

Dennis O. Romero, M.A.
Region II Administrator
New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico,
U.S. Virgin Islands



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Mr. Dennis O. Romero has been appointed to serve as the first Regional Administrator of SAMHSA for Region II. For the first time SAMHSA has a presence in each of the 10 Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Regional Offices. This new configuration of SAMHSA staff will help ensure that a voice for behavioral health is present in the regions along with all of the other HHS operating divisions.

The Regional Administrators are helping SAMHSA reach out to and provide information regarding behavioral health issues for States, Territories, Tribes, providers, communities and other stakeholders, whether about funding opportunities, federal policies affecting them, or disaster preparedness and response and collaborating with other HHS colleagues in the regional offices and be better informed about behavioral health needs throughout the country.

Mr. Romero served most recently as the Director (Acting) for the Office of Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse (OIASA) at SAMHSA. In this capacity, he was responsible for establishing the new office and providing executive leadership in establishing the framework necessary to ensure a coordinated approach involving the Department of Justice, Department of the Interior, and HHS assist tribal governments through trainings and technical assistance to enhance their alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment initiatives. Prior to his most recent position, Mr. Romero served as the Deputy Executive Officer and Deputy Director for the Office of Program Services at SAMHSA which oversees the conduct of management and administrative operations across the agency. Prior to that, Mr. Romero served in several senior leadership capacities in SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

Mr. Romero has extensive experience in the fields of administration, program development, and as a seasoned clinician has served in numerous clinical capacities in the Northeast region both in the public and private sectors. Mr. Romero has served on many professional committees, advisory boards, and commissions (at state, regional and local levels) that address issues related to the field of behavioral health as well as allied social and educational issues. He is also the recipient of numerous awards, honors and recognitions.

Earning his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and Psychology from Cathedral College, Mr. Romero also holds a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from Manhattan College. He received post-graduate training at the State University of New York (SUNY), Albany Campus.