

Attachment D3

SAMHSA letter to NASADAD, October 2008



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration

received
10-29-08

OCT 27 2008

Center for Mental Health Services
Center for Substance Abuse
Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse
Treatment
Rockville MD 20857

Lewis E. Gallant, Ph.D.
Executive Director
National Association of State
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, Inc.
1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 605
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Gallant:

I am pleased to inform you that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has selected the following definition for the National Outcome Measures (NOMs) for social connectedness for substance abuse treatment - "change in participation in self-help groups (admission to discharge)." This decision is based on recommendations from the Technical Consultation Group meeting held in 2006 and comments from SAMHSA staff and stakeholders. This option was chosen for its consistency with data already provided to SAMHSA through the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant application and with data currently collected through the Uniform Reporting System managed by the Center for Mental Health Services. Thus, this definition should pose the least burden on States and all providers. In addition, this definition also reflects the value which SAMHSA places on the role of self-help activities in the recovery process.

In the near future, SAMHSA staff will develop specifications for this measure which will be collected through the Treatment Episode Data System, amend our current data collection manuals, and work with the States to ensure uniform reporting. This item will also be included in our upcoming request for clearance from the Office of Management and Budget.

We have greatly appreciated NASADAD's participation in the NOMs development process and look forward to your input on future NOMs issues.

Sincerely,

Eric B. Broderick, D.D.S, M.P.H
Acting Administrator
Assistant Surgeon General