Arizona Department of Housing

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2016 Information Bulletin

REGARDING PROGRAMS: Balance of State Continuum of Care

INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 35-16
ISSUED: September 8, 2016
RE: SOAR Forum

The SOAR Forum is next week!! We hope to have representatives from all the regions. This is the culmination of the Technical Assistance we have been receiving through SAMHSA in response to the proposal submitted and awarded in the spring. Please read the attached bulletin and RSVP by contacting Jackie Nairn (jnairn@cc-az.org) by September 9th to register for this event.

Questions or comments regarding this Information Bulletin may be addressed in writing by contacting Karia Basta, Special Needs Program Administrator at karia.basta@azhousing.gov.

Arizona Department of Housing
1110 West Washington Street, Suite 280 | Phoenix, AZ 85007
Telephone: (602) 771-1000 | Facsimile: (602) 771-1002 | TDY: (602) 771-1001
https://housing.az.gov

Catholic Charities
8/29/2016

To whom it may concern:

We are pleased to invite you to the first meeting of the BOSCOC SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) Initiative. The meeting will take place on 9/12/2016 from 9 to 4 at Spectrum Healthcare at 8 East Cottonwood, Cottonwood AZ. This day-long planning meeting and follow up technical assistance and training is made possible through the SOAR Technical Assistance Center funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Fifty states and the District of Columbia now participate in the SOAR initiative, a federal technical assistance and training program that helps states and localities identify and remove barriers faced by people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and who have disabilities in accessing benefits. Having a reliable source of income enables people to find housing and access support services that lead to greater, long-term self-sufficiency. In 2015, outcomes from 44 states and the District of Columbia provide evidence of the need for, and efficacy of, the SOAR initiative. Nationally, SOAR has an approval rate for initial SSI/SSDI applications of 65% in an average of 81 days. People assisted through SOAR had been homeless for an average of two years.

The SOAR planning meeting will be facilitated by staff from the SOAR Technical Assistance Center at Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA). The planning session will enable local teams to develop an action plan for local and state-level collaboration to better assist eligible homeless individuals with psychiatric and other disabilities to access SSI and SSDI. Ongoing technical assistance will be provided by the SOAR TA Center.

For this meeting we have invited:

- Local representatives who will take the lead on developing a plan to provide training and support throughout the region and coordinate with the local SOAR providers
- Directors of agencies that will implement SOAR in their agency and community
- Other key stakeholders and decision-makers who will be involved in implementing aspects of SOAR at the community, regional or state level.

We look forward to seeing you on 9/12/2016! Participation in this meeting is by invitation only. Please respond to Jackie Nairn at 928-202-6256 by 9/9/2016. Should you wish to designate someone to attend in your place or if you have any questions please contact Jackie Nairn at jnairn@cc-az.org.

Sincerely,
Jackie Nairn

BOSCOC SOAR Forum

AGENDA
Date: 9/12/2016

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	**Registration**
9:00 – 9:10 a.m.	**Welcome**
9:30 – 10:00 a.m.	**Introductions and Overview of Agenda** ▪ Introductions ▪ Review of Agenda ▪ Purpose of Forum ▪ Expectations for the Day
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	**Overview of SOAR Technical Assistance Initiative**
11:00- 11:15 a.m.	BREAK
11:15 - 12:00 p.m.	**Where We Have Been and Where We Want To Go** ▪ Review of the COC SOAR Application and Proposal ▪ Challenges and Opportunities from SSA's Perspective ▪ Challenges and Opportunities from DDS' Perspective
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.	**Action Planning**
3:00- 3:30 p.m.	**Next Steps**
3:30 p.m.	**Wrap-up and Adjourn**