

October 2012



SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery

Illinois E-News

Inside Edition

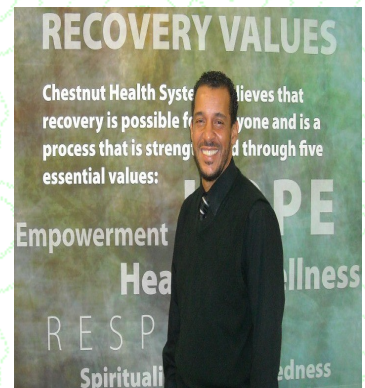
- Meet a Trainer!
- News You Can Use
- Question
- Springfield Training
- SOAR Q&A
- Victory lap!
- Employment Webinar



Have a pressing question you'd like us to answer? Feeling stuck doing an application? Let us help you answer those questions! [Contact me](#) if you're in DuPage & Kane counties or [Sue Augustus](#) if you're outside this area.

Meet a Trainer!

DeWayne Sanders is the Associate Director of Housing Administration for *Chestnut Health Systems*, a non profit community mental health and substance abuse service provider. They have over 300 units of permanent supportive housing in St. Clair and Madison counties for those facing or experiencing homelessness with a mental health condition and/or substance abuse issues. He has been providing supportive housing to people in need for over 20 years. He was struck by the extreme value of the SOAR principles and was fortunate enough to join the IL State SOAR Trainers Team in April 2011. Since then, he has supported 150 participants in the 2-day training in IL and MO and continues to look for opportunities to 'sprinkle SOAR dust' in as many communities as possible.



News You Can Use

SOAR National

SSA offices to reduce hours

Hours at your local SSA office may be changing. Field offices are set to cut back hours starting November 19, 2012. They will close 30 minutes early and on Wednesdays, starting January 2, 2013, will close to the public at noon. The early closings are part of budgetary restrictions being felt across the Social Security Administration. For more information on this news, click [here](#).

SOAR Training

Springfield SOAR Training

15 participants learned new skills

September 27 and 28, service providers from middle to lower Illinois connected for 2 days of training. I, alongside others, engaged in using SOAR as a model for helping consumers apply for benefits. They are excited to use their new skills and I am excited to learn more tools to support you in completing **successful SOAR applications!**





SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery

Illinois E-News

SOAR Q&A

Q: Hospital records are expensive. Help!

A: If possible, work to build a relationship with the head of your local records department and explain SOAR. They may be willing to help if you reach out to them. Read more [here](#) on building collaborations.

Q: I'm struggling with my medical summaries!

A: Tell the consumer's story with dates & details of functional limitation to back up their need for disability. Email [me](#) or [Sue Augustus](#) (outside Kane/DuPage counties) or click [here](#) for extra help!



Victory Lap!

Case Manager Dawn met client F following referral to the CHIP program (*Community Homelessness Integrations Project*). She started assisting him because she thought he would be a good candidate for SOAR. He had a history of misusing cannabis and homelessness. Traditionally, the CHIP program provides case management to assist with applying for benefits. Client F was later banned from the CHIP program due to kicking a staff member. He was then referred back to Dawn for case management support to help him get connected to inpatient treatment but was denied since he reported to have stopped using cannabis and was no longer in need of inpatient treatment. He also reported limited social skills, no self esteem, hearing voices and presented with a learning disability and speech impediment which made Dawn realize the severity of his impairment.

Dawn explored client F's employment history which clearly showed evidence of disability. Dawn assisted him in connecting with Social Security and reviewed his school records. Based on what she found, Dawn completed a report explaining the reasons he should receive benefits and sent it to his adjudicator to assist with getting SSI benefits. **Client F has recently been awarded SSI benefits and is awaiting his first check. Client F has also applied for Medicaid benefits and is awaiting a response from them.**

Share your client's success story! We want to publicly acknowledge your hard work. [Contact me](#) so we can print it in the next newsletter.

Webinar: Increase Your SOAR Knowledge

Employment & SOAR Webinar!

Join SOAR Coordinators, trainers and others on **Tuesday, October 23 3:00-4:30 pm (EDT)** for a discussion of SSI/SSDI, Employment and SOAR. Presenters will dispel myths about working while applying for or receiving SSI/SSDI. Information will also be shared about how SOAR and employment services can work together to support recovery.

Click [here](#) for info and to register! [Contact me](#) with any questions.

