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Integrating SOAR Training Into Social Work Education

PRESENTED BY: SAMHSA SOAR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER POLICY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.

UNDER CONTRACT TO: SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Disclaimer

- This training is supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- The contents of this presentation do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of SAMHSA or DHHS.

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Webinar Instructions

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

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SOAR and Schools of Social Work The National Center for Excellence

HEATHER LARKIN, MSW, PH.D. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR UNIVERSITY AT ALBAMY, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK NATIONAL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOMELESS SERVICES ALBANY, NEW YORK

National Center Priorities

- I. Respond to the Grand Challenge to End Homelessness
- 2. Develop strategic partnerships with:
 - National social work programs and CSWE
 - Federal and local governments
 - Homeless service agencies and leaders
- 3. Use a whole person/whole agency/whole community/whole system approach
- 4. Promote evidence-based and emerging practices
- 5. Expand innovations and develop policies to systematize innovations

National Homelessness Social Work Initiative

- Social work and homelessness
- NY Community Trust
- Build upon aging and child welfare initiatives
- The Grand Challenge to End Homelessness

About the Homelessness Initiative

- Partnership among 19 social work schools nationally
 Six Regional Hub Leaders
- Regional network models in NY/NJ and other states
- Identifying baseline homelessness content and partnerships
- CSWE role



FIGURE 2. National partner and New York liaison :	chools.
Partner Schools	NY/NJ Liaison Schools
Implantime University (SIXY) California Saio University, Long Bushn California Saio University, Long Bushn Catholic University of America Catholic University of America Hinter Callege (CIXY) Hinter Callege New York University Saint Mary Callege University of Adam, Anchorage University of Machine (UNY) University of Machine (UNY) University of Machine University of Machine	Dement Gollage Lohus Gollage Lohus Gollage Kohen Gollage Rugers College Rugers College Start Rock Linearity Story Rock Linearet Town College Young Coll

Partner School Activities

- Research and evaluation
- Education and curriculum
- Field placements
- Inter-departmental partnerships
- University-community

R

- partnerships
- Community awarenessPolicy advocacy
- These examples and more are featured on the National Center blo https://nationalcenterforexcellenceinhomelessservices.wordpress.com

SOAR Social Work Pilot Project

- Network of four schools and departments of social work (each implementing differently)
- Monthly collaboration, innovation exchanges through teleconferences
 Consultation and ongoing coordination with CSWE, SAMHSA's SOAR
- Technical Assistance Center, VA • Scale-up goals

SOAR Benefits

- People with disabilities who experience homelessness or are at risk of homelessness (e.g. those returning to the community from institutions such as jails, prisons, or hospitals)
- May assist to lift individuals out of poverty
- Early step of recovery for those with mental health, addiction, and related impairments including cognitive impairments

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SOAR Overview

PAMELA HEINE, MSW, LSW SENIOR PROJECT ASSOCIATE SAMHSA SOAR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER POLICY RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, INC.



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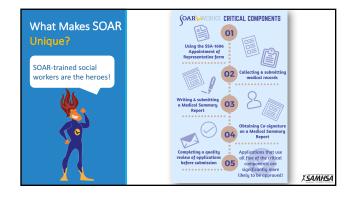
The SOAR Model What is SOAR?

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What is SOAR?

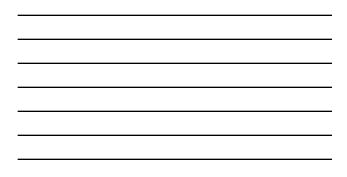
 A model for assisting eligible individuals to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

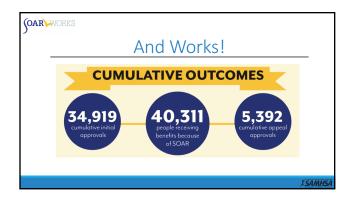
- For individuals who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, co-occurring substance use disorder, or other physical disabilities
- Sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in collaboration with the Social Security Administration (SSA) since 2005
- All 50 states and Washington, D.C. currently participate



