



*In Collaboration with the Department of Children and Families
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program Office of Circuit 17*



Mental Health Advance Directives

Provider's Role: Assisting the Consumer

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1. Discuss with the consumer his/her various medical and mental health issues which will need to be addressed in the ADMH, including but not limited to:
 - History and potential course of current medical/psychiatric conditions;
 - Potential complications of those conditions;
 - Possible treatment options for those situations (medications, somatic therapies, psychotherapy, etc.);
 - Potential venues within which treatment options can be rendered;
 - Any services which may be helpful in those situations (i.e., psychosocial programs, residential placement, etc.)
2. Discuss with the consumer his/her preferences regarding:
 - Treatment choices, therapeutic programs/facilities and location, and services;
 - Preferences on inclusion in studies;
 - Any “end of life” directions, which can include not only life-sustaining measures, but also issues such as organ donation;
 - Other peripherally related preferences, such as temporary dependant care, visitation, release of information, etc.
3. Find out if certain interventions have worked well or, alternatively, have been unsuccessful or detrimental in the past and include this information.
4. Discuss any discomfort you may have in acting upon any treatment choices the consumer makes and to whom (provider) you might transfer his/her care in that situation.
5. Discuss with the consumer how s/he feels about appointing a Health Care Agent and the pros and cons of doing so.
6. This is a perfect opportunity to provide for consistent coordination of care for the consumer with multiple providers. Involve the other providers in the consumer's efforts to execute his/her ADMH. Identify one of the providers to take responsibility for ongoing case-management and coordination.
7. Assist with periodic review of the consumer's ADMH to assure it continues to reflect his/her wishes as treatment options evolve.
8. Remember, these are things which would be discussed and actions which would be taken with the consumer whether or not s/he is executing an ADMH. The process of executing an ADMH merely provides a tool to facilitate these discussions and serves to focus the effort.