

July 2013



SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery

# Illinois E-News

## SOARing to Success!

### McHenry County SOAR Training

#### Inside Edition

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- SOAR Q&A

Questions?  
Click Here



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



Approximately 30 providers attended SOAR Training from June 25-26. [TLS Veterans](#) sponsored the training which focused on how to assist persons experiencing homelessness with mental illness and a co-occurring substance use disorder complete disability applications and increase approvals.

Four trainers over the course of two days provided evidence based ways to engage both clients and Social Security to increase successful applications. The wealth of knowledge and experience they shared will be crucial to helping providers feel comfortable in using the SOAR process.

*With the practical experience and knowledge about the disability process, these providers are poised to **SOAR** to success!*



## Did You Know?

**The DSM-5 released with updates.** The DSM is the fifth edition of the [American Psychiatric Association's](#) (APA) Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Published on May 18, 2013, this version includes several updates. To read more about the [DSM-5](#) and these updates, click [here](#).

**Webinar on SSI and Children.** If you missed this webinar on SSI and children, the archived webinar will be posted to the SOAR website. There are others available for free, including last month's on SOAR and Criminal Justice. Click over to the [SOAR website](#) to download.

Questions? Comments and Feedback? Email [Beth Orchard](#) for assistance.

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## SOAR Q&A

**Q:** *I helped a client apply for disability using SOAR and they were denied based on work history but I am not sure why.*

**A:** *There are many factors to consider when looking at work credits. The client could still be eligible for SSI. [Click here](#) to read more about work credits on the Social Security website.*

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



## Motivating You!

### Medical Summary Reports

*Below are some tips and tools to use when getting started on a Medical Summary Report (MSR)*

#### Download the MSR Interview Guide

This tool can be used to compile information about a client for an SSI/SSDI application. The information will be helpful when completing the MSR and is available for download from the SOAR website [here](#).

**Components of a Complete MSR include some of the following:** Personal history, psychiatric diagnoses and treatment and functional information. Quotes directly from a client can be very helpful in developing personal history. The idea is to tell the story of the client since the SSA worker determining the case will not see the client. Take advantage of the [SOAR website and toolbox](#) online!

**Communicate the story effectively.** Use clear, simple language to describe the person including looks, behavior and speech in your description.

**Use a Sample MSR.** Click [here](#) to download one from SOAR's website.



## Success Story

### Linaka Kain-Disability Examiner/Medicaid Specialist

#### UnityPoint Health-Trinity Rock Island

**Linaka's hospital used an outside company to screen and apply for Medicaid for all self-pay patients.** The company received 18% of the final billing. In 2011 Linaka challenged her hospital's administrator to allow her to do it in-house. The results surpassed expectations.

**In 2012 Linaka applied for SSA Disability and IL Medicaid for 114 noninsured patients.** Out of those 114, one was denied for non-compliance with SSA and DHS and the other patient died before a decision was made. Overall, 112 patients became qualified. **The amount of revenue billed was over 1.7 million dollars.**

**These cases would typically have been written off as charity care.** The hospital saved money, but more importantly, the patients became insured and began receiving a stipend for supportive living expenses. *Using the SOAR process for these applications was vital in helping the patients **SOAR to success** and Linaka will continue to use SOAR in the future.*

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### The ACA and You

#### ***What's happening in the world of health exchanges and ACA implementation across Illinois***

##### ***President Obama delays portion of ACA affecting small businesses.***

Implementation of a critical component of the ACA imposing financial penalties on employers with 50 or more full-time employees if they enroll in premium assistance tax credits was delayed until 2015. These changes could impact not only small businesses but their employees, families and children as well. *Click over to the [Illinois Health Matters blog](#) posted on Wednesday July 3 detailing some of the implications of these changes, and more.*

##### ***Tax Subsidy Calculator:***

*This calculator developed by the Kaiser Family Foundation illustrates possible insurance premiums and tax subsidies available on the new health insurance exchanges this fall. To get an estimate, you can enter family size, income levels and ages to estimate eligibility for subsidies and potential cost of health insurance. Click [HERE](#) to view the calculator.*

The logo for Illinois Health Matters features the words "Illinois Health Matters" in a bold, sans-serif font. "Illinois" is in black, "Health" is in green, and "Matters" is in black. Below the text is a white grid pattern.

***The Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition (IMCHC) receives nearly \$1 million from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services.*** Over the next two years, the IMCHC will receive money to assist families in Illinois with making decisions about their health care. *IMCHC will use the funding to support providers in social services, faith based leaders and others who work with children and families throughout Illinois.* The goal is to engage families through provision of the necessary information to enroll in Medicaid and CHIP (All Kids). To read more about this allocation of resources to IMCHC, click [here](#).



*Are there topics you would like to see discussed in the newsletter?*

*Would you like to share a success story? Contact [Beth Orchard](#) to print them in the upcoming August edition of **SOAR News**.*