Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use
Department of Health and Human Services
Administrator
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dr. Delphin-Rittmon:

We are in receipt of your May 26, 2023, letter, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) supplemental response by email on July 11, 2023, in response to our April 4, 2023, letter, regarding a full accounting of expenditures of certain funding received by SAMHSA.

Unfortunately, even after prompting by the Committee staff, SAMHSA is not providing the full accounting for billions of dollars in expenditures as requested. SAMHSA needs to be fully forthcoming with information about nearly $8 billion in COVID supplemental funds received by SAMHSA and awarded to states. Specifically, the Committee would like to understand whether significant amounts of these funds have actually been spent or are just sitting in bank accounts.

In addition, SAMHSA reported more than $900 million has been “invested” in the 9-8-8 crisis care system since FY 2022. This is a massive amount of money, and SAMHSA has not produced specific data showing how these funds are being used, or even if they are being used.

SAMHSA’s description of the December 2022 cybersecurity incident impacting the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is also troubling. SAMHSA reported that it is still awaiting the final report from its third-party security assessor. Further, SAMHSA suggested that the Committee direct detailed questions to the FBI, given the ongoing nature of the investigation. Given that this incident is being investigated by law enforcement, this indicates a much more significant and concerning event.
We appreciate SAMHSA providing information about the improved health outcomes reported by clients receiving services from SAMHSA-funded programs in FY 2022.

Therefore, pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, we request that SAMHSA respond or produce the following by August 23, 2023:

1. Tables of the following information to account for COVID-19 supplemental funding: a column showing obligation amount per state and a second column listing expenditures per state based on the Payment Management System and Federal Financial Report draw-down reports. (Please see attached template to format your response).

2. Tables of information accounting for each of the following programs that received COVID-19 supplemental funds: Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs); Suicide Prevention Programs; Project AWARE; Tribal Behavioral Health Grants; Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery Services Block Grant; Mental Health Block Grant; National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network; and Community Based Substance Use Disorder Services. For each of these programs, please include in these tables of information a column showing obligation amount per state (or tribe, where applicable) and a second column listing expenditures per state (or tribe where applicable) based on the Payment Management System and Federal Financial Report draw-down reports. (Please see attached template to format your response).

3. Tables of the following information to account for the more than $900 million “invested” in the 9-8-8 crisis care funding since FY 2022: a column showing obligation amount per state and a second column listing expenditures per state based on the Payment Management System and Federal Financial Report draw-down reports. Please clarify what SAMHSA means by “invested.” Does this mean obligated? (Please see attached template to format your response).

4. Why has the final report from the third-party security assessor not yet been submitted? To what extent has the lack of a final report impeded SAMHSA’s ability to implement additional security measures? What recommendations have been made? Have these recommendations been implemented? If not, why not?

5. For the FY 2022 client reports, please provide the number of clients reporting improved health outcomes along with the percentages that SAMHSA already provided.

Your cooperation with this request is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Alan Slobodin of the Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.
Letter to Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D.

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Sincerely,

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee

Brett Guthrie
Chair
Subcommittee on Health

H. Morgan Griffith
Chair
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

CC: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
    The Honorable Anna Eshoo, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
    The Honorable Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations