

May 2013



SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery

Illinois E-News

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Questions?
Click Here



Contact **Beth Orchard** in DuPage & Kane counties or **Sue Augustus** if outside this area.



Mental Health Awareness

May is Mental Health Awareness Month!

“Pathways to Wellness” is the theme this year as designated by Mental Health America, a leading advocacy organization in mental and substance use conditions. Wellness is more than just one aspect of health, it encompasses many things including mental and social well-being. To be well is about leading a full, productive life along with learning tools and resources to manage life’s ups and downs. May is a great month to shine a light on mental health conditions of which many Americans suffer. [Read all about it](#) on their website.



SOAR is a “pathway to wellness.” Consumers who receive assistance by SOAR trained case workers have a higher chance of being approved for benefits, increasing their chances of being housed and transitioning out of homelessness. This important resource helps restore lives and provides an in-road to that ‘pathway’ to recovery and wellness and Illinois is committed to doing their part. **Together we’ll SOAR!**

Did You Know?

***SAMHSA releases TIP report for clinicians.** The TIP (Treatment Improvement Protocol) Report 55 is titled “Behavioral Health Services for People Who Are Homeless.” This guide is designed with clinicians, physicians, counselors and social workers in mind, to provide a resource for serving clients who are homeless, at risk of homelessness and who need treatment for mental health disorders. The guide will help you become effective clinicians to persons experiencing homelessness and better provide preventive services. You can download it for free from SAMHSA [here](#).

***SOAR refresher trains participants.** Last week a refresher training on SOAR was conducted for new and previously trained practitioners. The focus was on reviewing the SOAR checklist, identifying appropriate SOAR applicants and organizing the applications. SOAR trainees across the state asked questions and refreshed their skills to help clients using SOAR. Check out [page 2](#) to read about the checklist! If you missed it, be sure to look for the next one coming up this Summer TBA.



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SOAR Q&A

Q: *I have a lot of providers who want to attend SOAR training. When is the next one?*

A: [TLS Veterans](#) trained personnel in SOAR then decided to host a training in McHenry **June 25-26!** Contact [Beth Orchard](#) to receive a registration flyer.

Want to host a SOAR training? Contact [Beth](#) and let her know!

Share your successes! Email [Beth](#) to print it in the newsletter.

Motivating You!

SOAR Application Timeline

Use this resource to track progress and submit within the important 60-day deadline!

Day 1—Fax the SOAR Consent form to secure protective filing date.

Day 2/3—Mail and fax the authorization forms to the client's providers to begin the process of medical records collection.

Week 1/2—Don't forget to file a 1696 with SSA to represent client. It's also important to identify additional medical providers noted in the record and begin contacting them to collect documentation.

Remember you have a tight deadline so using this timeline will allow you to track your work so you don't forget anything. [Download the SOAR Application Checklist](#) to help note the dates when important documents are submitted.

A [full timeline](#) and additional information can be found on the SOAR website in the Toolbox. If you have any questions, contact [Beth Orchard](#).



What's Up, SOAR?

SSA Homeless Coordinators

SSA published a list for the Chicago Metropolitan area 7. This list outlines within each office in the metropolitan region who is designated as a homeless coordinator. To receive a copy or for more information about this list, please contact [Sue Augustus](#).

Webinars and Issue Briefs

The SOAR TA Center in conjunction with National Health Care for the Homeless Council presents a webinar “*Understanding SSA's Policy on Drug Addiction and Alcoholism and its Impact on Disability Determinations.*” This will take place Wed, Jun 5 3:00-4:30 (ET), 2:00-3:30 (CT). [RSVP here.](#)

Webinar: Wed, Jun 19 3-4:30 p.m. (EDT) **on SOAR & Criminal Justice**

Briefs: [SOAR and Employment for SSI/SSDI Beneficiaries](#) and [Best Practices for Increasing Access to SSI/SSDI upon Existing Criminal Justice Settings.](#) Contact [Beth Orchard](#) if you have questions!



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The ACA and You

What's happening in the world of health exchanges and ACA implementation across Illinois

The time has come to begin rolling out implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Illinois and across the United States. Meetings are being held and proposals have gone out for organizations interested in federal and state grants which will provide funds to serve community members looking to apply for health insurance through the exchanges starting October 1, 2013.

What does this mean for you? Here are some key links and resources available to you as the roll out continues. Take advantage of this information and attend upcoming webinars and conference calls on how to apply for the above mentioned grants as well as to keep informed and up-to-date as we are under a very tight deadline to be ready to start enrolling marketplace consumers by the target date.

FAQ's: For answers to some frequently asked questions about the consumer assistance programs in Illinois, please click to visit the following link entitled

["The ACA is Coming—How Can I Help Enroll People?"](#)

Streamlined Applications for Health Insurance:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released new versions of the single streamlined application for health insurance. There are three versions available—one for single adults seeking financial assistance paying for insurance, one for families or others seeking financial assistance and one for those not seeking financial assistance. The materials are available online.

Questions on anything you see in this newsletter

or about SOAR? Contact [Beth Orchard](#) for more information about how to bring SOAR to your agency or to refresh your skills from previous trainings!

Important Websites to Know: Click Below!

