

## **Role Statement: Decision Making Capacity Assessment Mentoring Team and Designated Capacity Assessors**

### **Decision Making Capacity Model**

The Decision Making Capacity (DMC) Assessment Model is provincially endorsed model with the goal of facilitating the assessment of decision-making capacity in a systematic and well-organized manner that would be most beneficial to the adult and to the staff. The DMC Assessment Model endorses a problem-solving approach to expedite personal and financial decision-making needs in a person-centered manner, with the intent of being least intrusive and respectful of the person's dignity. The standard process which has been developed is focused on specific reasons and risks, identification of domains, appropriate cognitive and functional assessments and team-based problem solving.

### **DMC Mentoring Team**

The DMC Assessment Mentoring Team is a diverse group of health care providers including allied health professionals, physicians, psychologists, nurse practitioners, Decision Capacity Assessors (DCAs), care or transition coordinators, and managers. The goal of the Mentoring Team is to educate, mentor and support all front-line staff through the DMC assessment process.

Mentoring Team Roles and Responsibilities include:

- Being available to attending teams for support and guidance in using the DMC Assessment Model
- Planning and providing staff education workshops and in services
- Seeking educational opportunities and promotion of model

### **Designated Capacity Assessors**

DCAs are appointed by the Government of Alberta to undertake Decision-Making Capacity Assessments required by the Adult Guardianship and Trusteeship Act. Physicians and psychologists are already designated as capacity assessors by regulation. Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Occupational Therapists and Social Workers may be designated by regulation to be a DCA once they have completed mandatory training. The DCA must maintain their competence as required by the Office of the Public Guardian.

DCAs perform the assessment of capacity for the following situations:

1. Application for co-decision making (Form 3).
2. Application for guardianship or trusteeship (Form 4).
3. Request for capacity assessment when specific decision-making is in dispute (Form10)