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- Or, at top left of this screen, click File: Save: Document

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Introducing SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) for Children

Presented by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SOAR Technical Assistance (TA) Center

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



February 21, 2019

Disclaimer

The views, opinions, and content expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).



Webinar Instructions

- Muting
- Recording availability
- Downloading documents
- Questions and Answers



Purpose and Objectives

- Share goals and objectives of the SOAR Online Course for Children
- Learn how SOAR Providers can begin to integrate SOAR for Children into your SOAR initiative
- Outline recommendations for implementing SOAR for Children with your community plans to end family and youth homelessness



Agenda

SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum and Launching SOAR for Children

Kristin Lupfer, MSW, Project Director, SAMHSA SOAR TA Center

SOAR in Maryland: A State Lead's Plan of Action

 Caroline Bolas, SOAR State Lead, Behavioral Health Administration, Catonsville, MD

SOAR for Children in Austin: Starting with Me First!

Suzie Brady, MMT, Travis County SOAR Local Lead, Integral Care, Austin, TX

SOAR Provider Experience with SSI for Children: Julian and Janey

Laura Kolb, JD, Staff Attorney, Homeless Advocacy Project, Philadelphia, PA

Questions and Answers

Facilitated by the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center



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Welcome!

Robert Grace Public Health Advisor Homeless Programs Branch Center for Mental Health Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

February 21, 2019



The SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum

Kristin Lupfer, MSW SAMHSA SOAR Project Director Policy Research Associates, Inc. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



February 21, 2019

What is SOAR?

(OAR) WORKS

- A model for assisting eligible individuals to apply for Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits
- For individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorder, or other physical disabilities
- Sponsored by SAMHSA in collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA) since 2005
- All 50 states and Washington, DC currently participate



SOAR Timeline

- SOAR training and process originally developed for adult SSI/SSDI applications in 2005
- Child SSI Issue Brief released in 2014
- Discussions about SOAR for Children with the SAMHSA Child, Adolescent, and Family Branch begin in Spring 2017
- SOAR for Children Expert Panel is held in September 2017
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum launched on October 31, 2018



Why SOAR for Children?

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness have higher rates of disability and experience higher rates of mental health problems, developmental delays, and poor cognitive outcomes than their stably housed peers.
- 180,413 people were homeless in 56,342 families with children in 2018.
- There were 36,361 unaccompanied homeless youth under the age of 25 in 2018.
 - Unaccompanied homeless youth are more likely to be unsheltered (51%) than all people experiencing homelessness.

https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2018-AHAR-Part-1.pdf National Center for Homeless Education, UNC Greensboro (2017). Federal Data Summary School Years 2013-2014 to 2015-2016, Education for Homeless Children and Youth

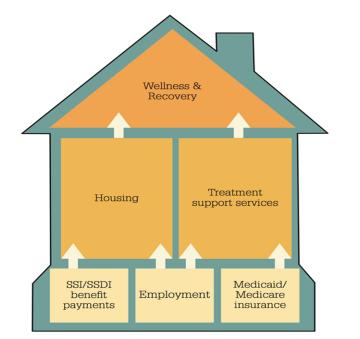
11 The National Center on Family Homelessness (2011). The Characteristics and Needs of Families Experiencing Homelessness. Retrieved from: https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED535499.pdf



A Foundation for Resiliency and Recovery

More Than Income

- Access to health care and housing
- Increased education and employment opportunities
- Decrease in institutionalization and hospitalizations





SSI: One Brick in Foundation

SSI for Children: The Basics

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Benefits for low income individuals
 - Financial need is a complete picture of income, living arrangement, and family resources
- Children who are disabled or blind
- Federal benefit rate is \$771/month (2019)*
- Provides Medicaid in most states

*https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-general-ussi.htm



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SSI Eligibility: Definition of Disability for Children

Mental health or physical condition(s)

- Diagnosis
- Documentation
- Duration



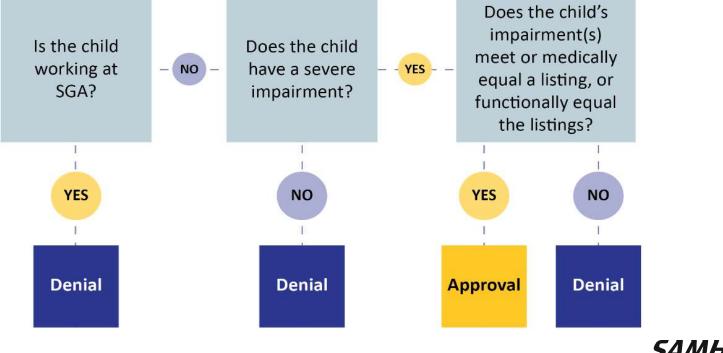
Functional Impairment(s)

 SSA will determine how the child's functional abilities compare to the functional abilities of a child of the same age who does not have physical or mental impairments.



