

Frequently Asked Questions & Comments: Community Plan Guidelines
for 2012-2013

Weeks of November 24, 2010 – December 15, 2010

33. On the Community Plan template for Question #23 (p. 51 of PDF document), there is an additional sub-heading entitled “Funds available for parents/caregivers in the child welfare system,” but I do not see any explanation for this section in the instructions. Is this an error in the template or in the instructions or have I missed something?

Ohio Revised Code Section 340.033 (H) states: When the board sets priorities and develops plans for the operation of alcohol and drug addiction programs under division (A)(2) of this section, the board shall consult with the county commissioners of the counties in the board’s service district regarding the services described in section 340.15 of the Revised Code and shall give a priority to those services, except that those services shall not have priority over services provided to pregnant women under programs developed in relation to the mandate established in section 3793.15 of the Revised Code. The plans shall identify funds the board and public children services agencies in the board’s service district have available to fund jointly the services described in section 340.15 of the Revised Code.

Boards are being asked to identify funding available to provide these priority services in collaboration with public children services agencies. If the timing of plan submission is such that the SFY 2012 funding is not yet determined, the Board can identify funds available for the current biennium (SFY 2010-2011) and indicate whether this SFY 2012-2013 community plan for services in fulfillment of 340.033(H) assumes flat funding for period covered by the plan or a decrease in funding.

Background on Community Plan Guidelines Question 23: Family Reunification and Stabilization (FRS), formerly House Bill 484, was Ohio's response to the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act. The bill exceeded the federal standards by specifying that child abuse or neglect associated with parental substance abuse could be grounds for termination of custodial rights. The bill also emphasized the need to provide timely and appropriate treatment necessary to facilitate family reunification. Funds are allocated during each State Fiscal Year, for the provision of treatment to families who are in danger of having their children removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect as a result of substance abuse. Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS), in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) is required to develop a statewide plan to prioritize substance abuse

services for families involved in the child welfare system. Additional information in Ohio Revised Code is available at:

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/340.15>

<http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3793.15>

34. Question #24 states to address “a” success and “a” challenge. Are Departments only looking for one of each?

If a Board would like to provide more than a single example of each that is OK. We want to get a feel for the Board's most challenging and most successful endeavors over the last year.

35. Question # 25 (b) asks what milestones/indicators will be used to track progress toward goals. We were going to put in our numerical targets and/or milestones into our description of the goals/objectives. Can we just refer back to this section?

Yes.

36. Our Board has been approved an extension for our Community Plan. Does this approved extension include the budget document that has a due date of Jan 3, 2011?

The deadline of January 3, 2011 is for submission of the SFY 2010 Annual Board Expenditure Report (FIS-040), which is separate and distinct from the budget templates for SFY 2012-2013 that are part of the Community Plan. The Community Plan budget templates are due with your plan on the extension date approved by the Departments.

If you have any questions with regard to the SFY 2010 Actual Board Expenditure Report, please contact Ms. Holly Jones at 614-644-8559 or Holly.Jones@mh.ohio.gov.

37. The ODMH 2012 Community Plan Adult Housing Categories asks for information regarding Independent Community Housing (Rent or Home Ownership). We have no way of identifying how many SPMI/SMI consumers in our county have Section 8 vouchers, own their own home or are renting an apartment without public assistance. How do you suggest we gather this information, particularly when our Housing Authority does not and should not ask specifics regarding applicants' mental health treatment?

The Board can contact the local Metropolitan Housing Authority to identify the number of Section 8 vouchers available to the community. Although this will not provide the number of vouchers utilized by disability group, it will supply valuable information for the Board's community planning process and Section 8 voucher availability. The Board can inquire about future Sections 8 voucher availability and the number of current Section 8 vouchers currently being used and unused.

If the estimated number is not known at this time, then the Board can create a plan that addresses how the data will be obtained for subsequent Community Plans. (e.g. The Board could work "backwards" to an estimate number: The total number of consumers minus the number of consumers in the other housing categories minus those consumers on a shelter plus care subsidy [data is kept on this subsidy as it is for disability and care needs to be demonstrated] minus the number of consumers who are reporting homelessness.) The Board could ask providers to estimate this client-specific data for those consumers in their community mental health system and collect this information from the respective provider(s).

38. I am working on the Board Membership Catalog portion of our Community Plan and have a couple of questions that I can't find an answer to within the guidelines or the FAQs. I do not see any guidance regarding information to provide for Board membership information. My first question is what information do we provide for "Term?" In reviewing a previous Community Plan Part B, I found that we provided "first term" and "partial term" information. Is this the information that we should provide? If we provide "first term", etc. and the Board member is in their 2nd term & the first term was a partial term do we somehow indicate this? My second question is what information do we provide for "Appointment"? Do we provide the appointing authority (i.e. ODMH, ODADAS or County Commissioners)?

Board membership definitions related to duties, responsibilities and terms of service are cited in Ohio Revised Code chapter 340.02. Board member terms are for a duration of four (4) years. Members are limited to two (2) consecutive four (4) year terms but are allowed to fill a partial term of two (2) years or less, in addition to the two (2) consecutive terms. The member, thus, is limited to ten years of consecutive service.

Specific to the first question, appropriate responses to the question of "term" is "1st", "2nd" or "partial," and to include in the "Term" box the date of first appointment to the Board and complete the box asking for "Year Term Expires." This information would completely fulfill those particular ORC requirements. Specific to the second question, the appointing authorities are limited to County Commissioners, ODADAS and ODMH.

39. What work have ODADAS and ODMH done to prepare Ohio's behavioral health system for implementation of the Affordable Care Act (federal health care reform)?

ODADAS and ODMH summarized the impact of potential expansion of coverage and other state level activities for SAMHSA as required addendums to the 2011 Block Grant Plans. These summaries may be useful to Boards in their planning processes and in preparing a response to Question #2 of the Community Plan Guidelines. These summaries will be posted to the Department websites in the coming days.