Welcome to the Structured Decision Making® Revised Tools Webinar!

- To print handouts from CountyLink:
  - CountyLink > DHS Systems and IT Updates > SSIS > Training > Worker Release/Pilot Training

- To access audio:
  - Use VoIP (headset or speakers). This connects you to the audio portion for free; OR
  - Use the phone option; see the GoTo Webinar control panel for your personalized link. (Standard long distance charges will apply.)

Thank you. The webinar will begin shortly.
Structured Decision Making® Revised Tools Training

May 2012

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Minnesota Department of Human Services

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Minnesota Department of Human Services
Why are assessment tools important?

- Why we do assessments
  - Guide critical decisions about safety, risk and service needs
  - Safety, risk and strength and needs assessments are required by Minnesota statute and rule

- Why SDM
  - Researched based
  - Validated on Minnesota CP population

- The validity and reliability of the SDM tools depends on accurate and consistent completion by child protection workers
Reason for Training: Introducing new tools and policy

- Revised family risk assessment
- Revised strength and needs assessment combined with child well-being tool
- New guidance concerning household to be assessed
- SSIS navigation guidance
What is the Structured Decision Making® Model?

- Comprehensive assessment system
- Structures the critical decision points in the life of a case
- Utilizes structured and research-based assessments
- The Structured Decision Making® (SDM) family risk assessment uses actuarial methodology to estimate the probability of child abuse and neglect occurring in the future

May 30 and 31, 2012
SSIS SDM Tools Webinar
Overview of Changes

- Household policy

- Risk Assessment Validation Study
  - Minnesota expanded a differential response system subsequent to most recent risk validation study
  - The risk assessment needed to be validated with Minnesota families for whom mental health was systematically observed

- Strength and Needs Assessment

- Navigational changes to all of the tools in SSIS
  - Accessing tools from the Action menu
  - Green navigational arrows
  - Primary & Secondary Caregivers
  - Children
  - Multiple tools
  - Printing
What is a household?

- All persons who have significant in-home contact with the child:
  - Including those who have a familial or intimate relationship with any person in the home
  - Anyone who spends 50% or more of his/her time in the home
  - Anyone for whom the home is his/her only permanent residence

- Do not consider employees to be household members (e.g., babysitter, nanny).
Which Household do I Assess?

- Assess the household where the alleged offender resides, even if this is not the child’s primary residence.

- When a child’s caregivers do not live together, the child may be a member of two households.

- If both households are involved in the report, both households should be assessed but on separate SDM assessments.
Risk Assessment

- **What’s the same**
  - Basic structure is the same
  - Override reasons
  - Policy and procedures

- **What has changed**
  - Mental health added to neglect and abuse indices
  - Alleged offender factor added to abuse index
  - New supplemental data collection item
12. Primary caregiver has/had a mental health problem
   a. No
   b. During the last 12 months
   c. Prior to the last 12 months
   d. During the last 12 months and prior to the last 12 months

(Continued on next slide)
Assess whether credible and/or verifiable statements by a caregiver or others indicate that the primary caregiver has been diagnosed with a significant mental health disorder by a mental health clinician, had repeated referrals for mental health/psychological evaluations, or was recommended for treatment/hospitalization or treated/hospitalized for emotional problems.
New Risk Item (A13)

A13. Alleged offender is an unmarried partner of the primary caregiver.

a. No

b. Yes

Definition:

Select Yes if an unmarried partner of the child’s primary caregiver is the alleged or determined offender of child maltreatment.
New Supplemental item (S1)

S1. Father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate provides unsupervised child care to a child under the age of three.
   a. No
   b. Yes
   c. Not applicable

Yes: The child(ren)'s father or stepfather, the boyfriend of a female primary caregiver, or a male roommate in the home provides unsupervised child care to any child in the household who is under the age of three.

Not applicable. There is no father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate in the home.
New Supplemental Item (S2)

S2. Is the father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate employed?
   a. No
   b. Yes
   c. Not applicable

**No.** The father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate providing care to a child in the household under the age of three is not employed.

**Yes.** The father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate providing care to a child in the household under the age of three is employed.

