

Attachment 5

TO: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Grantees

FROM: Dr. Pete Delany, Center Director, Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (CBHSQ)

SUBJECT: Behavioral Health Information Technologies Survey

DATE: XX, XX, XXXX

Dear Colleagues,

We are inviting you to participate in a 20-30 minute Health Information Technology (HIT) related survey being conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). As you may know, SAMHSA has established Health Information Technology (HIT) as one of its Strategic Initiatives aimed at advancing the use of HIT to support integrated behavioral health care and its potential to transform the health care system. To support this initiative, SAMHSA has developed a survey instrument that will collect baseline data on the status of behavioral health information technology adoption and use among SAMHSA grantees. We are seeking information from grantees using a variety of technologies, not just electronic health records. These data are vital to SAMHSA planning and implementation of HIT activities and future programmatic planning.

If your program agrees to participate in the survey, the survey respondent can be the Project Director or another designated staff member who may be more familiar with the program. SAMHSA defers to the Project Director to make the determination of who should answer the survey. However, communication for the data collection will be through the Project Director. Forthcoming information about the survey will be coming from the National Council for Behavioral Health (National Council) in the next few days.

SAMHSA believes that this is an important project that will contribute to SAMHSA's Strategic Initiatives: "Health Information Technology" and "Health Care and Health Systems Integration," and we very much value your participation in the survey as it will help to inform the direction of SAMHSA's HIT initiatives.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Thomas Clarke at CBHSQ. His information can be found below.

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