December 16, 2008 Treatment and Recovery Support Services Provider Subcommittee Meeting.

Present: Jeff Morrell, Dennis Hardziej, Vern Garrett, Darren Richman, Melanie Curtis, and Laura Thomas

Updates were provided on the budget hold back situation, based on information available as of the meeting. Treatment services spending is now at the 2.1 million dollars per month budgeted level for state fiscal year 2009. Spending rates in the first 4 months of the fiscal year were below this level; these unspent funds are being used to help offset the holdback. Other budget actions include no funding for prevention conference scholarships (usually administered by Benchmark to contractors), cuts to ICADD conference, cuts to the youth media education fund, cuts in travel (cancelation of January 09 RAC chair, CRDS, RD and Central office meeting), and use of carry over funds from state fiscal year 2008. It is not anticipated that treatment services funds will be cut below the $2.1 million spend rate at this time.

Information from the RAC chair call on December 11 with regard to the ISCA budget meeting with Governor Otter was shared. Per information reported by Debbie Field, Director of the Office of Drug Policy, the data collection efforts on outcomes for substance abuse treatment are important. Demonstrating that substance abuse treatment saves state funds in related areas (prisons, child welfare, etc) is helping to position substance abuse in the best possible way for fiscal 2010. Indications are that adding the one time state funding from fiscal year 2009 into the base are viewed favorably by both the executive and legislative branches of state government. While current economic conditions will need to be monitored for future impact, indications at the present time are stable funding for substance abuse – within required budget hold backs.

ICSA has moved to quarterly meetings, the next meeting is Wednesday, December 17, 2008. The budget snapshot presented at that meeting will be posted to the Region 4 web page as soon as possible.

Discussion centered on the workforce capacity issue, especially related to increased case management demands driven by prison re-entry programs. Melanie Curtis will send a summary of concerns to Bev Ashton, RAC chair representative on ICSA for inclusion at tomorrow's meeting.

Discussion on the 2009 legislative event and Patricia Kempthorne Award occurred. Laura relayed the ideas discussed on the RAC chair call (using teleconference technology in place of people traveling to Boise for cost savings). The consensus of the group was the event should be held in Boise and scaled back where possible for cost savings. The group supported reaching legislators with positive messages about how changing the paradigm for substance abuse treatment services in Idaho has produced cost savings.

The sub committee decided to meet at 9:00 a.m. on January 14, 2009 prior to the start of the full RAC meeting.