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

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The MHARN

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

MHARN Objectives

- Disseminate information about evidence-based practices and DHM system priorities
- Engage academics, DHM personnel, community agencies, and consumers in a dialogue about research & evaluation
- Engage in organizational change strategies to translate evidence-based practices to local needs and communities

MHARN Goals

- Increase awareness about evidence-based practices and programs
- Increase translation of knowledge about evidence-based practice into changes in practice behavior and benefits to consumers
- Increase the incidence of research at DHM providers, consumers, and families by conducting research in DHM/ community settings

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Research Collaboration
Active partners in collaborative research & grant-writing

Research

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

Dissemination
Large-scale dissemination of information among providers/consumers

Why Develop the MHARN

- Disseminate information about evidence-based practices and DHM system priorities
- Engage academics, community providers, and consumers in a dialogue about research & evaluation
- Engage in organizational change strategies to translate evidence-based practices to local needs and communities

Dissemination

- New initiatives
  - Database of all DHM provider, community agency and multicultural resources
  - Articles in DHM publications (e.g., Connections, Perspectives)
  - Manuals to enhance evidence-based practice and practical information for staff, providers, and community agencies
- Issue briefs for dissemination & knowledge translation
  - Highlighting key topics (e.g., smoking cessation)
  - Belong to a larger network of partners for children
  - Biological basis of bipolar disorder
  - Wellness & smoking cessation

MHARN Objectives

- Developing a statewide network for knowledge sharing, technical assistance & collaborative research
- Active partners in collaborative research
- Knowledge translation, implementing evidence-based practices, organizational change
- Technical Assistance

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 administrative research, and a top tier of providers who participate actively, in highly structured intervention studies. Movement of members through the various tiers, or levels of participation, will be activity-dependent.

Bidirectional Work

- Disseminate information about evidence-based practices, DHM system priorities, and DHM priorities
- Engage academics, DHM personnel, community agencies, and consumers in a dialogue about research & evaluation
- Engage in organizational change strategies to translate evidence-based practices to local needs and communities

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A broad, statewide representation of providers, individual patients, and community organizations that engage in disseminating general research information or information on a particular topic. As in previous and ongoing projects, members of CMHARN’s core, they may choose to participate in a problem-solving session hosted by the MHARN.