

In an effort to spur implementation and collect data via the Alaska Automated Information Management System (AKAIMS) the Division of Behavioral Health has required providers to enter a "core" set of data on all "open/active" clients going back to July 1st, 2004. This "core" set of data (Client Profile, Intake, Screening, Admission, Encounter, Client Status Review (CSR) and Discharge) will be used to meet the Division's State and Federal Reporting requirements. However, data entry of client records, going back over a year, can be an extremely daunting task causing a considerable amount strain on the existing resources of agencies in "people hours" and limited funds. Many agencies do not have the resources or staff in order to comply with the Division's request. For those in need, Data Entry funds have been awarded to agencies to hire local staff to perform data entry (either by extending the time for an existing employee or temporarily hiring someone from the local community). (There has been a companion project, in which the MHTA funded a contractor to perform this data-entry function for those agencies choosing this method. Most agencies chose to hire locally, however.) Agencies have access to various reporting features and data extractions within the system that allows them to mine their data for management and policy level decisions; meet state reporting requirements; and have real-time access to their data. The Division is able to develop state and federal reports based on "clean" data entered into the system.

As a general update, AKAIMS is undergoing multiple initiatives in which to streamline, enhance and evolve the system.

User Satisfaction Survey - In looking for ways to improve and evolve AKAIMS to be a benefit to both the State of Alaska and grantee agencies the Division is currently conducting a User Satisfaction Survey. The information collected thru the survey will be used to identify not only areas of strength but also areas that the Division needs to address and improve upon. The Division anticipates having the final report available for users review by the end of February.

Electronic Data Interchange - While approximately 65 agencies are actively entering data into AKAIMS, there are a handful of agencies who have significant resources allocated to their existing data systems. These agencies have been allowed to continue utilizing their existing systems and are implementing "core" data elements mutual to AKAIMS. These agencies will be extracting these data elements from their existing systems at scheduled cycles and will be transmitting the data via an Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) into a Data Repository where this data will merged with data collected thru AKAIMS. The EDI project is currently in the testing phase with 2 agencies. Once the testing phase has been completed, the remaining agencies will be brought online. The projected completion of the project is targeted for early April. Once this has been completed the Division will be able to report on the Behavioral Health population as a whole.

Quarterly Report - In an effort to streamline processes thru AKAIMS, the Division, in conjunction with its contractor, is developing the capacity for agencies to generate Quarterly Reports directly out of the system. This in essence eliminates the time agencies needed to compile quarterly totals and allows the Quarterly Report be generated at the click of a button.

Billing Module - The Division is currently in the process of developing an Implementation strategy at which to rollout the long awaited Billing module. Once implemented, the Billing module will allow agencies to bill for services whether it be Self-pay, 3rd Party, Medicaid or combination of the three thru AKAIMS. This will lead to a billing process that is more streamlined and efficient.

Update/Refresh - The Division has collected feedback from users and staff about the AKAIMS system. The feedback consists of over 200+ items (suggestions, requests, fixes, etc.) about AKAIMS. The Division has gone thru each item and looking to implement a majority of these items into the system at the next Update/Refresh. During this next Update/Refresh, AKAIMS will also be upgrading to the latest version of WIT (Web Infrastructure Treatment System). AKAIMS is built off this platform. This new version is a performance update and should decrease the time users experience jumping between modules and screens, as well as running reports and data extractions.