SOAR Ohio Certification

Description of Project:
The SOAR Ohio project helps move Ohio's most vulnerable populations into better housing opportunities. We work on behalf of individuals who are living with disabilities, have a diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental illness and are currently experiencing homelessness, at risk of becoming homeless, or preparing to exit institutions by helping them expedite the federal Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI) application process to access safe, decent, affordable housing.

Through a strong partnership with the Social Security Administration and the Division of Disabilities Determination, SOAR Ohio Specialists represent clients during the application process from start to finish. To learn more about how to become a SOAR certified specialist click here.

Who is eligible to work with a specialist? Individuals who are homeless meeting the SSA/SOAR definition of homelessness (living on the streets, "couch surfing," etc.), at risk of homelessness (e.g. home in foreclosure) or exiting a prison, hospital, nursing home, or other institution, and who present with a mental illness and/or physical disability that interferes with their ability to work may be eligible for the SOAR methodology by completing the Identifying the SOAR Applicant check list here.

What are the outcomes? The SOAR Ohio Project has helped thousands of Ohioans access the disability benefits they need to help maintain their housing, health, and financial stability. Ohio's program has stood out as first in the nation for number of applications submitted and a close second for approvals granted, according to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's yearly outcomes report for several years in the running. COHHIO and SOAR Ohio Project would like to share the 2019 National SOAR Outcomes Report and point out that we were highlighted for the expertise and passion of the work that our partner agencies, SOAR Ohio specialist are doing in their communities. To view previous years outcomes reports please follow this link.

Expectations of Participation in SOAR Ohio:
The SOAR Ohio certification is a two-step process and only those who successfully complete the SOAR online course and the Ohio in-person training can submit SSI and/or SSDI applications using the SOAR model in Ohio.

1. The **SOAR Online Course** takes approximately 20 hours to complete. Currently, Ohio uses the SOAR Online Course as its approved training method. The SOAR Online Course consists of seven classes, each of which has a series of articles, short quizzes, and

a practice case. The SOAR Online Course is free and can be accessed by clicking on the "Online Courses" tab on this website.

After completing the online course, individuals will be connected to the State Team Lead who will provide ongoing technical assistance and trainings on state specific procedures for SOAR applications.

2. A SOAR Ohio Adult Online Course Review Session and **SOAR Ohio in-person training** will be offered to those individuals who have successfully completed the national SOAR Online Course: Adult or Child Curriculum. This training will provide policy specifics for Ohio SSA and DDD, a review of the online course with hands-on skill set activities, and cover quality claims submission with the focus on fidelity to the SOAR model. A certificate will be provided at the end of the training which provides access to the DDD Expedited Homelessness Unit. This training is by invitation only and attendance requires that you have completed the SOAR Online Course at least two weeks prior to the scheduled training date.

Upcoming training dates:
April 15, 2020
July 7, 2020
October 9, 2020

Outcome Tracking:
The SOAR Ohio program uses the SOAR Online Application Tracking (OAT) system to report outcomes. All SOAR Ohio certified providers are required to report their outcomes by submitting SOAR Ohio claimant data into SOAR OAT at https://soartrack.prainc.com/login.php in real time with accurate and timely application data entry. To maintain the SOAR Ohio certification, one is committing to completing and recording outcomes of a minimum of 24 SOAR assisted SSI/SSDI claims per calendar year with a minimum of a 60 percent approval rate in an average of 100 days or less.

Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

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