Overview
Earlier this spring, we requested that the 18 Local Collaboratives (LC’s) submit their priorities to the Legislative Review Team of the BHPC. Specifically, we asked them to focus on local service needs, which is different from the legislative priorities we have requested in the past when budget and cost containment concerns were less restrictive - “Please prioritize the top 5 critical local services in your area for both children and adults.”
We also asked, if there were funds available, what one area of service development would most benefit their communities?

As always, many thanks to the Legislative Review Team: Gail Falconer, Cindy Collyer, Frankie Scofield, Pamela Holland, Chris Wendel, Karen Meador, Suzanne Pearlman, Letty Rutledge and Sam Baca.

Before summarizing the LC input, we ask that you also read each of the responses from the individual LC’s. They are rich and in many cases detailed and will give you the flavor of the needs in these communities.

Summary
We found that in many cases the issues identified by the LC’s were not only very localized but also very specific, which required that we take all the initial input and “boil it down” if you will.
By doing that, we were able to discern three main themes that cut across the categories of issues and had recurring support from many LC’s.

The Themes:
1. **COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES:**
   The prioritized services were local, community based services addressing substance abuse and mental illness, Comprehensive Community Support Services (CCSS), crisis, psychosocial rehabilitation, and the integration of physical and mental health clinical services.

2. **RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICES**
   There was strong support for services which are not clinically based and focused on getting or increasing the ability to access services, such as housing, transportation, employment and peer / wellness options.

3. **PREVENTION**
   Many times people associate the word “prevention” with issues around substance abuse; we found that many of the LC’s considered this a very important need in that arena. But we also found that other opportunities for “prevention” work were prioritized, such as suicide prevention, gang prevention, and mental health and
substance use prevention for youth in transition. Overall, there is a clear response from the LC’s that prevention work is critical. There were also many LC’s that specifically called for prevention funding to be restored.

NEW FUNDS AVAILABILITY:
The LC’s responded to the scenario of “what if we were to get additional funding” just as they had to the issues outlined above: housing, crisis, substance abuse treatment and prevention.

ATTACHMENTS:
Original request letter
All LC input
Summary of input by category