



www.SMIadviser.org

An APA and SAMHSA Initiative



Welcome to your quarterly update from SMI Adviser. Several new features are now available and described in this newsletter. Whether you download a resource, register for a live webinar, or request a consultation, the SMI Adviser team is here to support you. We thank you for being part of the SMI Adviser community and for all that you do to help those living with serious mental illness (SMI).

For question about SMI Adviser, please contact:

[Stephanie Slowly](#), MSW, LCSW-C,
Project Director, (202) 459-9708

Weekly Webinars for all Mental Health Professionals

Education is one of the core services that SMI Adviser offers. We now offer live, CME/CNE-certified* webinars every week. We invite all mental health professionals to register and participate through the SMI Adviser website.

Webinar topics focus on the many complex issues that surround serious mental illness.

- Adding peer support to mental health practices
- Clinical informatics
- Cognitive behavioral therapy for psychosis
- Evolving roles of psychiatric nurses
- Addressing obesity
- Shared decision making
- Pharmacological approaches to treatment
- Smartphone apps for SMI
- And much more!

[SEE OUR CATALOG](#)

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New Features on SMIadviser.org

In March 2019, two exciting new features launched on the SMI Adviser website. These features support the implementation of evidence-based care for those with SMI. We invite all mental health professionals to use these valuable tools right now.

Find Answers in our Knowledge Base

- ① Go to SMIadviser.org/knowledge-base
- ② Browse 200+ clinical questions and find answers about caring for people with SMI

[FIND ANSWERS NOW](#)

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the SMI Adviser Knowledge Base. The URL is [http://SMIadviser.org/knowledge-base](#). The page title is "What Is Shared Decision Making and what are its benefits?". Below the title, there is a detailed description from a 2001 report by the Institute of Medicine. The text discusses patient-centered care, shared decision making, and the importance of clinician-patient partnership. At the bottom of the page, there is a sidebar with links to other resources and social media sharing options.

Request a Consultation from an SMI Expert in 3 Easy Steps

- ① Go to SMIadviser.org/submit-consult
- ② Log in or create an account
- ③ Request a consultation and receive guidance from our SMI experts. Ask us about psychopharmacology, therapies, recovery supports, patient and family engagement, education, and more.

[REQUEST A CONSULTATION](#)

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the SMI Adviser Consultation Request page. The URL is [http://SMIadviser.org/submit-consult](#). The page features a large image of a person's hands using a tablet computer. To the right of the image, there is a section titled "Request a Consultation" with a brief description of what the service offers. A prominent green "SUBMIT NOW" button is located at the bottom right of this section.



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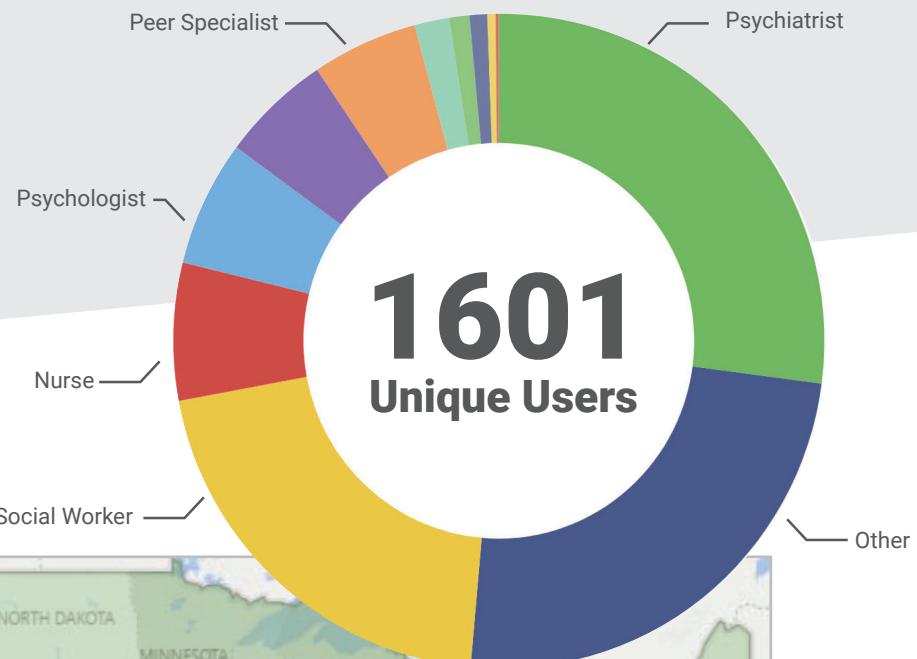
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Real-Time Data Visualization: Measuring the Educational Impact of SMI Adviser

