



CALOMS Update

Volume 1, Issue 2,
April 2005

The California Outcomes Measurement System (CalOMS) is a statewide client/participant data system for alcohol and other drug (AOD) abuse treatment and prevention services. Its purpose is to gather the data to effectively manage and improve services to AOD treatment clients and prevention program participants. Data from CalOMS will meet provider, county, state reporting needs, and federal performance reporting requirements of the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant.

Questions About Confidentiality in CalOMS

Privacy laws allow providers to collect client-identifying information, including name and social security number, for use by the county and state for audit, evaluation, and health care oversight purposes. These laws require each entity, and state and county authorities to safeguard this information and restrict its use and disclosure.

The intent of CalOMS is to measure and document the improvement in alcohol and other drug (AOD) client/participants lives, provide information for administering and improving AOD treatment programs for the benefit of clients, link data with other public service systems to ADP data, and to meet federal funding reporting requirements. One of the new federal requirements is linking treatment services for unique clients across the state. In order to do so it is necessary to collect personal information. Client confidentiality and data security are significant concerns so the design of the CalOMS system and the data elements adheres to the following principles:

- o Protect the confidentiality and data security of AOD client information at all levels – provider, county, and state.
- o Comply with all applicable privacy and security laws and regulations, including 42 Code of Federal Regulations, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and the California Information Practices Act.

Personally identifiable information, such as the social security number (SSN), is legally permissible to request. However, some clients may not have a SSN or valid driver's license, this confirmatory data are not mandated. Services are not to be denied if the SSN or driver's license data is not available or refused. Providers are strongly requested to provide this data to ensure the accurate matching and linking of treatment episodes for unique clients.



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Prevention

On September 24, 2004, ADP approved a recommendation by the Outcome Monitoring Program Implementation Workgroup Prevention Sub-Workgroup to contract with a third-party vendor for prevention data collection services. The Community Prevention Survey and the Program Participant Survey were finalized by the Prevention Sub-Workgroup and approved by ADP to meet the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) outcomes measurement requirements for the first phase. Prevention Services is currently in the process of confirming the high-level business requirements for the data collection service, releasing a Request for Proposal, and finalizing the project schedule.



Upcoming Events

Outcome Monitoring Program
Implementation Workgroup
Meeting, April 8, 2005 ; May
13, 2005

County Alcohol and Drug
Program Administrators
Association of California
Quarterly Meeting, May 18-20,
2005

Regional Meetings Update

The Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs presented informational meetings regarding CalOMS in San Bernardino County, Stockton, Redding and Fresno. Questions and answers are posted on the CalOMS website. [Visit the CalOMS website](#)