**Not applicable.** There is no father, stepfather, boyfriend, or male roommate in the home, or child is four years or older.
RA Overrides and Final Scoring

OVERRIDES:

**Policy: Increase to high risk**

1. Sexual abuse cases where the perpetrator is likely to have access to the child victim

2. Cases with non-accidental physical injury to an infant

3. Serious non-accidental physical injury requiring hospital or medical treatment

4. Death (previous or current) of a sibling as a result of abuse or neglect

**Discretionary: Increase one level**

5. Reason: ____________________________________________________________

**FINAL RISK LEVEL:**  ____ Low  ____ Moderate  ____ High

Supervisor Review/Approval: ___________________________ Date: __/____/____

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Risk Assessment
Policy and Procedures

- **Which cases**
  - All CPS maltreatment reports assigned for an investigation or family assessment that involves a family caregiver. This does not apply to institutional abuse cases.

- **Who**
  - The assigned case manager who is completing the investigation/assessment
Risk Assessment
Policy and Procedures

■ When

– The risk assessment is to be finalized prior to determining the disposition of the investigation/assessment. It is one of the elements considered in making this determination.

– A risk assessment is conducted when a new CPS incident occurs in an ongoing case.
Decision:

- The risk assessment identifies the level of risk of future maltreatment and guides the decision to close a report or open a case for ongoing services.

- Low and moderate risk cases should be considered for closure unless there are unresolved safety concerns that require continued services, or there is agreement between the family and the agency for the family to receive family support services.
### Decision Tool: Risk Assessment

**Assessed By:** Laisy, Rebecca  
**Tool Status:**  
**Assessment Date:**  
**Finalize Date:**  
**Scored Risk:**  
**Override:**  
**Primary Caregiver:**  
**Secondary Caregiver:**  

**Children**
- Jones, Laura
- Brown, Jason
- Daybreak, Desi

**Neglect Risk**

| N1. Current report is for neglect |  
| N2. Current report is for educational neglect |  
| N3. Number of prior assigned reports |  
| N4. Prior CPS history |  
| N5. Number of children in the home |  
| N6. Age of youngest child |  
| N7. Child in the home has a developmental disability/emotional impairment |  
| N8. Number of adults in home at time of report |  
| N9. Age of primary caregiver |  
| N10. Either caregiver has a history of domestic violence |  
| N11. Either caregiver has/had an alcohol or drug problem during the last 12 months |  
| N12. Primary caregiver has/had a mental health problem |  

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RISK ASSESSMENT SETUP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision Tool:</th>
<th>Risk Assessment (new)</th>
<th>Generate Tool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessed By:</td>
<td>Laisy, Rebecca</td>
<td>Assessment Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool Status:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Finalize Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scored Risk:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Override:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Caregiver:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Secondary Caregiver:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Caregivers** selected using drop-downs
- **Children** are un/selected using check boxes

Children:
- Jones, Laura
- Brown, Jason
- Daybreak, Desi

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Click the tabs to navigate between – no more green arrows

| N1. Current report is for neglect                                                                 |
| N2. Current report is for educational neglect                                                   |
| N3. Number of prior assigned reports                                                             |
| N4. Prior CPS history                                                                           |
| N5. Number of children in the home                                                               |
| N6. Age of youngest child                                                                      |
| N7. Child in the home has a developmental disability/emotional impairment                       |
| N8. Number of adults in home at time of report                                                   |
| N9. Age of primary caregiver                                                                    |
| N10. Either caregiver has a history of domestic violence                                         |
| N11. Either caregiver has/had an alcohol or drug problem during the last 12 months              |
| N12. Primary caregiver has/had a mental health problem                                           |

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SSIS HINT

Before

Click the splitter bar to hide Children list

After
Strengths and Needs Assessment Information

- **Comprehensive** assessment of key domains
- Relevant to *case planning*
  - What are the priority *needs* of the family that will be addressed in the case plan?
  - What *strengths* do the family have on which to build?
Strengths and Needs Assessment