SMI Adviser launched a data visualization platform that provides key metrics on a daily basis. In just a few short months, SMI Adviser increased access to evidence-based education on serious mental illness for more than 1,600 clinicians. Our platform allows us to measure engagement with mental health professionals from across the country who turn to our website and engage with our course catalog.

650+
Total CME Credits Issued





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A Strong Partnership Network

A network of [30 organizations](#) advise the strategic priorities of SMI Adviser. The Advisory Board includes broad expertise from across the mental health community and includes representatives for family and individuals who live with SMI. Many of our partners actively contribute content to SMI Adviser. Some highlights are below.

- The [College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists](#) (CPNP) recently joined the Advisory Board and, in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), contributed medication fact sheets to the Knowledge Base.
- The [American Psychiatric Nurses Association](#) (APNA) provides continuing nursing education (CNE) credit to learning activities in the Education Catalog.
- The [American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry](#) (AAAP) is expanding on resources on co-morbid substance use to address the treatment of SMI.
- The Arlington County Behavioral Health Division participated in Psychiatrist and Peer Support Specialist focus groups to discuss the impact of SMI Adviser.

[SEE OUR PARTNERS](#)

Clozapine Center of Excellence

SMI Adviser and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) have established a Clozapine Center of Excellence (COE). It focuses on helping increase and improve clozapine use. In February, Dr. Alex Young, MD, MSHS, SMI Physician Expert and Dr. Raymond Love, PharmD, BCPP, FASHP [hosted a live Q&A](#) on modifications to the Clozapine Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Program that went into effect on February 28, 2019.

The Clozapine COE also features a robust listserv that provides an opportunity for all clinicians who prescribe clozapine to collaborate and share resources.

[JOIN THE CLOZAPINE COE COMMUNITY](#)



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State-Level Needs Assessment

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) and NRI conducted a national needs assessment on state-level use of clinical practice guidelines (CPG) and evidence-based practices (EBP). SMI Adviser is using the findings from interviews with 37 behavioral health authorities (SBHAs) to inform program development. Some highlights of their needs assessment are below.

- ⊕ 92% of SBHAs indicate that they have adopted specific CPGs and EBPs for the treatment and recovery of adults with a serious mental illness.
- ⊕ 68% identify issues related to workforce as a barrier encountered when getting providers to adhere to CPGs and EBPs.
- ⊕ Shortages of behavioral health professionals in rural areas are a top priority of state leadership.
- ⊕ States are more heavily relying on peer support services to enhance the behavioral health workforce and improve the quality of care the states provide.

Promoting Dialogue on Assisted Outpatient Treatment

SMI Adviser partnered with the Treatment Advocacy Center (TAC) in March to host a national panel discussion with experts in Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT). The panel included an array of perspectives: judges, policy associates, psychiatrists, licensed counselors, AOT monitors, and an AOT graduate. The meeting was chaired by John Snook, executive director of TAC, and Mark Munetz, MD, professor and chair of psychiatry, Northeast Ohio Medical University. Debra Pinals, MD, and Marvin Swartz, MD provided critical insights as psychiatrists and members of the APA Council of Psychiatry and Law.