Sequential Evaluation for Children

The Social Security Adminstration's Sequential Evaluation for Children



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

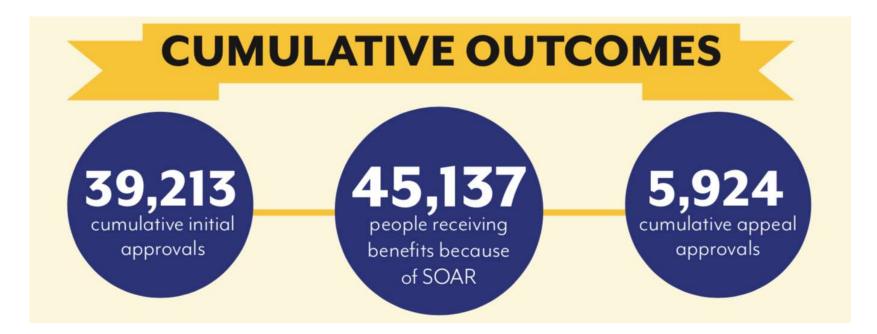
What Makes SOAR Unique?







SOAR Works!

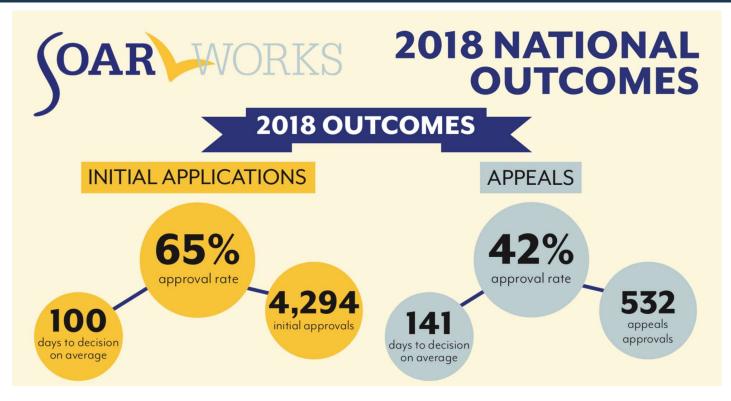


*National SOAR outcomes as of June 30, 2018 https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/soar-outcomes-and-impact



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2018 National Outcomes



*As compared to a 29% approval rate for all SSI/SSDI applicants nationwide

SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2017. Table 70. SSA Pub. No. 13-11827. Washington, D.C.: SSA, September 2018



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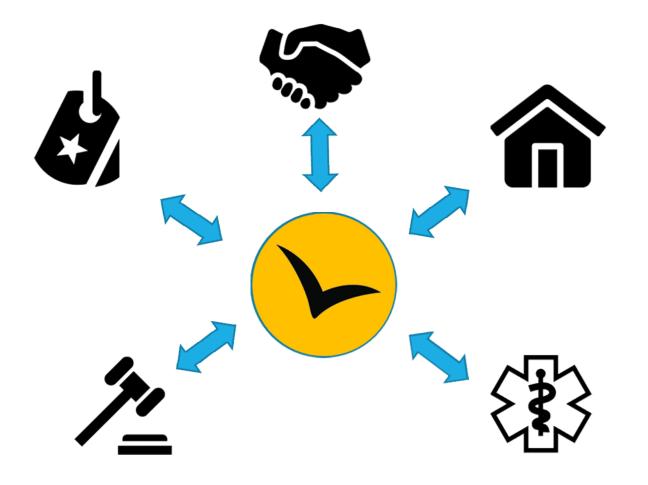
Child SSI Application Outcomes

- Select providers in Arkansas, Florida, Kansas and Nevada have been implementing SOAR with children
- 368 decisions, 72 percent approval rate*
- Average of 106 days to decision

*Outcomes reported in the SOAR Online Application Tracking (OAT) program **19**

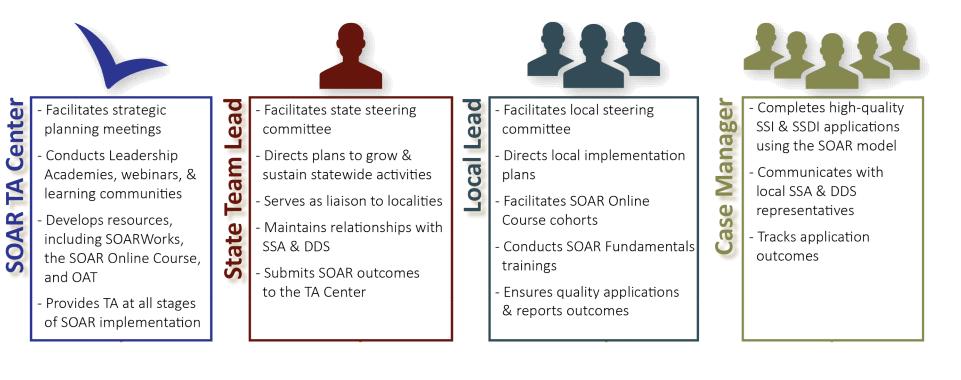


Community Collaboration





SOAR Leadership Structure



*OAT: Online Application Tracking Program *DDS: Disability Determination Services *TA: Technical Assistance



Oh, the support you will receive!

