

Equity in Action Webinar: Leveraging SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance to Improve Systems

Presenter Bios

Dazara Ware, MPC is an Assistant Director for the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center. Her areas of expertise include assisting with the implementation of SOAR in criminal justice settings and reentry plans for state Departments of Corrections facilities. Prior to joining PRA, she served as the State of Georgia's SOAR Program Coordinator and State Team Lead at the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD). While there, she led a pilot program to implement SOAR in Georgia's state hospitals, jails and prisons to promote successful transitions to community living. Dazara earned her MPC at Argosy University.

Caroline Bolas, Director of the SOAR Initiative and SOAR State Lead, Baltimore, Maryland

Caroline Bolas serves as the Director of the SOAR Initiative and SOAR State Lead as a consultant for the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration. In this role, she provides technical assistance to the statewide SOAR program. She is a nationally trained SOAR trainer and Train the Trainer and co-author of the article, "Going Beyond Income: Demonstrating the Importance of Disability Benefits—Maryland's SOAR Initiative", *World Medical & Health Policy*. Ms. Bolas holds a master's in occupational psychology and a master's in social policy and social work. Despite living in the US since 2007 and becoming a US Citizen, Caroline is still learning the language and on a daily basis discovers how American English is not the same as English English! However, she does find that her unintentional Britishisms cause much amusement to others.

Josh Johnson, Director of Training and Equitable Practice at the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), Columbus, Ohio

Josh Johnson is the Director of Training and Equitable Practice at the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO). Josh works to ensure an equity lens is applied to all aspects of COHHIO's work and to Ohio's homeless systems through the leadership of COHHIO's Racial Equity Committee (REC) and the Racial Equity Action Committee on Homelessness (R.E.A.C.H. Ohio). Prior to joining COHHIO, Josh worked in a family shelter and was a community-based case manager in Columbus, Ohio.

Kascadare Causeya, Program Manager for Central City Concern, Portland, Oregon

Kascadare (Kas) Causeya, MBA. Kas is the Program Manager for Central City Concern's Benefits and Entitlements Specialist Team and the Medicaid Outreach Enrollment Team. Kas is also on the Board of Directors for New Narrative in Portland, Oregon, and previous Director of Tehama County's Poor And The Homeless Shelters, in Red Bluff, California. While managing and developing policy and BEST procedures, he has also testified before the US Senate Committee on Finance, and the barriers SSA Field Office closures have created for some of the nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Kevin A. James, Project Associate II of SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center (HHRC), Delmar, New York

Kevin A. James, LPC-A is the Project Associate II of SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Center (HHRC). Within HHRC, he provides training and technical assistance to SAMHSA Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) State Contacts and contributes to material development for trainings related to housing and treatment models for adults and children who have a serious mental

illness (SMI), serious emotional disturbance (SED), substance use disorders (SUD), and/or co-occurring disorders (COD).

Mr. James has over five years of experience in the public and private sector developing and implementing a continuum of housing services and supports, included but not limited to; rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, recovery housing, homelessness and eviction prevention, and street outreach. He has administered state and federal grants and contracts, performed on-site evaluations, developed and disseminated guidance on evidence-based practices and HMIS data standards, and developed supportive housing policies and procedures. Additionally, Kevin served on the Steering Committee for Ohio's Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC) and participated in activities included but not limited to reviewing CoC policies and procedures, scoring and ranking projects based on community needs, and casting votes on funding priorities. Kevin earned his Bachelor of Art in Psychology from Clark Atlanta University and a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, from Nova Southeastern University.