

Priority Focus Area 3
Structured Decision Making Model (SDM)
September 2011

The SDM project continues to roll forward. Throughout the quarter, there have been numerous meetings for coordination, communication and collaboration on the project. Some of the events include:

- Continued collaboration with the Court Improvement Project. On July 7th, a SDM implementation meeting was facilitated by CIP partner Misty Butler.
- Coordination with the statewide Professional Development Team including a meeting on July 19th to begin planning efforts for a SDM presentation during the Supervisor Conference scheduled for December. The group also identified region trainers that will be members of the statewide SDM expert group.
- The Children's Research Center (CRC) continues to provide training and technical assistance for DCFS staff involved in the SDM project. On July 20th, a meeting was held to review the results of the inter-rater reliability testing. On September 9th, a coordination meeting was held to outline the timeline for future SDM implementation stages.
- Continued coordination with state office administration. At the management meeting held on August 11th, continued funding needs were outlined and approved.
- On-going meetings with the SAFE development team. Significant progress has been made on creating the Safety and Risk Assessments in SAFE.
- Finalized the statewide expert group. Group members include representatives from region trainers, region staff, and state office program administrators.

Another significant event in the SDM project was the Training of Trainers (TOT) held September 29-29. Three members of the CRC were on site to facilitate the training. Participants included region and state trainers, members of the Program and Practice Improvement Team (PPIT), and region representatives from the SDM expert group. The training provided an overview of SDM along with review and discussion of each of the assessment tools. Follow-up webinars will be used to keep trainers fresh on SDM during the gap between the TOT and full implementation.