Service System Proposals Field Testing—SNP Intro

We are in the process of setting up field testing of the service system proposals, and as part of that effort, we are extending a particular offer of support to regions that are talking about reunifying or sharing services with other regions within the same state. We are already talking or emailing with some of you involved in these efforts, and we'd like to extend our support to all of you involved in shared services, reunification, or discussion about either of these topics.

Though these efforts wouldn't strictly fall into the category of field testing the proposals, they do represent an opportunity to gather information that might be very helpful to us when drafting a transition plan. We also know that it can be stressful and even confusing at times to rethink or reorganize the way services are delivered or service bodies are structured. We'd like to be in regular contact with you and to support you however we can—through communication, drafting tools, possibly travel….

If you are involved in shared service delivery among several regions within a state or are investigating reunifying regions… **we are writing to offer our support to your community and to encourage you to contact us to open lines of communication if you have not already.**

We hope to work together with you to help in whatever way we can to gather information and help your efforts. Communication is the key, and if you are in a region involved somehow with shared services or reunification, we'd like to talk together regularly either through calls or emails. The more information we can gather about practical application of the ideas in the proposals, the better a transition plan we will be able to draft.

Why this is a "field" test not a "beta" test

There may be some bumps in the road, and it's important for us all to keep in mind that "failure" is not always a failure. That is, we can learn as much from mistakes as successes. We're not calling this a formal "beta test" because we know even in the field testing of local services (the GSU and LSU there are limitations to what we can find out when we are testing pieces of a larger system out of context. Taking an element of the proposed service system—statewide service delivery or even the GSU or LSU—and implementing it in isolation is an artificial experiment. Unfortunately, given our limitations, it's not possible to do more, but we expect we will learn much from this field test even if it isn't as "scientific" as one might hope.

This document

The document that follows this cover was sent to communities interested in field testing. Much of it will not be relevant for those involved with regional or statewide services. The beginning of the document is focused on local service delivery---GSUs and LSUs. Starting on page 10, there are a few pages devoted to statewide service delivery and how these efforts relate to the field test. Each of your cases is unique, we know, and the description here may only touch on the situation in your community.

Anonymity of field testers

We have decided not to publish the list of communities who are field testing parts of the proposals or are involved in shared services or regional reunification because we want to give them the ability to make community decisions with as little interference as possible. We don't want to disrupt their process by opening them to the possibility of public scrutiny, criticism, and a potentially overwhelming amount of ideas from all over about how they should be operating their service bodies or group forums. This does not limit your ability to share this information if you choose to – NAWS will just not be publishing this information.