

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

March 18, 2015

The Honorable Pamela S. Hyde  
Administrator  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
1 Choke Cherry Road  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Administrator Hyde:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is engaged in ongoing oversight of mental health programs and resources with the goal of ensuring that federal dollars devoted to mental health are reaching the millions of Americans with serious mental illness (SMI) and helping them to obtain the most effective care.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health—including mental health—of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

Treatment interventions are an important part of helping those individuals living with mental illness and SMI, and the medical community and others have made advances in developing evidence-based practices. In recent years, there has been an increased focus on the importance of using evidence-based practices for clinical interventions. A 2014 report released by the Institute of Medicine identified evidence-based practices as important for optimizing the effectiveness of interventions to help prevent mental health problems.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, starting in fiscal year 2014, SAMHSA was directed to require grantees in its Community Mental Health Services Block Grants program to set aside 5 percent of their monies to support evidence-based programs that address early intervention for individuals with SMI.

Since 1997, SAMHSA has sponsored a National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP), which is a searchable online registry of programs and services that are considered by SAMHSA to be evidence-based. According to SAMHSA, the purpose of NREPP is to help the public learn more about available evidence-based programs and practices and determine which of these may best meet their needs.

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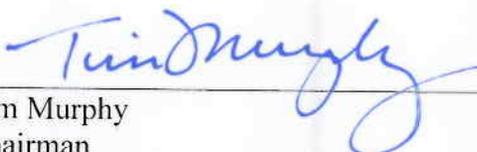
<sup>1</sup>Institute of Medicine, "Preventing Psychological Disorders in Service Members and Their Families: An Assessment of Programs" (Washington, D.C.: 2014).

The committee would like to better understand how SAMHSA manages NREPP. Therefore, we ask that you respond to the following questions no later than April 1, 2015:

1. What is SAMHSA's process for updating and adding interventions to NREPP?
2. How does SAMHSA ensure the validity of the interventions submitted to NREPP? Is the vetting process any different for interventions developed with SAMHSA funding?
3. Does SAMHSA consult with other federal agencies and subject matter experts as part of the NREPP vetting process, and if so, how?
4. What efforts are made to ensure that studies used to support inclusion of individual NREPP-submitted interventions are independent of the intervention developers themselves?
5. How focused are NREPP-approved interventions on individuals in the acute phases of SMI, including, for example, on medication adherence?
6. Does SAMHSA use the information contained in NREPP internally in its funding decisions?
7. How does SAMHSA monitor the use and impact of NREPP, including on positive mental health or behavioral outcomes?
8. Who are the intended users of the programs or interventions in the NREPP, and what does SAMHSA do to ensure they know about these programs?
9. What does SAMHSA do to promote user adherence to the programs or interventions in NREPP, and what, if any, technical assistance does SAMHSA provide to users?

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Sam Spector with the majority committee staff at (202) 225-2927 or Elizabeth Letter with the minority committee staff at (202) 226-3400.

Sincerely,

  
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Tim Murphy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations

  
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Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations

Letter to the Honorable Pamela S. Hyde  
Page 3

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman  
The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr., Ranking Member