- What’s the same
  - Basic structure is the same
  - Policy and procedures

- What’s changed
  - Consistent item scoring
  - Fewer Caregiver domains (7)
  - Addition of child domains (7)
## Domains Comparison

### Previous

1. Emotional/Mental Health
2. Parenting Skills
3. Substance Use
4. Housing/Environment/Basic Physical Needs
5. Child Characteristics
6. Social Support Systems
7. Caregiver(s) Abuse/Neglect History
8. Communication/Interpersonal Skills
9. Caregiver(s) Life Skills
10. Physical Health
11. Employment/Income Management
12. Community Resource Utilization

### New

**Caregivers**

1. Household Relationships/Domestic Violence
2. Resource Management/Basic Needs
3. Alcohol and Other Drug Use
4. Mental Health/Coping Skills
5. Social Support System
6. Physical Health
7. Parenting Skills

**Child**

1. Emotional/Behavioral
2. Physical Health/Disability
3. Family Relationships
4. Alcohol and Other Drug Use
5. Education
6. Child Development
7. Peer/Adult Social Relationships

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Cross-walking the Caregiver Domains

SN1. Household Relationships/DV
- S5 Family Relationships
- S9 Communication Skills

SN2. Resource Management/Basic Needs
- S4 Housing/Environment/Basic Physical Needs
- S12 Employment/Income Management*
- S13 Community Resource Utilization*

SN3. Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse
- S3 Substance Use

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SSIS SDM Tools Webinar
Cross-walking the Caregiver Domains

**SN4. Mental Health/Coping Skills**
- S1 Emotional/Mental Health
- S8 Caregiver Abuse/Neglect Hx
- S9 Communication/Interpersonal Skills
- S10 Caregiver(s) Life Skills

**SN5. Social Support System**
- S7 Social Support Systems
- S13 Community Resource utilization

**SN6. Physical Health**
- S11 Physical Health

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Cross-walking the Caregiver Domains

SN7. Parenting Skills
- Parenting Skills

SN8. Cultural Identity
- No current equivalent
# Child Domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSN1 Emotional/Behavioral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSN2 Physical Health/Disability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN3 Family Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN4 Alcohol and Other Drug Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN5 Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN6 Child Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN7 Peer/Adult Social Relationships</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S6 Child Characteristics

(Previous MN FANS)
Revised Scoring

- **A–D levels**
  - A: Strength (generally proactive)
  - B: Average
  - C: Need
  - D: Serious need

- **Numerical scores**
  - Do not sum
  - Lowest scores represent greatest need
  - Highest scores represent greatest strength

- **Priority Strengths and Needs for Caregivers**
- **Priority Strengths and Needs for Children**
Family’s Perspective on Culture and Cultural Identity

Culture is a system of shared actions, values, beliefs, and traditions that guide the behavior of families and communities.

Culture may refer to racial, ethnic, religious, or social identity.

In recognition of the importance and strength of cultural norms, have a discussion with the family about how culture influences their family in each of the domains. Document in this text box any information gained from your discussion on culture with the family.
SNA Caregiver Domains

- Household Relationships/domestic violence
- Resource management/basic needs
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Mental health/coping skills
- Social support system
- Physical health
- Parenting skills
SNA Child Domains

- Emotional/behavioral
- Physical health/disability
- Family Relationships
- Alcohol and other drug use
- Education
- Peer/adult social relationships
- Child development
Strengths and Needs Assessment
Policy and Procedures

- **Which cases**
  - All family assessments
    Recommended for all family investigations but required for investigations that will be opened for ongoing services.

- **Who**
  - Family assessments: The family assessment caseworker in conjunction with the family
  - Investigations opened for ongoing services: The investigator or the ongoing child protection caseworker, in conjunction with the family
Strengths and Needs Assessment
Policy and Procedures

- **When, initially:**
  - Family assessments: Within the 45-day family assessment period
  - Family investigations: Within the 45-day family investigation period, or within 30 days of case opening for ongoing services, prior to development of the initial service plan

- **Reassessment**
  - Within 30 days prior to required service plan updates
Strengths and Needs Assessment
Policy and Procedures

Decision

- Identifies the priority needs of caregivers and children and informs service plan development. Priority needs should be reflected in the goals, objectives, and interventions in the service plan.

