First Steps & Beyond: Incorporating Shared Decision Making (SDM) in Massachusetts Mental Health Services (Report & Recommendations from the 2009 Summit)

Shared Decision Making (SDM) is the process in which provider and consumers participate in all phases of the decision making process and together negotiate a treatment to implement.*

**SDM – THE JOURNEY SO FAR**

1990: M-POWER studies legal & ethical requirements to informed consent

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1996: M-POWER and DMH reach a consensus to implement informed consent policy

2000: M-POWER joins DMH medical directors to meet statewide group of DMH psychiatrists to discuss informed consent

2005: DMH: Procures CBFS treatment model to use in outpatient services

2009: DMH: Procures CBFS treatment model to use in outpatient services

2009: DMH and CQI hold a SDM summit in June

2008: MBHP selects CommonGround for use with psychiatrists at three outpatient clinics

**Key Findings From The 2009 SDM Summit**

- Providers have concerns that many consumers lack the resources and support to actively participate in SDM.
- Consumer's racial, ethnic and cultural background can affect his or her views about health conditions and treatments.
- SDM require new kinds of provider training.
- Peer specialists have the potential to serve as effective decision coaches.

**Moving Forward**

- State policy and opinion leaders should send clear message that SDM is critical to high quality care.
- SDM initiative should take into account racial, ethnic and cultural factors of SDM.
- A workforce training strategy should be developed.
- The roles of peer specialists should be formalized.

**Additional Resources:**

1. Massachusetts People/Patients Organized for Wellness, Empowerment, and Right (M-POWER), a grassroots organization
2. Department of Mental Health (DMH)
3. Community Based Flexible Supports (CBFS), a treatment model
4. Consumer Quality Initiatives (CQI)
5. Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP)
6. CommonGround, a clinical decision support model created by Pat Deegan for use with patients seeing psychiatrists

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Jonathan Delman, JD, MPH, PhD (cand.), Mary Ellen Foti, MD, Lisa Mistler, MD, MS, Tamar Skolnick. [DMH Website / Center for Mental Health Services Website](http://www.samhsa.gov/ConsumerSurvivor/shared.asp)

For more information on SDM visit: [http://www.samhsa.gov/ConsumerSurvivor/shared.asp](http://www.samhsa.gov/ConsumerSurvivor/shared.asp)