SOAR TA Center Activities and Support





Benefits of the SOAR Online Course



SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Online Course: Child Curriculum

- Standardized training provided across all geographic areas
- SOAR Leaders can coordinate follow-up training and support
- Course is FREE, web-based, and self-guided



SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum



				plication: Child Contact Person] at			
Child's Name:			Date of re	əferral:			
Referring agency	:	Referring staff and title:					
Referral contact number:			Referral email address:				
Child's Identifying I	nformation:						
Date of birth:	SSN:		Med	icaid/Medical Insurance Number:			
Gender:	Race:		Lang	uage(s) spoken:			
Education (last grade completed):	Current school:						
Parent/Legal Guardiar	n contact name and number	:					
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Practice Cases: Videos and Records



Some City Youth Mental Health Center Recovery is Possible!

PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION

Program Participant: Marshall G. Williams Participant ID:1234567 Date of Birth: 02/19/2006 Gender: Male Ethnicity: Caucasian

Diagnosis:

314.01	Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
300.02	Generalized Anxiety Disorder
Z55.9	Academic or Educational Problem

History of Present Illness:

Marshall has a history of ADHD and anxiety and has been taking Adderall daily since

PROGRESS NOTE
17 Case Worker: Sandy Jenkins

Date: 10/01/2017 Resident: The Williams Family (Kimberly, Marshall and Jessica)

Case Worker: Sandy Jenkins Location: Shelter Office

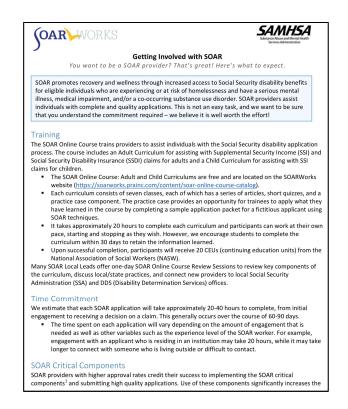




XYZ Community Shelter Housing is Healthcare!

Getting Involved: Time Commitment

- Training: 20 hours
- 20-40 hours per complete application
- SOAR Critical Components
- Outcome Tracking
- Benefit to Your Agency and the Individuals You Serve





Getting Started

- Identify children and youth counterparts with existing stakeholders
 - Ask them for their contacts in each specialty area
- Organize a SOAR for Children Orientation
 - Assess current need and capacity
- Schedule a separate meeting with SSA/DDS to discuss the SOAR process for child SSI claims
- Include youth on your steering committee



Integrating Child and Youth Providers

- Hold inclusive meetings representing adult and child SOAR stakeholders
- Form workgroups or subcommittees that can focus on special areas/issues as they arise
- Workgroups and subcommittees report back to the full steering committee



Online Application Tracking (OAT)



All the reasons OAT is awesome!

- Web based
- **HIPAA** compliant
- Monitors quality
- Takes only 3-5 minutes
- It's FREE!

https://soartrack.prainc.com



OAT Case Worker Dashboard

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Next Steps

- ✓ Learn more about SOAR
- ✓ Get in touch with your SAMHSA SOAR
 TA Center liaison
- ✓ Reach out to your local or state SOAR leads
- ✓ Register for the SOAR Online Course



Additional Resources

- SOAR Works Website and Online Course: <u>https://soarworks.prainc.com/</u>
- SOAR Outcomes Tracking: <u>https://soartrack.prainc.com/</u>
- SOAR Children and Youth Resources:

https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/children-and-youthresources

- SSA Disability Information: <u>https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/</u>
- SSA Employment Supports: <u>https://choosework.ssa.gov/</u>



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SOAR in Maryland: A State Lead's Plan of Action

Caroline Bolas Maryland SOAR State Lead Behavioral Health Administration Catonsville, Maryland

February 21, 2019



Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Overview of Maryland's SOAR Program

- Over 1,600 submitted SOAR claims since 2009
- 86% approval rate for initial claims and 77% for appeals
- Quality applications supported in various ways, for example:
 - Integrated online and in-person trainings, SOAR certification, dedicated DDS examiners, local leads and workgroups, state planning group, annual SOAR conference
- Combination of funded and non-funded SOAR-trained case managers



Key Reflections from Children's Leadership Academy

- My feelings: Daunting, but exciting!
- Opportunity to reflect on how we are currently implementing adult SOAR
- Importance of taking Children's Online Course Curriculum
- Learning community



Key Lessons from Adult SOAR Program

- What didn't work well:
 - Rushing to train without first undertaking preparation work
 - Having providers submit applications without agreed upon processes in place
 - Training a large number of people regardless of role



Key Lessons from Adult SOAR Program Cont.