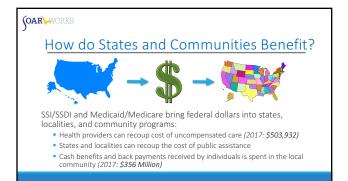


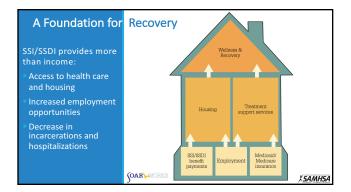














SAMHSA SOAR TA Center The SOAR Online Course and Online Application Tracking (OAT) Program



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Benefits of the SOAR Online Course

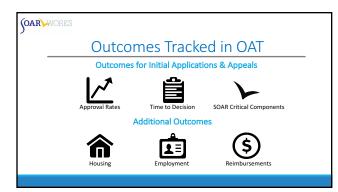
- Standardized training across all geographic areas
- Allows SOAR Leaders to coordinate follow-up training and support
- 20 NASW CEUs
- FREE, web-based, self-guided



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Overview of the SOAR Online Course

- http://soarworks.prainc.com
- 20 hours to complete
- 7 classes (from SOAR 101 to work incentives!)
- Practice case overview
- Submission of the practice case
- Cohort model why it's important!



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SOAR Field Placements at

University of Texas at Austin

MSW STUDENT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Field Placements: University of Texas at Austin

Piloted field placements integrating SOAR training

- MSW students completed SOAR certification
- Placed in homeless service agencies
- Students incentivized with stipends

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SOAR Coursework at Cal State Long Beach

NANCY MEYER-ADAMS, MSW, PH.D. DIRECTOR, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY- LONG BEACH LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

CSULB SOAR and MSW Course Assignment

- Advanced Practice elective: Homelessness Prevention & Intervention in SW
 Practice Fall 2016
- Developed and taught by Paul Duncan, LCSW, Associate Director of Systems Integration for Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
- SOAR certification process major assignment for the course (16-24 hours to complete)

CSULB SOAR and MSW Course Assignment

SOAR assignment addresses the following course objectives:

- Identify and assess risk factors for becoming homeless and barriers to
- resolving episodes of homelessness. • Formulate and implement appropriate responses for the needs and strengths of those who are experiencing homelessness.
- Critique how forms of prejudice and oppression impact marginalized groups and contribute to the disproportionality of the homeless population in the U.S.
- Apply cultural humility in working with diverse homeless populations.

CSULB SOAR and MSW Course Assignment

- Students' feedback:
 - Useful project "powerful learning experience"
 - Great resume builder
 - Positive feedback on the quality of the SAMHSA online training curriculum
 Only one student out of 15 felt the SOAR process was overwhelming and did not complete the assignment for certification

CSULB SOAR and MSW Course Assignment

Instructor's feedback:

- Work with students in first class meeting on SAMHSA SOAR sign up process to ensure all students can access immediately
- Set up periodic check-ins throughout semester for students to verify where they are in the process
- Review a sample Medical Summary Reports (MSR) in class as an example to
 encourage group discussion and participation

Opportunities in Los Angeles County

On a local level there are some exciting things that have been occurring that relate to potential opportunities for students/graduates in homeless services.

Passage of Measure H:

- 500 newly created jobs throughout LAC
- SOU newly created jobs throughout LAC
 Course covers evidenced–based interventions funded through Measure H
- One Measure H strategy is to create a county-wide benefits advocacy program.
- Programs have begun and are located within DPSS offices and will be assisting people experiencing homelessness in applying for social security.
- Measure H funds proposed to expand funding by \$15 million annually.
- Serving 10,000 people annually in applying for benefits and will leverage Medicaid expansion
 Excellent opportunity for those who are SOAR certified pursuing employment within
 homeless services

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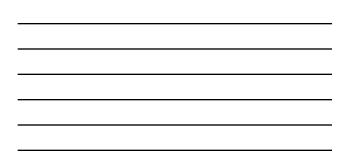
SOAR Planning at Catholic University

LINDA PLITT DONALDSON, MSW, PHD ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA WASHINGTON, D.C.

