

**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.**

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Structured Decision Making®  
Revised Tools Training**

May 2012

**David Thompson**, Program Manager  
Minnesota Department of Human Services

**Linda Billman**, Social Service Consultant  
Minnesota Department of Human Services

**Kristen Johnson**, Senior Researcher  
Children's Research Center

**Rebecca Wilcox**, Program Consultant  
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

May 30 and 31, 2012

SSIS SDM Tools Webinar

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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      5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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).

May 30 and 31, 2012

SSIS SDM Tools Webinar

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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.

May 30 and 31, 2012

SSIS SDM Tools Webinar

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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

May 30 and 31, 2012

SSIS SDM Tools Webinar

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**New Risk Item (N12, A12)**

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)*

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Risk Item Mental Health Definition**

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.

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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.

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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.

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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.

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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.

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Risk Assessment  
Policy and Procedures**

- 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.

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### SSIS HINT

**Before**

**After**

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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?

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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)

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Domains Comparison

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Previous</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Emotional/Mental Health</li> <li>2) Parenting Skills</li> <li>3) Substance Use</li> <li>4) Housing/Environment/Basic Physical Needs</li> <li>5) Child Characteristics</li> <li>6) Social Support Systems</li> <li>7) Caregiver(s) Abuse/Neglect History</li> <li>8) Communication/Interpersonal Skills</li> <li>9) Caregiver(s) Life Skills</li> <li>10) Physical Health</li> <li>11) Employment/Income Management</li> <li>12) Community Resource Utilization</li> </ol> | <p><b>New</b></p> <p><u>Caregivers</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Household Relationships/Domestic Violence</li> <li>2) Resource Management/Basic Needs</li> <li>3) Alcohol and Other Drug Use</li> <li>4) Mental Health/Coping Skills</li> <li>5) Social Support System</li> <li>6) Physical Health</li> <li>7) Parenting Skills</li> </ol> <p><u>Child</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Emotional/Behavioral</li> <li>2) Physical Health/Disability</li> <li>3) Family Relationships</li> <li>4) Alcohol and Other Drug Use</li> <li>5) Education</li> <li>6) Child Development</li> </ol> <p><u>Parent/Adult Social Relationships</u></p> |
|--|--|

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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\* KS1
- S13 Community Resource Utilization\*

SN3. Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

- S3 Substance Use

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Cross-walking the Caregiver Domains

SN7. Parenting Skills

- Parenting Skills

SN8. Cultural Identity

- No current equivalent

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      28

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Child Domains

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| CSN1 Emotional/Behavioral            |
| CSN2 Physical Health/Disability      |
| CSN3 Family Relationships            |
| CSN4 Alcohol and Other Drug Use      |
| CSN5 Education                       |
| CSN6 Child Development               |
| CSN7 Peer/Adult Social Relationships |

S6 Child Characteristics  
(Previous MN FANS)

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      29

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      30

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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.*

May 30 and 31, 2012

SSIS SDM Tools Webinar

31

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### 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

May 30 and 31, 2012

SSIS SDM Tools Webinar

32

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### SNA Child Domains

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

May 30 and 31, 2012

SSIS SDM Tools Webinar

33

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 34

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 35

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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

May 30 and 31, 2012 SSIS SDM Tools Webinar 36

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---





**Other SSIS-related Changes**

**Reunification Assessment**

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      43

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**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.

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      44

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Any Questions?**

May 30 and 31, 2012      SSIS SDM Tools Webinar      45

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Thank you for your time and attention!**

Next steps:

One-year SDM/practice integration effort

**Linda Billman, MSW LICSW**  
Social Service Consultant for DHS  
[Linda.Billman@state.mn.us](mailto:Linda.Billman@state.mn.us)  
(651) 431-4699

May 30 and 31, 2012

SSIS SDM Tools Webinar

46

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---