

JAN 17 2012

Dear Behavioral Health Authority or Tribal Leader:

In September 2011, SAMHSA initiated the Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy (BRSS TACS) initiative to promote wide-scale adoption of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems for people in recovery from substance use disorders, mental health problems, and/or co-occurring disorders. To carry out this effort, SAMHSA awarded a contract to The Center for Social Innovation and its partners in The Recovery Breakthrough Collaborative. We are writing to announce an important opportunity offered through BRSS TACS, **The Bringing Recovery Support Services to Scale (BRSS) Policy Academy Awards**.

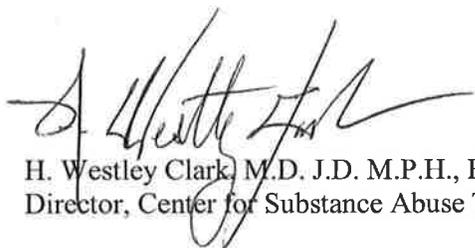
The BRSS Policy Academy Awards will assist States, Territories/Jurisdictions, and Tribal Governments in designing plans to promote the implementation of recovery-oriented supports, services, and systems. A total of eight (8) teams comprised of 12 members will be selected to participate in a three-day Policy Academy and to receive a \$50,000 subcontract to support planning and implementation of action plans developed at the Policy Academy. In addition, BRSS TACS will provide technical assistance to teams who receive these awards, and awardees will also have the opportunity to participate in a learning community with other teams for the purpose sharing ideas, resources, challenges, and lessons learned.

We believe the BRSS Policy Academy provides an important opportunity to help create recovery-oriented systems to address the holistic needs of those who want and need recovery. I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity by submitting an application for your State, Territory/Jurisdiction, or Tribe.

For more information about the application, expectations of awardees, and Policy Academy activities, see the enclosed documents. Questions about the Policy Academy Awards may be directed to SAMHSA's contractor for BRSS TACS, the Center for Social Innovation. Please send your questions between January 10 and February 5, 2012, to Rebecca Stouff, by electronic mail to rstouff@center4si.com, or by U.S. mail to Rebecca Stouff, Center for Social Innovation, 200 Reservoir Street, Suite 202, Needham, MA 02494. Questions about BRSS TACS may be directed to the SAMHSA Project Officer, Catherine Nugent, at cathy.nugent@samhsa.hhs.gov or 240-276-1577.

Thank you for your attention to the BRSS Policy Academy Awards and for your ongoing efforts to promote recovery for individuals and families throughout the United States.

Sincerely,



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Director, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment



Paolo del Vecchio, M.S.W.
Acting Director, Center for Mental
Health Services