



SOAR and PATH
Raven Oglesby, SOAR State Lead
and SSI Ohio Project Manager at
the Coalition on Homelessness and
Housing in Ohio
8/19/15

What is SOAR?

The SAMHSA sponsored SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) is a program designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for *eligible adults* who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness* and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

SOAR in Ohio

- There are over 18 SOAR trained individuals around the state that focus solely on assisting physically and/or mentally disabled homeless, at risk of becoming homeless and/or preparing to exit an institution individuals. They are called SSI Ohio Specialist.
- The Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio is the SOAR lead for the state.

Opportunities for PATH Case Managers and Agencies

- Meeting the benefits requirement for grants
- SOAR Training this fall for PATH case managers
- MOU- minimum of 8 cases(average 16hrs per client) completed per year and data reporting
- Refer potential clients to the SSI Ohio Specialist(s) in your community
http://www.cohhio.org/programs/ssi_2011
- SSI Ohio Project Specialists are encouraged to reach out to PATH case managers

Barriers to Accessing SSI/SSDI

- Homeless persons with multiple disabilities cannot apply effectively on their own
 - Poor record keepers and historians
 - Unaware of or reluctant to admit mental illness and other disabling conditions
 - Mental status
 - No stable address
 - Lack of continuity of care
 - Unaware of benefits
 - Intimidated by process



Current Reality

- Nationally, **26%** of all SSA disability applications are approved on initial submission
- For people who are homeless, about **10-15%** are typically approved on initial application
- In Ohio if claim is denied there is a **65 day** appeal period
- Wait time of roughly **24 months** from filing to hearing
- Approval rate increases to roughly **40%** after appeals process

Why is this work important?

- Homeless individuals will have access to **housing, community resources, and health care.**
- Increase chance for **stability**
- The SSA application process is often **overwhelming and time consuming**
- Homeless people are often **denied** for reasons that have nothing to do with their disability or lack thereof



Contact

Mrs. Raven Oglesby, MBA
SSI Ohio Project Manager/SOAR Team Lead
Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio
175 S Third Street Suite 250
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-280-1984 ext.28
614-463-1060 fax
ravenoglesby@cohhio.org
