



March 5, 2008

Don Clark, Executive Director
Tim Lane, Chair
National Coalition of STD Directors
1029 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Don and Tim:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning performance measures (PM) and the process associated with development and adoption of PM. As you know, PMs are evolving, and we are all trying to achieve the same goal: a manageable number of appropriate PM which help programs assess their own program performance while allowing CDC to provide national support to project areas and to assess program performance at the national level. CDC is committed to working collaboratively with our grantees and with NCSO to achieve this common goal.

Based on comments from NCSO as well as from individual project areas, let me outline specific actions CDC will take that we hope will improve the process and the outcomes.

- Based on thoughtful and useful comments from grantees, CDC is reviewing and revising the proposed 2009 PM, which will be included in the CSPA Funding Opportunity Announcement. CDC will share the comments with all grantees when the final 2009 PM are distributed to the field.
- During the remainder of 2008, CDC, through the PM Workgroup, will initiate additional discussions with grantees and NCSO to address the PM guiding principles, with the objective of clarifying ambiguities.
- CDC will clarify current processes and procedures used by Program and Training Branch program consultants to ensure consistency across project areas on all issues involving PM, including data validation and overall program improvement.
- CDC will clarify methodologies and communicate plans for sharing PM information with grantees, including lessons learned and promising practices. The PM Workgroup will solicit ideas and feedback from grantees on the effectiveness and usefulness of the methodologies, as well as continue to collate and disseminate useful lessons learned and best practices.

CDC values the commitment and efforts of NCSO and its membership to improve both the PM process and program performance at the local, state and national levels. The PM project is a complex, dynamic effort that requires clear communication, thoughtful debate and flexibility by all of us. We look forward to ongoing dialogue and collaboration with our partners at the state and local level. .

Sincerely,

John M. Douglas, Jr., MD, Director
Division of STD Prevention
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention

cc: Kevin O'Connor

Dayne Collins

Amy Pulver