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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 MHARN

The Mental Health Agency Research Network (MHARN) is a developing network for sharing knowledge and research collaboration between the UMMS Dept. of Psychiatry and other academics, DMH personnel, community providers, consumers and family members. Its mission is to close the gap between science and service in mental health services in Massachusetts by improving implementation of evidence based practices to benefit consumers.

The MHARN provides a structure and mechanism for the Center for Mental Health Services Research (CMHSR) to better engage with DMH staff and community agencies around the state. As experience and research on science-to-service has demonstrated that dissemination of information about research findings is not sufficient to bring about changes in practice and benefits to consumers, the MHARN will incorporate principles and practices of the emerging science of implementation research.

MHARN Goals

- ▶ Increase awareness about evidence based practices and programs
- ▶ Improve translation of knowledge about evidence based practices into changes in practitioner behavior and benefits to consumers
- ▶ Improve the relevance of research to DMH, providers, consumers and families by conducting research in DMH/ community settings

MHARN Objectives

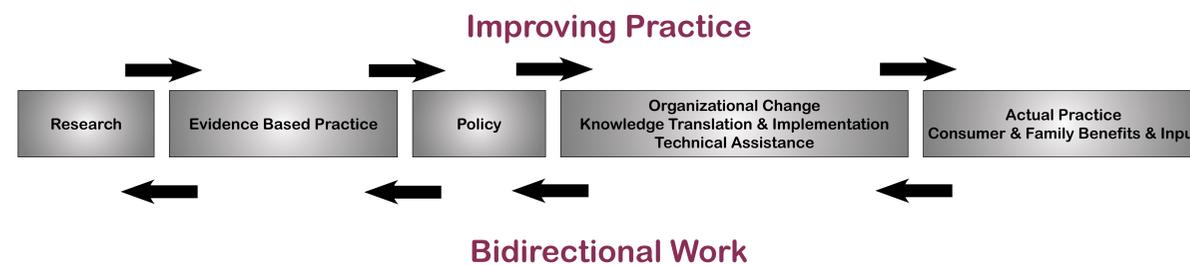
- ▶ Disseminate information about evidence based practices and DMH system priorities
- ▶ Engage academics, DMH and agency providers, and consumers in a dialogue about research & evaluation
- ▶ Use technical assistance and organizational change strategies to assist with implementing evidence based practices
- ▶ Increase collaboration, communication, and training
- ▶ Partner with DMH and community agencies in grant writing and conducting research in practice settings

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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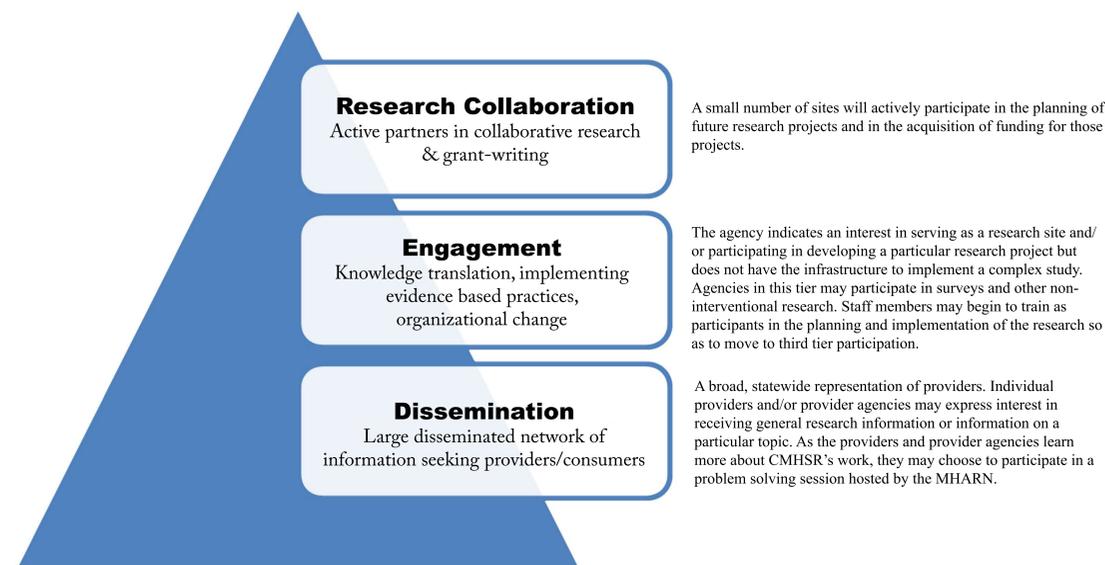
Why Develop the MHARN

- ▶ Disseminate information about evidence based practices and DMH system priorities
- ▶ Engage academics, community providers, and consumers in a dialogue about research & evaluation
- ▶ Consider ways to use organizational change strategies to translate evidence based practices to local needs and circumstances



MHARN Structure

The MHARN has three tiers: a base tier of service providers receiving information about innovations in services and treatments, a middle group of providers who participate in survey 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.



Dissemination

New initiatives

- Database of all DMH providers, community agencies and multicultural resources
- Articles in DMH publications (e.g., Connections, Perspectives)
- Outreach to multicultural providers

Newsletter

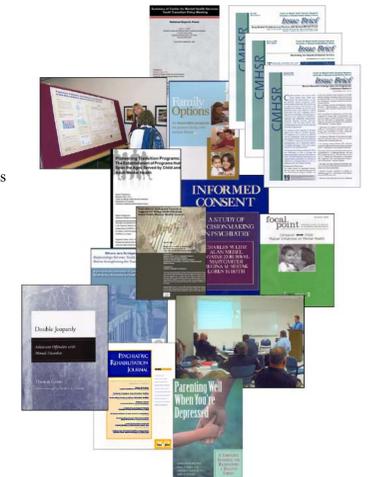
- Highlight evidence based practices and recent research on evidence based practices
- Links to resources for evidence based practices and practical information for training and implementation
- Consumer news and updates on the Consumer Advisory Council by consumers

Issue briefs for dissemination & knowledge translation

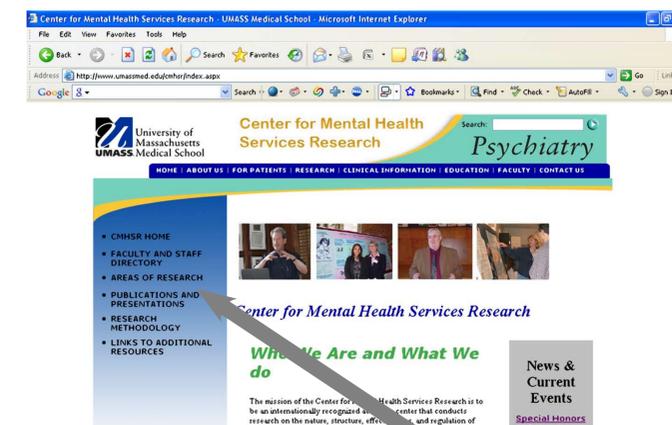
- Examples being developed from white papers:
 - Disparities in psychotropic prescribing for children
 - Biological basis of Bipolar Disorder
 - Wellness & smoking cessation

MHARN page on CMHSR website

- User friendly information about evidence based practices
- Toolkits for implementation, fidelity and outcomes measurement
- Manuals for evidence based psychosocial treatments (e.g., MISSION Manual & Consumer Workbook)
- Links
 - Resources on evidence based practices (e.g., SAMHSA, Cochrane Library Reviews, EBMH)
 - DMH
 - Consumer sites, (e.g., Transformation Center)



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



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