Health Homes Consultation Process with SAMHSA

States are required to seek consultation from SAMHSA as they develop their approach to health homes prior to submitting their SPAs to CMS. CMS and SAMHSA also encourage States to coordinate with their State behavioral health (mental health and substance abuse) authorities regarding efforts they are currently undertaking to integrate primary care and behavioral health.

The consultations are meant to be informal in nature, but will involve a clear process to assure these adequately address the questions and concerns of the State. States interested in a consultation should email to: mitchell.berger@samhsa.hhs.gov

States should briefly note in their request for consultation or share with SAMHSA the following:

- A brief overview of the proposed design of the health home;
- The State contact person;
- The draft health home SPA(s);
- State timeframes and availability for obtaining the consultation;
- Responses to the following:
  
  - What is/are the target chronic condition(s) of your health home proposal?
  
  - How will individuals be identified and referred to health homes? How will individuals not connected to either the primary care or behavioral health care system be informed and referred to your health home program?
  
  - Describe the flow (visually or by narrative) depicting how clients will move in, through, and out of your health home program. Differentiate if applicable between adult and child populations.
  
  - What measures will be used to screen and intervene for behavioral health disorders?
  
  - Do you anticipate policy and reimbursement barriers regarding the establishment of health homes for individuals with behavioral health conditions (e.g. same day billing issues)?
  
  - Other specific areas for the consultation

Requests also should indicate how the state’s Medicaid and relevant behavioral health authority(ies) will collaborate in the health home process. Upon being contacted with a consultation request, SAMHSA staff will respond with