

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fort Bend County Commissioners Court Members

**FROM:** Dr. A. Connie Almeida, Director Behavioral Health

**DATE:** March 29, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Participation with University of Houston for a proposed SAMHSA Grant

**Working title:** A Justice Model for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Engagement, Treatment, and Recovery Services in the New America – Fort Bend County, Texas

**Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for proposal:** SAMHSA – TI-18-010: Enhancement and Expansion of Treatment and Recovery Services for Adolescents, Transitional Aged Youth, and their Families (Youth and Family TREE)

**Purpose:** Enhance and expand comprehensive treatment, early intervention, and recovery support services for adolescents (ages 12-18), transitional aged youth (ages 16-25), and their families/primary caregivers with substance use disorders (SUD) and/or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders.

**Overall:** Drs. Robin Gearing and Jami Kovach from the University of Houston proposes to join with Dr. Connie Almeida, Director of Behavioral Health Services in Fort Bend County Dr. Lisa Poynor, CEO of Fort Bend Regional, and Mary Collins, Chief Program Officer of Access Health, to meet the unmet needs of adolescents and young adults touched by the justice system. This SAMHSA proposal will support a 5-year research proposal to investigate and expand comprehensive treatment, early intervention, and recovery support services for adolescents and transitional aged youth with co-occurring substance use and mental disorders across Fort Bend County. This proposal also seeks to actively identify barriers and promoters to treatment engagement of racial and ethnic minorities across the county and develop a more effective and engaging assessment, referral, and treatment process of youth with co-occurring mental health and substance disorders. The goals are to effectively engage, assess, and treat this populations to improve their overall functioning, reduce burden in the county, and minimize future penetration into the justice or criminal systems. This proposal does not seek matching funds from Fort Bend Country. The proposal will not exceed \$541,350 per year for five years

**Requirements:** Based on need and identification of traditionally underserved populations (identify and reduce differences in access, service use, and outcomes of services among females and racial and ethnic minority populations to address health disparities), applicants may choose to provide services to:

1. Adolescents and their families/primary caregivers,
2. Transitional aged youth and their families/primary caregivers, or
- a. May choose subset of this population of focus (e.g., ages 16-18, ages 18-21, ages 21-25)
3. Both populations and their families/primary caregivers.

Grant recipient will be expected to provide a coordinated multi-system family centered approach that will enhance and expand comprehensive evidence-based treatment, including early intervention and recovery support services to the population of focus, and projects will:

- Increase the unduplicated number of individuals served with evidence-based services and practices;
- Increase abstinence from the use of alcohol, marijuana, and other substances;
- Increase access, engagement, and retention in treatment;
- Improve parenting skills and family functioning;
- Improve educational, employment, and housing stability;
- Decrease involvement in and exposure to crime and violence;
- Improve mental health; and
- Increase access to health services for underserved populations.

Key Personnel: Staff members who must be part of the project regardless of whether or not they receive a salary or compensation from the project. These staff members must make a substantial contribution to the execution of the project, including:

- Project Director – who is the day-to-day point of contact for this grant and is responsible for ensuring that all Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) requirements are met, and that all reports are submitted in a timely and accurate manner.
- Youth Service/Recovery Support Coordinator – who ensures the availability of a coordinated integrated system of care with adolescents and transitional aged youth serving agencies and services.
- Family Coordinator – who promotes coordination and integration of family-centered care to ensure participation and involvement of the entire family.
- Lead Evaluator – who is responsible for ensuring that all data and evaluation requirements are met and evaluation results are reported timely and accurately to project staff and CSAT.

Data Collection and Performance Measurement:

- a. Document your plan for data collection and reporting performance on measures such as the following:
  - i. Numbers of individuals served;
  - ii. Diagnosis;
  - iii. Abstinence from use;
  - iv. Housing status;
  - v. Education/employment status;
  - vi. Criminal/juvenile justice system involvement;
  - vii. Social connectedness;
  - viii. Risky behaviors;
  - ix. Access to services;
  - x. Emergency Department use
  - xi. Hospitalization for Mental/SUD;
  - xii. Suicide attempts;
  - xiii. Utilization of services; and
  - xiv. Retention in services.