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# NEBHANDS Nebraska Behavioral Health Integration Project Semi-annual Program Progress Report

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**NEBHANDS**
**Nebraska Behavioral Health Integration Project**
**Semi-annual Program Progress Report**

1. **Grant Number:** 90EJ0010/01

2. **Period Covered by Report:** April 1, 2003 to September 30, 2003

3. **Major Activities and Accomplishments During this Period:** Please provide a summary of your major activities and accomplishments as it relates to your organization's a) technical assistance and/or training strategy and b) sub-award plan. Per your cooperative agreement, please include the following items:

Highlights of major accomplishments during this period:

- Year 1 sub-awards were distributed to 30 different organizations totaling over $260,000. Attachment A provides a list of first year sub-awardees including the name and location of each, type of organization, description of project, and award amount. Attachment B offers highlights of some of the achievements of the first year sub-awards.
- Stakeholders met in June to identify ways communities can support sub-award faith-based and community organizations. See Attachment C for the Stakeholder members.
- The Kick-Off Conference was attended by over 400 people in June, including many of the first year sub-awardees. Attachment D provides an agenda for the Kick-Off Conference, including the many technical assistance workshops offered. Attachment E provides the Kick-Off Conference evaluation.
- The Governor's office facilitated a NEBHANDS forum with South Omaha clergy in July.
- Eighteen community forums, with over 500 participants, were held across the state in June, July, and August, facilitated by NEBHANDS and Community Action Agencies. Attachment F provides information regarding the community meetings.
- NEBHANDS facilitated a tour of sub-award groups in Omaha by state and local officials in September.
- Sub-award applications for Year 2 funds were reviewed and chosen in September. Attachment G provides a complete listing of Year 2 Sub-Awardees. The process used to award funding to faith-based and community applicants is included in Attachment H.
- Evaluation of sub-awardees began, using qualitative case-study methodology. Attachment I provides information regarding the NEBHANDS Evaluation Committee and the methodology being used.
- A permanent Executive Committee was chosen and it began to meet monthly to oversee the project and to ensure the activities of the grant followed the NEBHANDS principles. Materials related to the Executive Committee are included in Attachment J.
- The NEBHANDS Information and Referral Committee continued the process of identifying behavioral health resource lists that can be used by faith-based and community organizations and to develop information and referral processes (see Attachment K).
- The NEBHANDS Integration Committee continued its work developing a model of integrated service delivery that includes faith-based and community organizations (see Attachment L).
- The NEBHANDS Policy Committee identified committee co-chairs and began the process of identifying policy issues related to sustaining faith-based and community

organizations in the effort to address the behavioral health needs of people in Nebraska (see Attachment M).

- NEBHANDS conducted a number of dissemination activities including issuing a newsletter (see Attachment N), issuing press releases with resulting news articles (see Attachment O), and developing fact sheets and presentations (see Attachment P).
- The NEBHANDS Web site was improved to provide a resource for all sub-awardees as well as other organizations throughout Nebraska (See Attachment Q).
- Technical Assistance activities occurred throughout the reporting period (see Attachment R).
- Project staff met with the Administration for Children and Families Regional Office in Kansas City to discuss areas of collaboration (see Attachment S).
- The project continued to track expenditures and cost sharing requirements. The Financial Report is included in Attachment T.

The three project objectives are listed below along with the activities defined in the grant. The period in which the activity is scheduled is next to the activity in parentheses. A narrative follows each activity as an update.

**Objective 1. Enhance and expand capacity of Nebraska's CBOs and FBOs to provide a range of supportive behavioral health services.**
Activities associated with Objective

*1. Provide Technical Assistance*

a. Select and Convene Kick-Off Committee (Yr 1 - Qtr 2)
**This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee.

b. Convene Kick-Off Conference (Yr 1 – Qtr 3)
**This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee. Attendance of over 400 individuals heard national, state, and local viewpoints about the initiative and participated in technical assistance workshops (Attachment C).

c. Provide Four Regional Workshops (Yr 1 - Qtr 3)
**This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee. NEBHANDS partnered with Community Action Agencies around the state to convene 18 community meetings that resulted in sub-award applications for Year 2 on behalf of community collaborations that brought faith-based and community organizations together. Over 500 individuals attended these meetings.

d. Provide Technical Assistance open to all (Yr 1 - Qtr 3 thru Yr 2 - Qtr 2)
**This objective is in progress.** A list of technical assistance activities is attached in Appendix R. Staff and NEBHANDS partners provided tailored TA to sub-award groups as requested or needed. For example, OASIS Inc. asked for assistance from NEBHANDS in developing materials that could be used to explain their services to potential funders and volunteers. Staff worked closely with the CEO of OASIS to develop materials and accompanied him to a private

meeting with the Governor, during which he received encouragement and assistance with connections to state entities that may consider contracting for his services.

