

Nominate Rural Behavioral Health Promising Practices for National Recognition

In collaboration with the Health Resources & Services Administration's Office of Rural Health Policy, and the Nakamoto Group, Inc., the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Mental Health Program is working to identify promising practices, best practices, models that work, and evidence based practices in rural behavioral health.

There are many challenges to providing behavioral health services in rural America. But, despite the challenges, there are programs that have a positive impact on the behavioral health of rural Americans. By sharing information about these successful programs, other providers can learn from these models of practice and incorporate these successful program designs into their own communities. The overall goals of this project are to highlight some of these rural promising practices, and to provide information for rural promising practices to achieve higher levels of evidence-based practice to become models for other communities.

In the initial stage of the project, we are asking people to nominate a practice by completing a brief survey (approx. 1.5-2 hours in length). Once we have a sufficient number of nominated practices, we will review them and select 30-40 practices from which to collect additional information. At that point, we will select a short list of 10-20 practices for which we will do site visits. The end result will be a formal "rural promising practices" document summarizing the promising practices for a national audience, as well as a technical assistance guide for rural programs who want to move toward becoming evidence-based or even promising practices.

The goal of the initial survey is to identify practices that are successful in meeting a mental health and/or substance abuse (behavioral health) need in a rural area. The definition of "meeting a behavioral health need in a rural area" is purposefully vague. "Meeting a need" could include increasing access to and/or availability of behavioral health services, increasing awareness about behavioral health issues, recruitment and/or retention of behavioral health providers, treatment of a behavioral health problem, prevention services, etc. If your organization is doing something that has a positive impact on behavioral health in a rural area, we would like to hear about it.

The survey must be completed by 5pm PST on March 13, 2009 for your nominated practice to be considered. Should you have any questions as you are completing the survey, please contact Nicole Speer by calling 303-541-0257, or by e-mailing your question to nspeer@wiche.edu. To access the survey, simply follow this link or copy this web address into your web browser:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=UHDjmLGvktkCAL5JfbWwVQ_3d_3d

We would greatly appreciate your assistance in forwarding this announcement on to others who may have practices to nominate. Thank you for helping us identify programs that are having a positive impact on behavioral health needs in rural America.