

SOAR Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2019

Members Present:

Cristina Benitez (<i>AZ Complete Health</i>)- on phone	Danelle Valenzuela (<i>AHCCCS- PATH</i>)
Annette Eastman (<i>Community Partners, Inc.</i>)- on phone	Miguel Vieyra (<i>ASU</i>)- on phone
Adam Robson (<i>AHCCCS</i>)- on phone	Mary Zapponi (<i>A New Leaf</i>)- on phone
Anne Scott (<i>Maricopa Assoc. of Gov'ts</i>)- on phone	

Members Absent:

Rita Ciadella (<i>SSA</i>)	Mary Lou Brncik (<i>David's Hope</i>)
Alexis Clermont (<i>AZ Dept. of Education</i>)	Greta Mang (<i>Crisis Response Network, Inc.</i>)
Josh Crites (<i>AHCCCS</i>)	Brett Matossian (<i>PSAB Behavioral?</i>)
Elizabeth Flores (<i>Pinal Hispanic Council</i>)	Paul O'Connell (<i>Community Corrections</i>)
Sandi Flores (<i>Catholic Charities</i>)	Mary Page (<i>Maricopa County</i>)
Jennifer Gebhart (<i>Office of Public Defender</i>)	Sandra Perez (<i>SSA</i>)
Courtney Gottschalk (<i>ADOC</i>)	Frank Real (<i>American Red Cross</i>)
Pam Heine (<i>Policy Research Assoc.</i>)	Maria Robinson (<i>Community Bridges</i>)
Karen Hellman (<i>ADOC</i>)	Joan Serviss (<i>AZ Housing Coalition</i>)
Della Hooks (<i>Community Bridges</i>)	Courtney Slack
Jeremy Huntoon (<i>Community Bridges- PATH</i>)	Charles Sullivan (<i>AZ Behavioral Health Corp.</i>)
Kerry Hyatt (<i>ADOC</i>)	Kim Van Nimwegen (<i>City of Tempe</i>)
John Keane (<i>SSA</i>)	

Staff & Guests

Joy Johnson (<i>ADOH</i>)	Ryan Vernick (<i>ADOH</i>)
Melissa Swain (<i>ADOH</i>)	

Everyone was welcomed, and the meeting started at 10:05 a.m. Introductions were performed.

Social Security Administration Contact Status

Joy has been in touch with the Social Security Administration (SSA), including a deputy area director of the southwest portion of Arizona, and a deputy director of the northwest portion of Arizona; they are still planning to have an managers meeting, which has not yet happened. The meeting will include a discussion of SSI/SSCI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR). After the meeting, Joy's contact will let her know what happened at the meeting.

SOAR Stats Update

There are 263 people who have passed the SOAR training, based on the list from December 31st of 2018. On an almost daily basis Joy is copied on emails from the SOAR Technical Assistance center, welcoming a new graduate. Joy keeps these emails until she has a half-dozen or so, then sends them a standard “welcome” email, to let them know what is going on in Arizona, who the local leads are and to let her know if they have any questions and would be interested in being a local lead. Local leads must attend the leadership academy, which is paid for by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), but which also requires a commitment to be actively involved in SOAR cases.

The next three-day leadership academy is in Richmond, Virginia on March 19th, then there is one on June 18th in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the third one is September 10th in Seattle, Washington. Let Joy know (joy.johnson@azhousing.gov or 602-771-1026) if you or anyone you know is interested in this opportunity.

ASU SOAR Meeting Update

Miguel discussed training students on how to complete SOAR applications for college credit, possibly by integrating the training in an actual college class. Arizona State University (ASU) is also working with students on getting them more engaged in organizations that serve the homeless.

Arizona Housing Coalition Statewide Conference

At this past year’s conference, held in November of 2018, information on SOAR was presented along with a representative from SSA.

Health Services Advisory Group

On November 9th Joy and Cristina presented a webinar regarding SOAR, as well as Social Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), and the differences between the two. It was well attended.

AHCCCS Contractors Quarterly Meeting

Joy was invited to attend the quarterly Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) contractor’s quarterly meeting in order to discuss SOAR and the need for local leads.

SOAR Local Lead Updates

The Southern region has people who have completed the course, but there needs to be follow-up to see if they are using SOAR, and refresher training needs to be a regular part of the process.

PATH Updates

March/April is the Project Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) application development timeframe, with a plan to submit Request for Proposals in January of 2020. Data from the January Point in Time (PIT) count will be analyzed for incorporation into the PATH application.

Action Plan Update

Joy has made a few updates. Recruiting and supporting local leads is something that everyone should be involved in.

Action Item: Danelle will update section 4.d on pages 3 and 4 and will forward this information to Joy for inclusion on the Action Plan.

Local leads and PATH workers need an updated list of SSA contacts in the different offices.

Action Item: Joy will send out the most current list, with the understanding that the numbers of SSA administrators will not be given out; only give out the local office's main number.

Send any other updates for the Action Plan to Joy.

Training Subcommittee Update

In an effort to build up the local lead pool, the Training Subcommittee decided to contact only those on the list of SOAR-trained "graduates" from 2018. This much smaller list was then split among the Training Subcommittee members for each to make contact with those in their region to see if they are using SOAR and would be interested in being a local lead.

Refresher trainings will be on an as-needed basis after local leads are established; there is a refresher Power Point presentation that available for this.

Action Item: Joy will follow-up with Jeremy on the status of his list.

New Business

Action Item: Joy will contact SOAR TA to see if there are Technical Assistance dollars to possibly hold a "forum" gathering for all SOAR trained people, as a way to network and get them familiar with others in their area, and to hopefully generate those interested in being local leads.

Future Meetings

The next meeting will be in April.

With no further business, the meeting concluded at 10:56 a.m., January 28, 2019.