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February 8, 2011

Dear Colleague:

INVITATION TO THE HEALTH CARE REFORM READINESS PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVE KICKOFF MEETING ON FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2011

This is to request your attendance at a kickoff meeting for the Health Care Reform (HCR) Readiness Planning and Implementation Initiative being launched by Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) on Friday, March 11, 2011, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the following SAPC Headquarter location:

SAPC
Auditorium - Building A7 Lower Level
1000 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California 91803

The invitational meeting will consist of a morning informational plenary session followed by initial meetings of subject-specific work groups.

Last year's passage of the Federal Affordable Care Act has major impact on all aspects of health care services and greatly expands health insurance coverage for persons who were previously uncovered. The Federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 also plays an important role in bringing these services into mainstream health insurance benefits. Both these legislative actions have major impact on the field of services for substance use disorders (SUD). Therefore, it is imperative that the SUD service system in Los Angeles County prepare itself for these changes and new requirements.

The HCR Readiness Initiative launched by SAPC is intended to establish and implement a process in which it can partner with community-based SUD service providers, persons in recovery, County agencies, and other key sectors to collectively and cooperatively learn about HCR and to develop and implement plans for making the necessary changes brought on by national HCR. The kickoff meeting will be the first in a continuing set of activities to accomplish this purpose. The morning informational plenary session will feature presentations by experts on State and County health care reform, particularly focusing on substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services. The afternoon work groups will

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focus on developing plans for the following key planning and implementation areas:

- Benefit Package/Continuum of Services/Standards of Care
- Contracting/Finance
- Information Systems/Electronic Health Record
- Patient Outcomes/Service Performance and Process Measures
- Service System Capacity-Building/Workforce Development

I hope that you will join us on Friday, March 11, 2011 to begin this important work. Prior to the meeting, please be sure to review the attached agenda and preparatory materials posted on the SAPC website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/>. Attached for your reference are the campus map and directions to SAPC. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Wayne Sugita at (626) 299-4571 or wsugita@ph.lacounty.gov or Yolanda Cordero at (626) 299-4510 or ycordero@ph.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,



John Viemes, Jr., Director
Substance Abuse Prevention and Control

JV:wks

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Attachments

c: Jonathan E. Freedman
Maxanne Hatch