- What worked well:
 - Establishing SOAR in one area at a time
 - Having Local Leads with in-depth knowledge of their communities
 - Focusing on data and celebrating successes
 - Acting quickly to deal with issues/challenges
 - Obtaining agreement from providers on signing Medical Summary Reports (MSRs) and supplying medical records prior to starting SOAR applications



Initial Reflections on Plans for Children and SOAR

- Importance of integration with existing SOAR program
 - Importance of quality control
 - Importance of building on existing relationships
 - Potential benefits for those parents who do not have a home, but do not qualify for SSI/SSDI themselves
 - Increased potential for serving those age 18 who either did not qualify for SSI or who need an age 18 redetermination
 - Ability to use expertise gained over the years



Initial Reflections on Plans for Children and SOAR Cont.

- Research!
 - Find out who are the key stakeholders
 - What is their familiarity with SOAR?
 - What will their role be in the process?
- Need and value proposition for SOAR
- Choosing possible pilot site(s)



Initial Reflections on Plans for Children and SOAR Cont.

- Pilot
 - Identify who will take on role of local lead
 - Plan local stakeholder meeting and agree on who to invite
 - Create a work plan
 - Have attendees participate in development of SOAR processes for their pilot area
 - Obtain buy-in from Agency Directors
 - Be clear this is a pilot, and that we are learning together SOAR Pioneers!



SOAR for Children in Austin: Starting with Me First!

Suzie Brady, MMT Austin/Travis County SOAR Local Lead Integral Care Austin, Texas

February 21, 2019



Overview of Integral Care and SOAR

- Local Mental Health Authority for Austin/Travis County
- SOAR Co-Lead with CoC SOAR Systems Coordinator
- 14 SOAR-trained employees across 10 different clinics/programs
- 3 full-time dedicated SOAR Specialists
- 1 full-time SOAR Team Lead



SOAR Child Curriculum and Leadership Academy Thoughts

- Yes, you need to take the Children's Online Course!
 - you won't regret it
- Leadership Academy
 - inspiring and invigorating!
- Importance of Community
 - local/state/national



Identified Action Plan Steps

- Implementation of SOAR for Children within my agency
 - starting with me first!
- Send out information/interest survey on homeless service provider and SOAR provider electronic mailing lists
- Talk to CoC about incorporating into screening questions for children SSI into our Coordinated Entry system



Research

- Child/family serving agencies for training an referrals
- Existing SOAR agencies that also serve children
- State Coordinator for McKinney-Vento (located in Austin)
- School-based Therapists within my agency



Austin/Travis County

- How it fits into Austin's Action Plan to End Homelessness
- Incorporating into 'Youth Homelessness
 Demonstration Program'
- Identify a child-specific Local Lead for our community



SOAR Provider Experience with SSI for Children: Julian's and Janey's Stories

Laura Kolb, JD Staff Attorney Homeless Advocacy Project Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

February 21, 2019



History of Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) and SOAR

- 2,880 SOAR claims filed since 2009 with 91% approval rate
- Average processing time of 58 days
- In-house model supplemented with SOARtrained case managers



HAP's Current SOAR Projects

- Office of Homeless Services
- Dept. of Behavioral Health (DBH)
- Dept. of Human Services (DHS)
- Justice Project
- Veteran's SOAR
- SAMHSA's Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals grant (CABHI)



Child SOAR Expansion

- Next Steps
 - Preliminary discussions with partners and providers
 - Social Security Administration (SSA) field offices
 - Division of Disability Determination Services (DDS)
 - In-house planning
 - Pilot project- goal of 20 children's claims (hopefully Spring of 2019)
 - Funding ideas
 - Outreach plans/ways to generate referrals



Reflections on Experience Representing Children with SSI Claims

- Takeaways from Children's Leadership Academy
 - Children's claims are different!
 - SOAR Children's curriculum essential to successful claims



Sharing HAP's Success with Children's SSI

• Julian's Story



• Janey's Story





Questions and Answers

Please type your questions into the Q&A box on the right of your screen



Thank You

SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities. https://soarworks.prainc.com soar@prainc.com www.samhsa.gov

1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727) • 1-800-487-4889 (TDD)