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**Grace Meng**

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January 8, 2018

The Honorable Elinore F. McCance-Katz  
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Assistant Secretary McCance-Katz:

I write to follow-up on Friday's letter dated January 5, 2018. In that letter, I praised the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) and wrote: "Respectfully, I wish to know how you will grow the NREPP and its website, how you intend to review more opioid abuse-specific programs, and how I may be of help to you in these endeavors." This morning, I was shocked to read online that the NREPP contract has been terminated for "the convenience of the government."

I write now to ask to ask why, with specificity, was this contract terminated?

Every single discussion of NREPP in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) 2018 Congressional Budget Justification indicated that NREPP would be funded through the end of fiscal year 2018. Additionally, page 239 of your funding justification to Congress states the following:

"The NREPP serves to meet the requirements of Section 7002 of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act in that SAMSHA shall, as appropriate, 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 illness and drug/alcohol addiction for states, local communities, non-profit entities, and other stakeholders, by posting on the Internet website of the Administration information on evidence-based programs and practices that have been reviewed."

With this in mind, and in addition to the question I have asked above, I wish to know the following:

- 1) How will the work previously performed by an NREPP contractor be performed in the future?
- 2) How many persons performed work in support of NREPP in 2017?
- 3) How many will perform work in support of NREPP in 2018?
- 4) How much money was spent on NREPP between December 29, 2016 and September 30, 2017?
- 5) How much will be spent on NREPP between December 29, 2017 and September 30, 2018?
- 6) How will NREPP's work be impacted by the difference between the answers to questions number four and five, above?
- 7) Which SAMHSA employees were involved in the decision to terminate the contract with the most recent NREPP contractor?
- 8) Was any person not employed by SAMHSA involved in the decision to terminate the contract with the most recent NREPP contractor? If so, who?
- 9) Was any member of a SAMHSA Advisory Council consulted prior to the recent contract cancellation? If so, who?

I eagerly await your prompt response to these questions. In closing, as I stated in my previous letter to you: "Again, thank you for the NREPP. I feel that the registry and its website are crucial public health tools. Respectfully, I wish to know how you will grow the NREPP and its website, how you intend to review more opioid abuse-specific programs, and how I may be of help to you in these endeavors. You may contact me anytime to discuss this letter, and your staff may contact David Bagby of my staff at [david.bagby@mail.house.gov](mailto:david.bagby@mail.house.gov) or (202) 225-2601."

Sincerely,



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress