



SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services' Division of Disability and Behavioral Health Services-Mental Health (SRS DBHS MH), in partnership with the Division of Human Services of Sedgwick County and COMCARE of Sedgwick County and Wyandot Center for Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. is holding SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) direct service worker trainings to increase access to SSI/SSDI for people with disabilities, especially persons who are homeless. The curriculum, *Stepping Stones for Recovery*, was developed by Policy Research Associates from Delmar New York. The trainings are free.

National Results for SOAR States

- Approval rates of 70% on initial SSI/SSDI application
- Cost savings for local programs
- Reduce need for consultative exams

Who should come?

- Direct service workers who submit federal disability claims
- Communities/programs who serve homeless individuals

Stepping Stones to Recovery Curriculum

- Based on the success of University of Maryland Medical System Baltimore SSI Outreach Project
- Comprehensive explanation of SSI/SSDI applications process
- Discusses strategies for assisting persons who are homeless
- Focuses on the initial application-"Get it right the first time"
- Offers practical tools
- Avoid appeals whenever possible

Featured Trainers

- Christine Tomkus, MBA, Administrative Officer, SOAR Trainer, Division of Human Services at Sedgwick County
- Tami Hurley, MA, SOAR Case Manager and SOAR Trainer, COMCARE of Sedgwick County
- Jeannette Livingston, MPA, Contract Administrator, SOAR Trainer, COMCARE of Sedgwick County
- Brandi Clarke, Administrative Officer, SOAR Trainer, Division of Human Services at Sedgwick County
- Sherrie Watkins-Alvey, LMSW, Service Manager, SOAR Trainer, Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
- Jessica Calys, LMSW, Service Coordinator, SOAR Trainer, Wyandot Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Training Includes

- Two full days of Stepping Stones to Recovery train the direct service worker program
- Participant Guide with slides, handy tips, sample forms, and tools for successful applications
- DVD with video role-play of interviewing skills

The SOAR model requires that community staff directly assist applicants. To do this, staff must:

- Serve as appointed representative for the purpose of applying for SSI/SSDI: This is NOT the same as being the representative payee. The appointed representative can “stand in” for the applicant, respond to questions, receive copies of all mail sent to the applicant, and communicate back and forth with SSA and DDS, the agency that makes disability determinations. The representative is NOT responsible for the decision so liability is not an issue.
- Complete the applications both for SSI and SSDI. These applications consist of several documents: (1) a 23-page application form for SSI; (2) an on-line application form for SSDI; (3) a 12-page on-line disability report along with several releases of information, both agency releases and SSA releases.
- Collect medical records from providers who have treated the applicant over the last two years.
- Complete a psychosocial assessment, a functional impairment assessment, and a substance use worksheet. The information from these is then incorporated into a comprehensive medical summary report.
- Write a medical summary report that includes psychosocial, treatment, and functional information that is co-signed, if at all possible, by a physician or psychologist who has seen the individual. This does not have to be an ongoing treatment provider but it does need to be a physician or psychologist who has met with the individual. The reason for this co-signature is it makes the report “medical evidence,” which is given greater weight in the disability determination process.
- Conduct ongoing outreach and engagement with the individual who is homeless to stay connected throughout this process and to work with the individual to obtain other needed services and treatment such as housing, physical and mental health care, other support services, food, and clothing.
- Track applications and outcomes, including number of applications completed, approvals/denials, and time to decision from application submission to receipt of SSA’s decision. SOAR data collection **does not** include protected health information such as name, date of birth or social security number.

Training Dates

Dodge City

August 23-24, 2010
Area Mental Health Center
3000 N 14th Street,
Dodge City, KS

Kansas City

February 3-4, 2011
Wyandot Center for Community
Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
1301 N. 47th Street,
Kansas City, KS 66101

Wichita

October 25-26, 2010
Sedgwick County Division of
Human Services
635 N. Main St.
Wichita, KS 67201

Hays

October 20-21, 2010
Ramada Inn
3603 Vine St (I-70 at Exit 159)
Hays, KS 67601

Salina

September 27-28, 2010
North Central Chapter of the
American Red Cross
145 S Broadway Boulevard
Salina, KS 67402

Manhattan

April 7-8, 2011
Location to be arranged



Registration Form

* Required Information

*Training Dates (Please check the training you wish to attend)

- Dodge City** Aug, 23-24
 Wichita Oct. 25-26
 Salina Sept. 27-28
 Kansas City Feb 3-4
 Hays Oct. 20-21
 Manhattan Apr. 7-8

*First Name: _____ *Last Name _____
 Title: _____
 *Organization Name: _____
 *Street Address: _____
 *City: _____ *State: _____ *Zip: _____
 *Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ *Email: _____

To be completed by the attendee

In registering for the Stepping Stones to Recovery direct service training program, I agree to use techniques I learned when I submit federal disability applications. I have full support and commitment of my agency director as indicated below.

Attendee's Signature: _____

To be completed by the attendee's agency director

We estimate that this intensive work takes roughly 20-40 hours per applicant from first meeting to getting a decision on the claim. This time is usually spent over the course of 2-3 months though, certainly, it is expected to be more intensive in the first month.

The benefit to your agency is that people you serve will have income and health insurance to meet basic needs which makes them more likely to stay in treatment, keep appointments, and pay their bills. Without such work, individuals typically take anywhere from 1-3 years to obtain approval, during which time people are lost to the process and require a great deal of community support simply to survive. With the SOAR approach, we are seeing approvals on average in 87 days. Clearly, the rewards are great for all involved.

We ask that you sign the registration form simply to indicate that you understand what SOAR requires and are willing to support your staff to engage in this effort. We believe that you will find this to be a win-win for the individuals you serve as well as for your agency. Thank you for your consideration and support.

As the director of the agency where the above person is employed, I understand my agency's commitment to use techniques from the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery training. I understand that the above person will be resource person related to expediting SSI/SSDI for people who are homeless. I authorize the person above to attend the direct service provider program. I will also support him/her in future data collection activities in order the track outcomes on an agency, statewide and national basis.

Agency Director Signature: _____
 Print Name/Title: _____
 Agency: _____

Please email or fax registration form to Diana Marsh at 785-296-6142 or diana.marsh@srs.ks.gov three weeks prior to the training you wish to attend. Registration is required. Persons not registered and confirmed as attendees by SRS DBHS MH will not be admitted. SRS will confirm your registration two weeks prior to event by email unless your request another mode of communication.