CABHI: SOAR and IPS Pilot Check-in Call

June 30th 2016

# State Updates

## Arizona

The AZ team has been partnering with an agency that uses IPS (St. Joseph the Worker) and is located next to where they provide SOAR services. They are working with them to refer individuals to IPS and incorporate their intake questions on the pre-screen assessment. No referrals yet, but they are in the building stages.

Potential Barriers: Now when they interview SOAR clients they are asking about being connected with employment services. They found that not having contact information and not following up with employment services to be a barrier. Talked with St. Joseph to break down barriers. They can help prepare individuals who are on benefits for employment by classes on skills development and educating individuals about work options and how work affects benefits.

## Colorado

They have been busy updating the referral and screening forms, including the IPS career profile forms to integrate SOAR and IPS. It is a bigger task than anticipated and taking longer than expected, but they should be ready for implementation soon and this should help in tracking outcomes. Pablo will forward those forms to the SOAR TA Center when ready, to share with the pilot communities. A unique attribute to the CO IPS team is that the IPS Trainer is taking intensive CWIC (Certified Work Incentives Coordinator) training. They are gearing up for the IPS kick off activities with the CABHI site (CO Coalition for the Homeless) in July. OBH hired a temporary person to cover CABHI and he/she should start soon and take over CABHI in Paul’s place.

## Connecticut

No updates provided on this call

## Illinois

IL is determining how to integrate SOAR and IPS specialists. They have tracking systems for both areas, but they are still separate. IL DMH got a grant to hire someone to potentially update the data systems to incorporate this integration. Things are moving along well and they have cohesive group. They cross-walked SOAR trained individuals with IPS providers and found five potential providers who have both. The team reached out to the five providers and already had interest from two of them about SOAR and IPS integration. They are continuing to revise the current referral sheet to use for integration of services and are looking at how to integrate OAT and IPS tracking systems.

Potential Barrier: Finding funding to back this up once the pilot ends. If they are awarded another CABHI grant they will look to integrate this pilot work.

## Massachusetts

Clare Deucher reported that the funding was cut for the IPS program and that it closed today. The rest of the grant money for CABHI ends in September, so they will not be around for the rest of the reporting period.

## Michigan

MI is getting organized with data collection and reporting. They have been trying to figure out if it makes sense to create referral mechanism between SOAR and IPS specialists because there is already a close link between clinical and IPS staff. They are determining if another referral mechanism is necessary, as there is good communication and connection already between SOAR and IPS. The multi-disciplinary team works closely and meets each week about cases. They have a robust IPS program and now can use this to increase information about the impact of employment on benefits.

## Mississippi

No updates provided on this call

## Nevada

NV doesn’t have IPS as a model in the state, but they have employment specialists through the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). Using this opportunity as an engagement method to increase communication between SOAR and IPS. Hoping to develop reporting and tracking mechanisms and learn from other states.

## Ohio

They have several counties that are receiving CABHI funding and each county operates SOAR and IPS differently, based on what the needs of consumers are and what each county make up looks like. Very few of the programs have a dedicated SOAR or IPS specialist, but collaborate with outside agencies for supported employment and SOAR applications.

## Tennessee

TN is using the OAT system to differentiate SOAR claims that are filed under the CABHI program and this looks like it will work well for the pilot. They have five CABHI sites, two of which are new and just getting started with IPS (three other sites had IPS programs before CABHI). One site is working on communications by having the IPS specialist meet with the CABHI team and meeting with new CABHI enrollees on a monthly basis by having “getting acquainted” sessions. This is increasing interest in enrolling in IPS. One of the new CABHI sites now has 40% of the CABHI enrollees interested in working with the IPS program. This site is helping other sites across the state. Three sites with pre-existing IPS are the same agencies with the CABHI contract, so they have strong communication between CABHI and IPS team. The state leadership has monthly meetings with each site to track how things are going and encouraging improvement.

Challenge: They looked at the pilot reporting tool and are concerned about the burden of reporting that agencies have currently. When they have monthly meetings they are asking the same questions as the tool uses, so they will explore utilizing the tool in the meetings. The TN team will gather feedback from the sites about using the tool before deciding how to move forward with data collection.

## Utah

They have been working with five teams in training them on SOAR and IPS and it is going well. They printed out resources related to [SOAR and employment](https://soarworks.prainc.com/topics/employment-work-incentives) and the “[Yes, You Can Work](https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/yes-you-can-work)” guidance to train entire teams so they understand that individuals can work and utilize SSA disability benefits.

One of the challenges they face is the paperwork aspect of the process in documenting outcomes. They started their own spreadsheet and use HMIS for data tracking.

Utah held an IPS CABHI kickoff in June, with speakers from Dartmouth, the SOAR TA Center (Jen Elder), Office of Disability Employment Policy, and state leaders. The Summit generated a lot of excitement around IPS and busted myths about working while on disability benefits. *The agenda for the Summit is on the pilot website.*

## Wisconsin

The SOAR program uses HMIS to track and IPS tracks their data separately. Randy is working on simplifying how data is entered into the spreadsheet so that data isn’t missed. He is working on gathering accurate information across the 49 counties served by the CABHI grant. The key players are already working together well.

# Illinois Spotlight

The IL team provided an overview (slides available on the pilot website) of their process and how they cross-referenced who has been SOAR trained and who provides IPS services. The SOAR State Team lead for IL was helpful in that process. They also described the data tracking system through the Department of Mental Health that they use to track employment data across the 77 IPS teams in the state. They are currently working on finding methods to track individuals once they leave IPS services and new WIOA may provide an opportunity to track individuals for up to two year.

# Review of the Pilot Outcomes Form

We reviewed the outcomes form used for the pilot. As a reminder, we are only asking for this data twice in the pilot – in December 2016 and June 2017. Please let us know if you are encountering any barriers to collecting this information or compiling it between sites. We’re happy to help!

# Mini-topics for Future Calls

We polled the group for ideas on mini-topics to address at future check-in calls that address learning needs or challenges encountered in the pilot. We received the following ideas:

* Sharing experiences of difference states on how they are gathering data from OAT and IPS and are able to integrate these data
* How SSI/SSDI, employment, and other income impacts housing vouchers and subsidies, and how income from employment impacts SSI/SSDI income
* Best practices for SOAR and IPS
* How states first started their IPS programs

Other ideas are welcome at any time! Please send those to Jen at jelder@prainc.com

# Next Call:

August 4th 3:00-4:30pm ET