CABHI: SOAR and IPS Pilot Check-in

Call Summary

January 31, 2017

Link to Adobe recording: <http://prainc.adobeconnect.com/p1ucx22h8dl/>

# State Updates

## Arizona

No updates provided on this call

## Colorado

**Pablo Sandoval** reported that he was able to report outcomes from a few sites, and will continue to report out successes and other progress in his new capacity with Colorado Works/TANF.

## Connecticut

No updates provided on this call

## Illinois

**Stephanie Frank**, CABHI TA Manager, shared sustainability issues which are not dire. Outreaching to Employment First to plan transition in June when CABHI ends. Although agencies are progressing at different paces, each will continue after grant ends.

## Massachusetts

No updates provided on this call

## Michigan

No updates provided on this call

## Mississippi

No updates provided on this call

## Nevada

No updates provided on this call

## Ohio

**Katherine Williams**, the CABHI Mental Health Administrator, reported their number are up for IPS since last report out. They are still encouraging CABHI participants to engage in supported employment by outreaching to agencies beyond CABHI agencies to anyone interested in SOAR certification. They are using a SOAR flyer which debunks myths about employment: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/yes-you-can-work>.

## Tennessee

**Jenna Robl** shared sustainability issues, but they are working on solutions before CABHI funding ends in March. She reported an increase in numbers as a result of ‘word of mouth’ advertising and peer supports. Jenna has identified challenges with initial communication because services in one of their sites are not co-located. However, Jenna is finding that collaborations are doing better in the co-located sites. Jenna asked for advice from other states.

## Utah

**Sue Hanson**, State CABHI-SE Employment Program Manager, shared that they are doing well with state team monitoring to ensure fidelity and assess needs. Visited 3 CABHI teams to see where they are at and learn about successes and needs which should be addressed before grant ends. Sue stated these visits were very helpful. She reported 6 specialists will be trained on IPS in February. Also, a ‘Toolbox” will be created to utilize after CABHI ends. Sue reported an increase in referrals. They are making excellent business contacts for hiring people experiencing homelessness.

## Wisconsin

**Rand Hahn,** with DVA, reported that their program is moving along and seeing an increase in referrals from their 30 sites. His team is figuring out a plan for gathering data between SOAR and IPS, particularly referrals and working individuals. He asked for advice from other states on establishing an automatic data collection process.

# Spotlight on ‘Benefits Planning’

**Susan O’Mara, Director VCU National Training and Data Center**

Susan shared information on work incentives and benefits planning resources, and accessing Certified Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs). She thanked everyone for participating in the Pilot, and reminded us that after decades of misinformation around work incentives, this is a good time to share that work incentives, planning, and services can help folks participating in the pilot.

*From Susan’s PowerPoint presentation:*

**Work Incentive’s Planning & Assistance (WIPA)**

* To date, WIPA projects have served more than 750,000 individuals.
* WIPA projects are staffed by Community Work Incentives Coordinators (CWICs) who are trained to provide individualized, in-depth employment focused benefits analysis and work incentives planning
* WIPA is all about WORK!
* Individualized Work Incentives Planning & Assistance This is the cornerstone of WIPA services and may include:
  + In-depth personalized benefits analysis covering all Federal, state, and local benefits.
  + Customized counseling about the impact of work on all Federal, state, and local benefits and development of a comprehensive Benefits Summary and Analysis (BS&A) report.
  + Making referrals for needed services or supports with particular emphasis on meeting employment needs.

**Strategies for Working Effectively with WIPA Projects**

* Refer Eligible High Priority Beneficiaries
* Prioritization of beneficiaries, e.g.) Individual already working, self-employed or actively looking for work.
* Follow the referral process
* Keep lines of communication open

**VCU National Training & Data Center**

* Provides Social Security Approved National Training Curriculum
* Provides CWIC Training and Certification
* Provides Individual and Organization Level Technical Assistance
* Provides Ongoing Professional Development Training for Continuing Certification

**Resources:**

* + WIPA Eligibility Criteria: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/sites/soarworks.prainc.com/files/WIPA_Eligibililty_Criteria_2016.docx>
  + WIPA Services Providers Quick Reference: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/sites/soarworks.prainc.com/files/WIPA_Service_Priorities_Quick_Reference_2016.docx>
  + VCU Website: <https://vcu-ntdc.org>
  + Training Calendar: <https://vcu-ntdc.org/training/initial/calendar.cfm>

# Data from 6-Month Report Out: What Did We Learn?

**Jen Elder, National Policy and Partnerships Coordinator**

From Jen’s PowerPoint presentation:

**Lessons from Data Collection Process:**

* Revised Data Form
* Multiple Sites Reported Data Gathering Difficulties

**Data Submissions:**

* Data received from 7 out of 12 states
* Described pilot timing and CABHI grant which impacted submissions

**What is Going Well?**

* Building Collaborations
* Person Centered Planning
* Success stories, e.g.) connected to both work and benefits!

**SOAR Outcomes**

* 367 assessed/186 enrolled in SOAR services
* 100 SOAR applications submitted, with 51 awarded!

**IPS Outcomes**

* 376 assessed for IPS services, with 17 leavers to other services
* 137 obtained competitive employment!

**SOAR&IPS Outcomes**

* 73 entered into services for both SOAR and IPS!
* Informed Choice!

**Barriers**

* Varying reporting requirements
* Competing goals and timelines
* Lack of data sharing and tracking
* Misinformation on work incentives still out there!

**Next Steps**

* Use revised data form! Available on the pilot website and at: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/sites/soarworks.prainc.com/files/CABHI_pilot_outcomes_form_13117.xlsx>

# Resources

All resources and slides shared on this call are available on the CABHI: SOAR/IPS website: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/cabhi-soar-ips-pilot>

# Next Call:

**March 21, 2017 from 3-4:30pm ET**

Conference Line: (866) 805-9853

Passcode: 185-133-8729

<http://prainc.adobeconnect.com/cabhi/>