



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.
COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347
1-888-963-7111
TTY: 1-800-735-2989
www.dshs.state.tx.us

Broadcast MSG BHP# 110

August 6th, 2013

To: Executive Directors
Benefits Coordinators
Local Mental Health Authorities

From: Ross Robinson, Section Director
Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Program Services

Re: Disability Applications Technical Assistance

The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) wishes to support Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs) in their efforts to assist individuals who receive services to apply for benefits such as Social Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). Accordingly, DSHS will offer technical assistance to LMHAs beginning in September, 2013. LMHAs are encouraged to utilize this technical assistance in an effort to maximize their effective support of individuals applying for SSI or SSDI.

DSHS proposes to review up to three de-identified SSI or SSDI applications per participating LMHA. The goal will be to provide constructive suggestions and feedback for each application. The Department will assign a date and time slot to participating LMHAs, and will review one LMHA's applications per week. Reviews will begin Monday, September, 9th, 2013.

LMHAs interested in participating should email Anna Sonenthal by close of business on August 23rd, 2013. Participating LMHAs will be given more specific instructions regarding the sample application and review timelines.

Please contact Anna Sonenthal with any questions you may have at 512.206.5073 or anna.sonthal@dshs.state.tx.us.