

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Aging; Amended Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given of a change in the meeting of the National Institute on Aging Special Emphasis Panel, August 28, 2023, 12:00 p.m. to August 28, 2023, 05:00 p.m., National Institute on Aging, Gateway Building, 7201 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD, 20892 which was published in the **Federal Register** on August 21, 2023, 56844.

The meeting notice is amended to change the start date of the meeting from 08/28/2023, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to 10/30/2023, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The meeting is closed to the public.

Dated: August 31, 2023.

Miguelina Perez,

Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Request for Information; Potential Changes to its Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center

AGENCY: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: SAMHSA is issuing this RFI to gather expert and public feedback to determine how to best satisfy Sec. 7002, subsections (b), (c), or (d) of the 21st Century Cures Act, which are explained below. Input from the public and experts will help SAMHSA identify the optimal ways to identify, evaluate, and disseminate programs and practices, based on their intended audiences, the nature of the evidence supporting the program or practice, and the type of product deemed best suited to the content. SAMHSA seeks input from members of the public on potential changes to its Evidence-Based Practices Resource Center (EBPRC), specifically regarding the possible introduction of three new domains for the EBPRC website (<https://www.samhsa.gov/resource-search/ebp>). In addition to addressing four general questions about the EBPRC overall, SAMHSA encourages members of the public to

comment on several questions pertaining to each of the domains described. SAMHSA believes that public and expert input on the new domains will help make the EBPRC more responsive to the needs of the public and the behavioral health field.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by October 13th, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Please submit all responses via email to EBPRC@samhsa.hhs.gov as a Word document, Portable Document Format (PDF) file, or in the body of the email message. Please include "Request for Information: Changes to SAMHSA's EBPRC" in the subject line of the message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Carter A Roeber, Telephone: 240-276-1488, Email: Carter.Roeber@samhsa.hhs.gov, or EBPRC@samhsa.hhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EBPRC was established in 2018 to fulfill the statutory requirements of the 21st Century Cures Act (Pub. L. 144-255). Specifically, section 7002 of the 21st Century Cures Act requires that, as appropriate, SAMHSA shall "improve access to reliable and valid information on evidence-based programs and practices, including information on the strength of evidence associated with such programs and practices, related to mental and substance use disorders for States, local communities, nonprofit entities, and other stakeholders, by posting on the internet website of the Administration information on evidence-based programs and practices that have been reviewed by the Assistant Secretary in accordance with the requirements of this section." SAMHSA has designated the EBPRC, managed by the agency's National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory (NMHSUPL), to fulfill this charge.

With the directive to publish information on evidence-based programs and practices (EBPs), the EBPRC relies on SAMHSA's relationships with key behavioral health stakeholders, including researchers, clinical and public health service providers, program administrators, and people with lived experience to inform the content it distributes. Further, SAMHSA's repository of EBPRC materials is organized by topic area and made searchable to maximize navigability, utility, and relevancy of content to those poised to implement EBPs. In this way, the EBPRC aims to broaden the scale of EBP implementation and provide support to improve behavioral health outcomes nationwide.

Recognizing the ever-changing nature of the evidence base, the EBPRC seeks to take a dynamic and responsive approach to its curation of resources. To date, however, the EBPRC has primarily posted federally developed materials on practices. The programs and practices mentioned in the posted materials are vetted through a review of the evidence. However, unlike [Crimesolutions.gov](https://www.crimesolutions.gov) or the What Works Clearinghouse (WWC), the EBPRC does not currently incorporate and publish a systematic process for identifying, evaluating and rating specific programs and practices across the behavioral health field and related subspecialty fields for inclusion, as envisioned by section 7002, subsections (b), (c), or (d) of the 21st Century Cures Act. The inclusion of reviews and ratings of particular programs would allow users to search for and learn about specific programs that might meet their population's needs.

To ensure that the EBPRC fulfills its roles in the analysis, synthesis, and dissemination of behavioral health evidence, SAMHSA requests that members of the public respond to the following questions, the answers to which will help frame the agency's efforts to improve the EBPRC's utility to the public.

Framing Questions

- Question A: How can SAMHSA improve the EBPRC to better meet the needs of the behavioral health field?
- Question B: What strategies should the EBPRC use to ensure its content is high-quality and supported by strong evidence?
- Question C: How can SAMHSA expand the reach of the EBPRC?
- Question D: How can SAMHSA solicit feedback on the use of its resources and information?

In addition, SAMHSA requests that commenters consider the following three domains of the EBPRC, upon which it seeks specific feedback, as enumerated below.

Domain 1. Adding a program review and rating component to the EBPRC.

SAMHSA's EBPRC provides communities, clinicians, policymakers, and others with the information and tools needed to improve the quality of care, by incorporating EBPs into their communities or clinical settings. Evidence-based practices and programs (EBPs) are defined as interventions that are guided by the best research evidence with practice-based expertise, cultural competence, and the values of the persons receiving the services that promote individual or population-level outcomes. The distinction between