Emerging Partnership at CUA with Local SOAR Community

- Well-integrated and well-organized SOAR community
- Individual conversation with DC SOAR Coordinator to introduce Center, CUA, and engage in conversations around potential partnerships and collaborations
- Attended SOAR Provider meeting in Fall 2016 to make introductions
- Hosted SOAR provider/NCSSS meeting to brainstorm partnership ideas
- Asked NCSSS to facilitate 1/2 day strategic planning process





DC SOAR Strategic Planning Priorities: Expanding SOAR Capacity

- NCSSS hosting Summer 2017 Cohort Community for Online Training
 - In-person kick-off May 19th and 'graduation' July 14th
 Weekly conference calls for check-in, accountability, and communitybuilding
- Planning SOAR Field Unit (starting Fall 2018)
 - Identifying several placements to take students SOAR specialists
 - Will design summer course on homelessness that will incorporate SOAR online training

DC SOAR Strategic Planning Priorities: Expanding SOAR Capacity

Biggest Challenge in Creating SOAR Placements

- Recruiting students (they have so many competing options)
- Stipends would be wonderful incentive
- We are just starting so there is no word-of-mouth 'buzz'
- We have distributed fliers, presented in classes, and posted information about the opportunity

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Getting Started with SOAR Collaboration University at Albany

HEATHER LARKIN, MSW, PH.D. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR UNIVERSITY AT ALBANK, STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK NATIONAL CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN HOMELESS SERVICES ALBANY, NEW YORK

University at Albany

- Explored with State Interagency Director of Homeless Services readiness to build student units to foster SOAR
- NYS has generous supports and a safety net that is constitutionally required for all New Yorkers
- Moving eligible homeless individuals to SSI/SSDI very cost
 effective

University at Albany

- Unsure if a new funded field unit was needed or whether MSW supervisor available at SOAR sites
- Located agency and supervisor undertaking SOAR and willing to take $\mathsf{student}(\mathsf{s})$
- Confirmed field placement availability with field director
- Now awaiting news of whether we have students and whether state agency might subsidize with small student stipend fall field placement

SOAR: Collaboration Opportunities

- Schools of Social Work efforts connected to networks, coalitions, and communities of practice, both locally and nationally.
- SSI/SSDI benefits can lift recipients out of poverty and homelessness.
- Without the clinical and advocacy efforts, such access and individual self help success might be limited as only 10-15 % can secure SSI/SSDI on their own.







SOAR Collaboration: Getting Started

Use social work skills:

- Build relationships with SOAR leadership and SOAR provider community

https://soarworks.prainc.com/directory

- Start with face-to-face meeting
- Meet them where they are
- Ask what a helpful partnership might look like
- Share what other schools are doing as examples

SOAR Collaboration: Getting Started

Partner with Field Office

- Build SOAR-specific placements (field unit)
- Consider offering class with SOAR online training embedded within
- Support SOAR students in field



SOAR: One Key in Homelessness Fight

- SSI/SSDI is not the only solution to homelessness, but for those with disabilities it's a major resource since recovery supports are essential; there is a 67% approval rate with a wait of 101 days on average.
- Imagine the multiplier effect if all SW students were SOAR certified, given the prevalence of homelessness across so many service systems.
- We need to close the eligibility gap to get better foothold on ending homelessness.



Next Steps

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Next Steps

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

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Questions and Answers

Facilitated By:

SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance Center Policy Research Associates, Inc.

Please type your questions into the <u>"Ask Questions Here"</u> box located lower right side of screen, or to ask questions verbally, click "Raise Hand"(top) so we can unmute your line

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