



August 17, 2006

Catherine D. Nugent
SAMHSA/CSAT/DSI
1 Choke Cherry Road
Room 5-1079
Rockville, MD 20857

NACBHD
National Association of
County Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disability
Directors

Dear Ms. Nugent,

The National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors (NACBHD) supports renewal of Addictions Technology Transfer Centers (ATTCs) across the United States. Among others in behavioral health and developmental disabilities NACBHD represents county governments and other local authorities that in cooperation with the single state authority (SSA) manage and/or provide substance use services. There are eighteen states in which local authorities share responsibility (programmatic and funding) for substance use services.

Many of our members have had good relationships while others have not utilized the local ATTC in their region. To improve utilization and the relevance of assistance, NACBHD urges CSAT to consider a closer partnership involving the ATTC, SSA and the respective county government or other local authority. Better utilization of the ATTC will lead to expanded use of evidence-based services and improved individual and system level outcomes. In addition to this specification, NACBHD also requests that the ATTCs receive an increase in funding that is sufficient to ensure viability and impact.

Substance use disorders continue to negatively impact America's communities and businesses. In response, demand for substance use treatment professionals has grown while the supply of individuals seeking a career in the field has diminished. NACBHD views the ATTCs as one of the remedies for a diminishing workforce.

There are several very practical reasons to support the current ATTC system: 1) it is in place and functioning; 2) it has a local, regional and national reach; 3) it operates locally and therefore can easily refine products and services to meet the particular needs of the treatment systems; and, 4) it utilizes economies of scale generating a very reasonable cost while offering high quality training. This allows smaller treatment systems access to technology transfer opportunities.

In closing, NACBHD supports the ATTC system as it currently operates. NACBHD views the ATTC system as a vital resource for states, counties and local authorities, and providers. We appreciate this opportunity to respond to your request for public comment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melissa Staats

Cc: Joe Dunn, NACo
Lewis Gallant, NASADAD