TAC is dedicated to research on barriers to treatment and solutions that improve access to care for those with serious mental illness. As a partner to SMI Adviser, TAC is developing a learning curriculum focused on evidence-based principles of AOT. In the coming months, TAC will create a series of online learning modules and resources to examining barriers and challenges to AOT implementation. They will be available on the SMI Adviser website in July 2019.

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SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

What's in the Works: Collaboration with *Psychiatric Services Journal*

Psychiatric Services is a peer-reviewed journal that focuses on the delivery of mental health services, especially for people with serious mental illness in community-based treatment programs. In partnership with the journal's Editor, Lisa Dixon, MD, MPH, SMI Adviser will feature a curated collection of articles each month on important clinical topics. These collections, called Editor's Choice, will be highlighted in the [SMI Adviser Knowledge Base](#).

A Mission for Better

SMI Adviser recently launched a national marketing campaign called "A Mission for Better." This theme is the product of a thorough, mindful approach with partners and clinicians. The word "better" was heard often in early strategy meetings among our Clinical Expert Team and as we created vision and mission statements for the initiative. The marketing agency for SMI Adviser, Charge Ahead Marketing, put together the concept based on that input. "A Mission for Better" signals that the purpose of this initiative is to enhance how everyone cares for individuals who have SMI.

Says SMI Adviser Principal Investigator Tristan Gorrindo, MD: "This message aligns with what we're trying to do. Help clinicians use better treatment options. Help individuals and families find better answers about SMI. Use better technology to make it easier to find those answers. We ran the messaging through multiple focus groups to test its impact. Both clinicians and individuals with lived experience gave positive input."

A Mission for Better

SMI Adviser helps clinicians provide better care and support to people who have serious mental illness.

More than 10 million adults in the U.S. suffer from serious mental illness (SMI) each year. SMI includes bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, and schizophrenia.

As a mental health clinician, you are on the front lines. These are complex conditions. How can you find evidence-based answers that support clinical decisions?

SMI Adviser is here to help. Our mission is to advance the use of a person-centered approach to care that ensures people who have SMI have the treatment and support they need.

30+ national mental health organizations help lead SMI Adviser. Get consultations from experts. Take free online courses. Find answers that help create better.

- ❖ Better clinical support.
- ❖ Better resources for families.
- ❖ Better care for people who have SMI.

So they can find better lives.

Join our #MissionForBetter at SMIadviser.org/apa

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Request a Consult
Submit questions and receive responses from experts in SMI. Ask us about psychopharmacology, therapies, recovery supports, patient and family engagement, and more.

Access Knowledge and Answers
Use our searchable knowledge base to find resources and answers about SMI.

Access Free Education
Find dozens of free CME-certified courses on SMI-related topics in our online catalog.

**Join our
#MissionForBetter now!**

Share a post in social media today about SMI Adviser and use the hashtag #MissionForBetter.



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Engaging with Clinicians: NatCon 19

SMI Adviser was proud to launch its national marketing campaign at the National Council for Behavioral Health conference (NatCon 19) in Nashville, TN. The SMI Adviser team was an exhibitor for two action-packed days and engaged hundreds of colleagues in mental health about the mission of our initiative.



The final day of the conference included two special visitors to the SMI Adviser booth: Elinore McCance-Katz, MD, PhD, first Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use; and Deepa Avula, SAMHSA Chief of Staff.



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Engaging with Clinicians: APA Annual Meeting

If you are in San Francisco in May to attend the 2019 APA Annual Meeting, make sure you stop by the Innovation Zone to visit SMI Adviser!

During this conference, members of the SMI Adviser Clinical Expert Team will lead several sessions on SMI and will engage with attendees at the SMI Adviser booth in the Innovation Zone. If you have questions on SMI, it is the perfect time to ask questions in person and receive face-to-face guidance from our CET.

[SEE SMI SESSIONS AND BOOTH SCHEDULE](#)



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[**www.SMIadviser.org**](http://www.SMIadviser.org)



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