- Identifies a family’s priority areas of strengths that should be incorporated into the service plan to the greatest extent possible, as a means to address identified needs.
SSIS Strengths and Needs Assessment

As caregivers and children are selected, tabs display accordingly.
Cultural identity Tab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Identity</th>
<th>Caregiver - Smith, Carol</th>
<th>Caregiver - Jones, Paul</th>
<th>Caregiver Priorities</th>
<th>Jones, Laura</th>
<th>Brown, Jason</th>
<th>Daybreak, Desi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Family’s perspective on culture and cultural identity**

---

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### Caregiver Tab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Identity</th>
<th>Caregiver - Smith, Carol</th>
<th>Caregiver - Jones, Paul</th>
<th>Caregiver Priorities</th>
<th>Jones, Laura</th>
<th>Brown, Jason</th>
<th>Daybreak, Desi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SN1. Household relationships/Domestic violence</td>
<td>Minor or occasional discord</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN2. Resource management/Basic needs</td>
<td>No resources, or resources are severely limited and/or mismanaged</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN3. Alcohol and other drug use</td>
<td>Alcohol or prescribed medication use/no use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN4. Mental health/Coping skills</td>
<td>Mild to moderate symptoms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN5. Social support systems</td>
<td>Limited support system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN6. Physical health</td>
<td>Health issues do not affect family functioning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN7. Parenting skills</td>
<td>Some difficulty parenting and protecting the child</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Caregiver Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Primary caregiver score</th>
<th>Secondary caregiver score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SN2. Resource management/Basic needs</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>SN3. Alcohol and other drug use</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN4. Mental health/Coping skills</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN5. Social support systems</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN7. Parenting skills</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority Strengths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Primary caregiver score</th>
<th>Secondary caregiver score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SN1. Household relationships/Domestic violence</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN3. Alcohol and other drug use</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN4. Mental health/Coping skills</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SN6. Physical health</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Child Tab

![Child Tab Image]

### Priority Strengths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSN2. Physical health/Disability</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN3. Family relationships</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN4. Alcohol and other drug use</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN7. Child development</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Priority Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Score</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSN1. Emotional/Behavioral</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN5. Education</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSN6. Peer/Adult social relationships</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Other SSIS Related Changes

Safety Assessment now includes a Child Vulnerability tab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessed By:</th>
<th>Laisy, Rebecca</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tool Status:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Date:</td>
<td>4/10/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalize Date:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Decision:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Caregiver:</td>
<td>Smith, Carol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Caregiver:</td>
<td>Jones, Paul</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Children
- Jones, Laura
- Brown, Jason
- Daybreak, Desi

Safety Assessment

The following conditions increase the vulnerability of children and should be considered when addressing safety. Check any characteristic that applies to any child in the household and complete the tool for the most vulnerable child.

- No child vulnerability factors apply
- Child under 8 years old
- Diminished mental capacity (for example, developmentally delayed)
- Diminished physical capacity (for example, wheelchair-bound)
- Repeated victimization of child
- Male caregiver provides unsupervised care to child under 3 years of age

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Other SSIS-related Changes

Reunification Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision Tool:</th>
<th>Reunification Assessment (New)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recorded By:</td>
<td>Laisy, Rebecca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tool Status:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Date:</td>
<td>4/10/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finalize Date:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scored Risk:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Override:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Decision:</td>
<td>Safe with services/intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Caregiver:</td>
<td>Smith, Carol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Caregiver:</td>
<td>Jones, Paul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones, Laura</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Jason</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daybreak, Desi</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommendation

- Continue with permanency plan

Must check Score tool field for Recommendation to autofill

Recommendations modified
Other SSIS-related Changes

- **Printing**
  - Blue hyperlinked help will not be available in V12.2.
  - Definitions and blank tools can be printed from the Action menu.
  - When definitions are accessed, they open in a new window – making it easy to use the definitions while completing the tool – or to print.
Any Questions?
Thank you for your time and attention!

Next steps:

One-year SDM/practice integration effort

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