



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

Milwaukee County

HÉCTOR COLÓN • Director
PATRICIA SCHROEDER • Division Administrator

July 3, 2014

Dear Wiser Choice Providers:

The State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County has been the recipient of the Access to Recovery (ATR) Grant since 2004. This grant was the catalyst for the creation of the Wiser Choice network and provided the infrastructure that allowed tens of thousands of individuals to receive substance use disorder clinical and recovery support services. Many of these services were previously not available in Milwaukee County without the ATR funding and the parameters for the delivery of these grant funds. The State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County were very successful in the administration and performance outcomes required for ATR being one of the top three performing sites in the nation for the past decade.

In March 2014, the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County applied for an ATR 4 Grant to sustain the current system of care. Late in June, we received word from our grant project officer at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration that the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County was not recommended for an award from the ATR 4 cycle. This news was obviously very disappointing; however, the competition for the ATR 4 cycle was limited to five awards nationally with over sixty entities competing for the grant funds. The loss of the ATR grant and other discretionary grants will cause a 30% reduction in available funding beginning in 2015. Milwaukee County has built a solid foundation for the delivery of the substance use disorder services and what is needed now is a new business model for our system of care. Given this information there will be changes for being a provider in the Wiser Choice network for 2015.

I would like to invite all of you to attend the next All Provider Meeting that will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2014 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM in the Coggs Building, Room 104 to provide further information on the impact of the loss of the ATR Grant and discuss the anticipated changes to the network. Jennifer Wittwer and I will be available to answer your questions regarding the future of Wiser Choice. Please come with your questions, you are also invited to submit questions ahead of time to Janet Fleege at: Janet.Fleege@milwaukeecountywi.gov Even though changes are imminent, the success of Wiser Choice was achieved through our partnerships with you. I look forward to our discussion on August 14th and continuing to provide quality care to those in Milwaukee County that need our services.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Gadacz, MA, Deputy Administrator
Community Access to Recovery Services