

Washington/Oregon

State Pilot Test

Background

Following the “Co-Occurring Disorders Conference: Changing Systems Changing Lives,” the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) and the Older Americans Substance Abuse and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center (TAC) will be conducting a state pilot test focusing on geriatric substance abuse prevention and intervention and mental health promotion. Participants will include Washington and Oregon personnel in the fields of aging, substance abuse prevention and intervention, and mental health promotion.

Overview

The state pilot test activities are two-fold. In August 2005, participants will take part in an assessment (via conference call) of their state’s resources, programs, opportunities and challenges. Focusing on the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) approach, TAC staff, in partnership with SAMHSA and leading geriatric experts, will develop integrated SWOT analyses for both Washington and Oregon. The critical areas identified in this analysis will serve as the springboard for the second part of the pilot test, discussion and planning. The goal of this portion of the pilot test is to facilitate participants’ growth in knowledge regarding state strengths and areas for improvement along with preliminary planning to bridge the gaps identified and promote collaboration with peers. This half-day opportunity is scheduled for:

September 14, 2005

8:30 am to 12:30 pm

Wenatchee Convention Center
Wenatchee, Washington

SAMHSA's Interest

The mission of SAMHSA’s *Older Americans Substance Abuse and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center* is to enhance the quality of life and promote the physical and mental well-being of older Americans through the provision of technical assistance by reducing the risk for and incidence of substance abuse and mental health issues late in life. Through partnerships with state and federal agencies and community health care providers, the TAC will serve as a national repository to disseminate information, training, and direct assistance in the prevention and early intervention of substance abuse and mental health problems. Priorities for the TAC include prevention and early intervention of substance abuse, medication misuse and abuse, mental health disorders, and co-occurring disorders.

The TAC is interested in learning how to best provide states with technical assistance and training regarding state planning and use of evidence-based programs for older adults on substance abuse, mental health, health promotion and education. Following lessons learned from this state pilot test, the TAC will be developing further state planning technical assistance and training activities to foster collaboration between states and to support state agency personnel in the processes of the preparation and modification of individual state plans.