



SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery

Illinois E-News

Inside Edition

- SOAR Technical Assistance Award
- Did You Know?
- Have a Question?
- Motivating You!
- What's Up, SOAR?
- Webinars
- SOAR Q&A

Questions?
Click Here



Contact **Beth Orchard** in DuPage & Kane counties or **Sue Augustus** if outside this area.



SOAR Technical Assistance Award

SAMHSA Grants Award to Springfield Continuum of Care

Springfield was one of 30 proposals submitted with only 11 awards given. Based on the award, this CoC will now receive assistance in the form of a one-day planning forum to develop an action plan and infrastructure for SOAR in their community, an opportunity to send two persons to a Train-the-Trainer program and much more.



SOAR is a collaborative process. Participation requires commitment locally and with others in the community in addition to working closely with our SOAR State Team lead to ensure consistent engagement in the SOAR process.

Please join us in congratulating the hard work of the Springfield CoC for putting together a winning proposal. We are excited to have you join the team of providers across Illinois working to help bring sustainable change to lives of the most vulnerable. *Together, we'll SOAR!*

Did You Know?

***SOAR Responds to NPR series "Unfit for Work."** In March, NPR aired a [report on disability](#) in America. Eight former Social Security Commissioners wrote an [open letter](#) pointing out some misrepresentations and misinformation within the piece. The national SOAR TA Center also [wrote and published a letter](#) to NPR seeking to provide a more balanced view of the work many are doing to help those with disabilities, including SOAR trainers and providers, like you! The hope is to **engage everyone in a dialogue that is positive, forward thinking and informed** of all the issues.

***New SSR for Drug Addiction & Alcoholism.** Effective March 22, 2013, SSA published a new ruling on "Evaluating Cases Involving Drug and Alcoholism." Read the ruling for yourself by clicking [here](#), and feel free to [email Beth](#) to share your thoughts on how this helps you with your SOAR cases!

***Celebrating trainees:** March and April were busy months for SOAR! *Two SOAR trainings took place in addition to 33 participants who attended Train-the-Trainer in Florida.* They returned to their communities and are now initiating applications. Congratulations!

April 2013



SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery

Illinois E-News

SOAR Q&A

Q: *I just attended SOAR training. I want to connect with others and need application support. Help!*

A: *You're in luck!* It just so happens we have a webinar for providers trained in SOAR since Sept, 2012! [Register here](#) for an upcoming webinar on **Thursday, May 9 from 2-3PM.**

Join us to share helpful hints with others, learn from your peers and ask questions or address concerns.

Contact [Beth](#) with questions

Share your successes! Email [Beth](#) to print it in the newsletter.



Motivating You!



Work It!

SSA provides work incentives to beneficiaries. Below are ways to encourage clients to not be afraid of that 4-letter word

Ticket to Work—SSI/SSDI recipients qualify for supportive vocational services including rehabilitation, training and job referrals free of charge.

Retention of Benefits—Medicare/Medicaid benefits can continue while recipient works giving them access to necessary health care!

SGA—SSDI and SSI recipients can work and keep some or all of their cash benefits, however the work incentive rules are different for each program. This allows opportunity to learn and use new and existing skills and connect to the community. *For recipients who are homeless, this is a great confidence booster!*



*Encourage your clients to take advantage of these great benefits and **Work It!** Click [here](#) for an SSA brochure on work incentives.*

What's Up, SOAR?

Resources at Your Fingertips

SAMHSA funds The Homeless Resource Center. This resource provides access to myriad portals of free information including *webcasts, research and training opportunities for public consumption.* The site focuses on issues related to homelessness and its effects. Included in this great resource are online trainings which are free and some of them even offer Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credit.

Be sure to [check out the website](#) to “learn, connect, and share.”

Webinars

SOAR 2012 Outcomes: In March and April, the TA Center hosted a webinar highlighting some **amazing outcomes** from across the United States. Check out the [archived webcast here](#) if you missed it along with other archived webcasts on topics such as *SSA & DDS Collaborations, Identifying SOAR applicants and Medical Summary Reports*—all available **free of charge online!** Contact [Beth](#) with any questions.