SOAR Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

March 28, 2019

Members Present:

Cristina Benitez (*AZ Complete Health*)   Mary Zapponi (*A New Leaf*)
Danelle Valenzuela (*AHCCCS- PATH*)

Members Absent:

Adam Robson (*AHCCCS*)   Joan Serviss (*AZ Housing Coalition*)
Anne Scott (*Maricopa Assoc. of Gov'ts*)   John Keane (*SSA*)
Annette Eastman (*Community Partners, Inc.*)   Karen Hellman (*ADOC*)
Brett Matossian (PSAB Behavioral?)   Kerry Hyatt (*ADOC*)
Charles Sullivan (*AZ Behavioral Health Corp.*)   Kim Van Nimwegen (*City of Tempe*)
Courtney Gottschalk (*ADOC*)   Maria Robinson (*Community Bridges*)
Courtney Slack   Mary Lou Brncik (*David's Hope*)
Della Hooks (*Community Bridges*)   Mary Page (*Maricopa County*)
Elizabeth Flores (*Pinal Hispanic Council*)   Miguel Vieyra (*ASU*)
Frank Real (*American Red Cross*)   Paul O'Connell (*Community Corrections*)
Greta Mang (*Crisis Response Network, Inc.*)   Rita Ciadella (*SSA*)
Jennifer Gebhart (*Office of Public Defender*)   Sandi Flores (*Catholic Charities*)
Jeremy Huntoon (*Community Bridges- PATH*)   Sandra Perez (*SSA*)

Staff & Guests

Dan Coladonato (*Policy Research Assoc.*)- Phone   Melissa Swain (*ADOH*)
Joy Johnson *(ADOH)*   Pam Heine (*Policy Research Assoc.*)- Phone

SOAR Presentation/Update:

Joy gave an overview of what SOAR is and how it is a process to speed up the submission and approval process to help homeless persons obtain SSI/SSDI income so they can remain sheltered. Of non-homeless people applying for benefits, only 28% make it successfully through the process, and appeals can take more than a year. Those who are homeless trying to apply for benefits without assistance have only a 10-15% success rate, and those with the addition of SMI have an even lower rate of success. Using SOAR, for 2018, nationally the success rate was 65% with only 100 days on average until approval. Of those who appealed a denial, another 42%

were successful with an average of 140 days until approval. Arizona's overall initial SOAR success rate is 59% with an approval average of 166 days.

Joy Johnson introduced the SOAR representatives from the SAMHSA TA center, Pam Heine and Dan Coladonato.

Those who take the SOAR training are offered the chance to attend the Leadership Academy, and local leads are lacking but are critical for promoting SOAR and being a first line resource for questions from SOAR-trained facilitators. The next Leadership Academy is in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from June 18 through 20, and the final one is in Seattle, Washington from September 10 through 12; expenses will be paid by SAMHSA.

An online review/refresher course is being considered, to offer those who have finished the training but haven't yet completed a SOAR application or those who need a refresher. There is also training on the TA website on OAT.

It is also important to use OAT to track the status of applications, as a way to generate statistics that can be used for many different scenarios such as for leveraging funding. The more people with income, the more money is out in the local economy, and businesses and hospitals that are expending millions of dollars on those without income and insurance become more likely to fund SOAR-specific positions on their staffs or not, when they can be shown a cost savings when persons experiencing homelessness receive income and benefits.

One of the new things SAMHSA has approved is a child SSI curriculum; until recently, SOAR was only available for adults.

Arizona State University social work students are possibly going to be offered SOAR as an elective, and after training could be placed as interns in different agencies throughout the state for completing SOAR applications.

The SOAR training can also be used as Continuing Education credits for currently licensed social workers.

CoC contracts require each agency to have a SOAR-trained staff and enter application information into OAT. SOAR should ideally be part of the intake process or at least within the first 30 days of the eligibility process.

Action Item: **Joy will distribute a pre-screen questionnaire to use for each individual at intake to quickly and easily see if SOAR is applicable.**

For COC sub-recipients: submitted rent-rolls might, in the future, have a SOAR column to allow ADOH to see which individuals have had an application submitted.

Action Item: **Joy will have a discussion with Arizona's SOAR TA Center to get ideas from other states on how they fund full-time SOAR staff.**

	2018.08-20	2018.09-25	2019.01-28	2019.03-28
A New Leaf	X	X	X	X
ADOC	X	X		
AHCCCS- PATH	X	X	X	X
American Red Cross				
ASU			X	
AZ Behavioral Health Corp.				
AZ Complete Health	X	X	X	X
AZ Dept. of Education		X		
AZ Housing Coalition	X			
Catholic Charities	X			
City of Tempe	X			
Community Bridges	X			
Community Corrections				
Community Partners, Inc.	X	X	X	
Crisis Response Network, Inc.				
David's Hope				
Maricopa Assoc. of Gov'ts			X	
Maricopa County	X	X		
Office of Public Defender				
Pinal Hispanic Council	X			
Policy Research Assoc.	X			
SSA	X			

Achieve= ACHIEVE Human Services, Inc.

ADE: Arizona Department of Education

ADOH= Arizona Department of Housing

AHC: Arizona Housing Coalition

AHCCCS= Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

ALIP= Arizona Landlord Incentive Program

AZBoSCoC= Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care

AzCH= Arizona Complete Health

AZDVS: Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

BNL= By-Name List

CAHRA= Community Action Human Resources Agency

Catholic Charities Community Services

CE= Coordinated Entry

CoC= Continuum of Care

CRN= Crisis Response Network

CRRC= Community Resource Referral Center

DES= Arizona Department of Economic Security

DV= Domestic Violence

ESG= Emergency Solutions Grant

GAB= Governance Advisory Board

GPD= Grant and Per Diem

HMIS= Homeless Management Information System

HUD= U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

JAVC= Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council

LCEH= Local Coalition to End Homelessness

LIHTC= Low Income Housing Tax Credit

NAVAHCS= Northern Arizona VA Health Care System

NOFA= Notice of Funding Available

OAT= Online Application Tracking

OCCAC= Old Concho Community Assistance Center

PATH= Project Assistance in Transition from Homelessness

Primavera Foundation

PSH= Permanent Supportive Housing

RBHA= Regional Behavioral Health Authority

RFP= Request for Proposals

ROI= Release of Information

RRH= Rapid Rehousing

SAMHSA= Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

SAVAHCS= Southern Arizona VA Health Care System

SMI= Serious Mental Illness

SOAR= SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery

SSDI= Social Security Disability Income

SSI= Social Security Income

SSVF= Supportive Services for Veterans Families

TA= Technical Assistance

US Vets= U. S. Veterans Initiative

VA= U.S. Department Veterans Affairs

VASH= Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

VAWA= The Violence Against Women Act of 1994

VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index- Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool

VOCA= Victims of Crime Act

WACOG= Western Arizona Council of Governments