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The Mental Health Agency Research Network (MHARN): Developing a statewide network for knowledge sharing, technical assistance & collaborative research

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The Mental Health Agency Research Network (MHARN) is developing a statewide network for knowledge sharing, technical assistance & collaborative research

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MHARN Objectives
- Disseminate information about evidence-based practices and DMH system priorities
- Engage academics, DMH and agency providers, and community members in a dialogue about research & evaluation
- Facilitate the translation of evidence-based practice into changes in practice behavior and benefits to consumers
- Increase awareness about evidence-based practices and programs
- Improve translation of knowledge about evidence-based practice into changes in practitioners' behavior and benefits to consumers
- Improve the alliance of research to DMH providers, consumers and families by conducting research in DMH/community settings

MHARN Goals
- Increase awareness about evidence-based practices and programs
- Improve translation of knowledge about evidence-based practice into changes in practitioners' behavior and benefits to consumers
- Improve the alliance of research to DMH providers, consumers and families by conducting research in DMH/community settings

MHARN Structure
The MHARN has three tiers: a base tier of service providers receiving information about innovations in services and treatments, a middle tier of providers who participate in surveys and other observational research, and at the top a small group of providers who participate actively in highly structured intervention studies. Movement of members through the various tiers, or levels of participation, will be fluid. A small number of sites will actively participate in the planning of future research projects and in the acquisition of funding for those projects.

Research Collaboration
Active partners in collaborative research & grant-writing

Dissemination
Large, dedicated network of information linking providers/consumers

Engagement
Knowledge translation, implementing evidence-based practice, organizational change

Improving Practice
Organizational Change, Knowledge Exchange & Implementation Technical Assistance

Bidirectional Work
Research and dissemination involve a bidirectional process. The provider agencies and communities are both disseminators and disseminators of information as they access information about evidence-based practice and disseminate information back to the MHARN for use in future research projects.

Products available for viewing and downloading on the CMHSR website http://www.umassmed.edu/cmhsr/publications

Dissemination
- New initiatives
  - Articles in CMHSR publications (e.g., Connections, Perspectives)
  - Manuals to evidence-based providers
- Newsletter
  - Highlights of all CMHSR projects, community agencies and multicultural resources
- Links to evidence based practice and practical information for improving care and managing systems
  - Highlights of new developments on the Consumer Advisory Council
  - Issue briefs for dissemination & knowledge translation
- Web site
  - Link to evidence based practice for children
  - Parental Guide to Supported Living
  - Wellness & smoking cessation
- MHARN page on CMHSR website
  - User friendly information about evidence based practices
  - Tools for implementation, fidelity and outcomes measurement
- Manuals for evidence-based psychosocial treatments (e.g., MHARN Manual & Consumer Workbook)
  - Children's Mental Health Services Research (CMHSR)
  - Recovery for evidence-based practices (e.g., SAMHSA, Cochrane Library)
  - DMH Resources on evidence based practices (e.g., SAMHSA, Cochrane Library)
  - NNed (Context & Culture)