2. *Distribute Sub-awards*
   a. Select and convene assistance committee (Yr 1 - Qtr 2)
      **This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee. The assistance committee reviewed and recommended sub-awards for Year 1 and Year 2.
   b. Determine award process and guidelines (Yr 1 - Qtr 2)
      **This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee. A sub-award plan for Year 2 has also been submitted and approved with similar processes and guidelines.
   c. Promote sub-award process and availability (Yr 1 – Qtr 3 thru Yr 2 - Qtr 2)
      **This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee. The sub-award application process was posted on the NEBHANDS Web site along with necessary documents. The availability of awards was publicized at the Kick-Off Conference in June, all community meetings in June, July, and August, and through email notices sent out by NEBHANDS, as well as partner agencies. Promotion efforts were successful, as 55 sub-award applications for Year 1 were considered for funding. Applications for Year 2 funds were received in July 2003 from 55 new organizations, as well as 64 organizations and collaborations who received technical assistance or funding from NEBHANDS in Year 1. Over $1.5 million have been requested for Year 2.
   d. Grant Monetary and Technical Assistance Awards (Yr 1 - Qtr 4 and throughout grant)
      **This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee. Thirty FBOs and CBOs received a total of $260,684 in Year 1 sub-awards along with technical assistance. Twenty-eight FBOs and CBOs were identified as requiring technical assistance to strengthen infrastructure prior to being able to receive funds. Eighteen of these organizations went on to successfully apply for funds from the grant in Year 2. A complete listing of Year 1 sub-award groups and those in development is attached in Attachment A.

3. *Work with Sub-Award Communities*
   a. Implementation of Initiatives (Yr 1 - Qtr 4 and throughout grant)
      **This objective is in progress.** This work will begin immediately following identification of sub-award communities and continues as we enter Year 2.
   b. Identify and Provide Technical Assistance (Yr 1 – Qtr 4 and throughout grant)
      **This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee. A survey of sub-award groups was completed in September 2003 regarding their needs for technical assistance (see Attachment R). A schedule of open technical assistance opportunities is being developed for Year 2 based on needs identified in this survey. The first workshop broadcast to sites throughout Nebraska was on Strategic Planning (September 25). Additional

open technical assistance opportunities were provided through TA partners. See Attachment R for a listing of TA activities offered in Year 1.

**Objective 2: Develop and disseminate a plan for an integrated behavioral health system of care at the state and community levels.**

Activities associated with Objective

1. *Convene Stakeholder Advisory Group (Yr 1 - Qtr 2 and throughout grant)*
   **This objective was successfully completed** within the timeline set by the Interim Executive Committee. The second meeting of Stakeholders was held June 9, 2003. The next scheduled meeting is October 23, 2003.
2. *Select and Convene Executive Committee (Yr 1 - Qtr 1 and throughout grant)*
   **This objective was successfully completed.** Applications were accepted for positions on a permanent Executive Committee charged with keeping the grant activities focused on the mission of the project. The process for application, make up of the group, and charge to the group was determined by the Interim Executive Committee with input from stakeholders. The permanent Executive Committee was convened for the first time on July 31, 2003 and will be meeting monthly for the duration of the grant (see Attachment J).
3. *Select and Convene Subcommittees*
   a. Determine barriers, opportunities, and solutions (Yr 1 – Qtr 2 thru Qtr 4)
      Current subcommittees include the Integration Committee, Evaluation Committee, Dissemination Committee, Policy Committee, Information and Referral Committee, and Assistance Committee. A Policy Committee is now being formed to examine statewide policy issues and barriers related to grant activities. Subcommittees meet regularly with the exception of the Assistance Committee that convenes as needed, primarily to oversee the sub-award process.
   b. Determine plan and make recommendations (Yr 2)
      This activity will be the focus of Year 2 committee work, particularly by the Executive Committee and the Policy Committee.
   c. Promote, implement, and monitor improvements (Yr 3)
      This activity has been the focus of the Interim Executive Committee and, since July 2003, the Executive Committee. The Evaluation Committee has also had an important role in developing a methodology to assess enhancements in sub-awardees as discussed below. It is anticipated that this activity will be most evident in Year 3 of the grant.
4. *Community Guides*
   a. Research and collect materials (Yr 1 – Qtr 3 thru Yr 2)
      Research activities have begun. This will continue throughout Year 2. Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska will host a series of listening sessions across the state in Year 2 to augment this effort.
   b. Publish (Yr 3 – Qtr 1)
      A monograph is being prepared for publication that features viewpoints from many of the speakers at the June Kick-Off Conference. This activity will be the focus of Year 2.

c. Promote and disseminate (Yr 3)
The promotion and dissemination of guides for communities based on the work of NEBHANDS partners and sub-awardees will take place in Year 3.

