



B. J. Walker, Commissioner

Georgia Department of Human Resources • Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases
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Interoffice Memorandum

DATE: February 9, 2009
TO: Regional Coordinators
HIV/EIS Agency Directors
HIV/EIS Supervisors and Counselors
FROM: Onaje Salim, Director, Office of Addictive Diseases
CC: Marie Sutton, HIV/EIS Program Manager

SUBJECT: Importance of the HIV Early Intervention Services Program

As you may know, the work of HIV Early Intervention Services (EIS) counselors is critical to preserving funding for substance abuse treatment in Georgia.

The HIV/EIS program was created in response to the conditions of the SAPT block grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). It is this block grant which funds substance abuse treatment in the state of Georgia. The grant contains a stipulation that five percent of the total funds be “set aside” for HIV services. The HIV/EIS program was created to fulfill this set-aside requirement. HIV/EIS is part of “maintenance of effort,” the condition under which Georgia continues to receive the CSAT block grant.

HIV/EIS counselors are working to curb the spread of HIV in our state. I urge you to support those working in your region, your CSB or provider agency, and your facility by:

- *Allotting Time* - - Allotting them the time they need to do the job in accordance with the funding you receive to maintain HIV/EIS services.
- *Encouraging Training* - - Encouraging their efforts to attend training that will keep them current in the intersecting fields of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse.
- *Participating in Rapid HIV Testing* - - Taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in the SAMHSA/CDC initiative by launching rapid HIV testing. Note: training and testing supplies will be provided.
- *Ensuring Access to the Web* - - Providing them with a computer or unrestricted computer use and access to the internet – so they can receive the HIV/EIS e-mail news clipping service, visit the HIV/EIS website at www.hiveis.com, and submit their quarterly reports by e-mail.

Thank you for your continued support of the HIV/EIS program and for the work you do with Georgians suffering from the disease of addiction.