



# METROPOLITAN HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT

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March 27, 2013

Dear Addiction Services Facility Director:

**Re: 2013 National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (N-SSATS)**

March 29 marks the date for the 2013 National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). This survey is the basis for a comprehensive directory of addiction treatment services covering the United States and its territories and for the national Facility Locator which you can access at <http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov>.

In addition to identifying treatment resources for persons with substance use problems through the Facility Locator, the N-SSATS provides comparative data on the availability of different types of services and levels of care, treatment capacity, service accessibility and, to a lesser extent, the quality of those services. All of this information is critical for assessing unmet treatment need and evaluating our local service system. N-SSATS data is especially important for the New Orleans Metropolitan area since we are experiencing major changes in how addiction services are financed, including the Louisiana Behavioral Health Partnership, while continuing to rebuild after natural disasters and economic recession.

Therefore we strongly encourage you to participate in the N-SSATS survey. If you are currently registered in SAMHSA's Inventory of Behavioral Health Services (I-BHS), within the next two weeks you should receive your N-SSATS survey. You will have the option of completing the survey online or on paper. You will be able to print a copy of the survey from the web site both before and after you have completed it.

Unfortunately, we believe that many facilities providing substance abuse services in the New Orleans Metropolitan area are not currently registered in I-BHS. We ask that you check the Facility Locator (<http://findtreatment.samhsa.gov>) to see if you can find your facility. If not, please contact the I-BHS project office ([aliciaM@smdi.com](mailto:aliciaM@smdi.com)) and request a registration form. Note that if your facility does not provide treatment, but regularly provides intake, assessment and referral, detoxification, transitional housing or residential services for substance abuse clients, you should also be registered.

Finally, the Metropolitan Human Services District and the New Orleans Health Department are collaborating with the Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition to address the enforcement, judicial, prevention and treatment needs of our community. N-SSATS data are an important part of these efforts. However, some components of your N-SSATS submission (such as client

counts) are not available to us because they are treated as confidential by SAMHSA. Therefore, after you have received your survey materials, in mid-April we will request that you send us a copy of your N-SSATS submission and complete a brief supplement so that we may compile this important information in the most timely way. *This is purely voluntary and should in no way affect your submission of N-SSATS to SAMHSA.* The information will help us determine the current capacity and unmet need for different types of treatment and recovery services in the community. (If you have questions about this effort, please send them to [info@gnoddr.org](mailto:info@gnoddr.org) and include “n-ssats” in the subject line.)

Thank you for your participation in the Federal N-SSATS survey, and thank you for the services you provide to our community.

Sincerely,



Judge Calvin Johnson (ret)  
MHSD Executive Director



Karen B. DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc  
City of New Orleans, Health Commissioner