



To: NCTSN Members/Centers

From: NCCTS Co-Directors: Robert Pynoos and John Fairbank; Data Core Director: Betsy Farmer and Data Core Manager: Patrick Loebis

RE: Web-based Collection of NCTSN Core Data - Spring 2004

Date: March 1, 2004

We are pleased to inform you that we are about to enter an important phase of data collection across the Network by launching a web-based tool for collection of the NCTSN Core Data Set by early spring 2004. This is an extremely significant milestone for the Network as it will initiate the collection and analysis of child trauma data across participating Network Centers. The Core Data Set is an essential Network-wide means to learn more about the children and families we are serving, the range of traumas experienced by youth, the types of treatments being provided, and the outcomes of these treatments. Such information is crucial for meeting the NCTSN's goals and mission. It will also allow us to provide meaningful and timely information to federal and local stakeholders of the results of our efforts to meet those goals.

In recent months, we have achieved two milestones that should simplify and facilitate the implementation of the Core Data Set. First, we were very pleased to hear that the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has determined that the NCTSN Core Data Set qualifies for a 'clinical exemption.' Secondly, the Duke University Health System IRB has ruled that the collection of Core Data qualifies as a "Quality Improvement /Program Evaluation" activity, rather than as research. Both of these events were very positive and timely, and mean that we can start collecting data from Centers as soon as we have the web-based tool "up and running."

We are working diligently to be ready to start using the Core Data Set and its web-based entry forms by May 2004. In preparation for this launch and before the NCCTS can receive data from your Center, we need to receive written notification from your IRB regarding whether your Center views this data collection activity as Quality Improvement or research and a signed Data Use Agreement (DUA). Toward that end, the NCCTS will provide you (on the NCTSN web-site) with copies of all of the documents that were submitted to the Duke IRB (along with the DUA). Hopefully, these documents will assist you in your submission processes and save you time. As you know, you should allow ample time and effort for the submission process as many IRBs only meet at scheduled times for review of documents.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Patrick Loebis, Data Core Manager, at 919-668-7818 or loebis001@dcric.duke.edu.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

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