**Objective 3: Evaluate the effectiveness of the project.**
Activities associated with Objective

1. *Select and Convene Evaluation Committee (Yr 1 – Qtr 2 thru Qtr 3)*
**This objective was successfully completed.** The Evaluation Committee is meeting regularly. Members of the committee include representatives from academia, faith-based and community organizations, and media (see Attachment I).
2. *Develop evaluation plan (Yr 1 – Qtr 2 thru Qtr 3)*
The evaluation plan was submitted and approved. The committee has chosen to augment the gathering of data with a case study methodology that will be used to document growth of organizational infrastructure as well as elements of success that could be generalized to similar organizations. A partnership with Nebraska Public Television is being pursued to provide a vehicle to translate academic findings into usable information for the public.
3. *Implement evaluation plan (Yr 1 – Qtr 3 thru Yr 3 – Qtr 2)*
Protocol for case study methodology has been established and piloted. Survey of sub-award groups has begun to establish baseline according to approved evaluation plan.
4. *Release preliminary findings (Yr 2 – Qtr 4)*
This activity is scheduled in Year 2.
5. *Release final report (Yr 3 – Qtr 4)*
This activity is scheduled in Year 3.

**4. Problems:**
No notable problems have been experienced.

Two areas of evolving technical assistance needs for the project were identified by the NEBHANDS Executive Committee:

- Assistance with outcome evaluation
- Assistance with dissemination and communication

It also would be helpful if dialogue among intermediaries with like projects or similar structures were fostered using conference calls or smaller gatherings associated with national grant meetings.

**5. Significant Findings and Events:** The Kick-Off Conference in June set the general tone for cooperation and collaboration between government, faith-based and community organizations. Holding community forums throughout the state that were facilitated by local community action agencies assisted in both dissemination of sub-award availability, as well as furthering the overall project goal of establishing linkages and fostering collaboration. We are finding there is a need to balance open technical assistance with assistance that is tailored to meet the needs of specific sub-awardees.

6. **Dissemination Activities:** Dissemination activities included an array of events and personal contacts (see Attachment O). Much of the dissemination was done in conjunction with technical assistance opportunities and community forums. Press conferences were held to announce sub-awards and to publicize stakeholder gatherings. Staff, partners, and sub-award groups have been interviewed by radio, newspaper, and television. The Governor's office highlighted the project in a press release that was disseminated to all Nebraska media outlets and made available via his Web site. The NEBHANDS project has also relied heavily on its Web site. Over 2000 "hits" have been generated on the Web site with tracking mechanisms indicating that the usage is increasing as we post events and activities relevant to the project goals.

7. **Other Activities:**

All project activities have been discussed under the above headings.

8. **Activities Planned For Next Reporting Period:**

October *Stakeholder Meeting*
*Introduction to Substance Abuse* – open TA workshop broadcast to 6 sites
November *Cost Sharing* - open TA workshop broadcast to 6 sites
December *Grant Writing* - open TA workshop broadcast to 4 sites
*Volunteer Management Part I* - Open TA workshop broadcast to 4 sites. This is a seven part series produced by Points of Light Foundation that will be presented by a sub-award group, Volunteer Partners. NEBHANDS is working with this group to build their capacity to link faith-based volunteers with opportunities in behavioral health.
January *Volunteer Management Part II* - Open TA workshop broadcast to 4 sites
*TA Topic to be announced* - Open TA workshop broadcast to 6 sites
February *Faith-Based Wraparound* - Open TA workshop broadcast to 6 sites
March *TA Topic to be announced* - Open TA workshop broadcast to 6 sites
*Sub-Awardee and Stakeholder Meeting*
Oct.-Mar. *Executive Committee and subcommittee meetings*

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*Attachments*

A. Year 1 Sub-Awards
B. Sub-Award Success Stories
C. NEBHANDS Stakeholder Committee
D. Kick-Off Conference Agenda
E. Kick-Off Conference Evaluation
F. NEBHANDS Community Meetings
G. Year 2 Sub-Awards
H. Sub-Award Process
I. NEBHANDS Evaluation Committee
J. NEBHANDS Executive Committee
K. NEBHANDS Information and Referral Committee
L. NEBHANDS Integration Committee
M. NEBHANDS Policy Committee
N. NEBHANDS Newsletter
O. Press Releases and News Articles
P. NEBHANDS Fact Sheets
Q. NEBHANDS Web site and Analysis
R. Technical Assistance Workshops
S. Meeting with Administration for Children and Families Regional Office
T. Financial Report