



# SOAR E-Bulletin

FISCAL YEAR 2019  
1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

### January

- 1/7/19 – SOAR Training Cohort B – Registration Opens
- 1/8/19 – SOAR Bi-monthly TA Check-in for Certified SOAR Practitioners

### February

- 2/6/19 – SOAR Training Cohort B – Registration Closes
- 2/11/19 – SOAR Training Cohort B – Starts

### March

- 3/12/19 - SOAR Bi-monthly TA Check-in for Certified SOAR Practitioners
- 3/19/19 – SOAR Training Cohort B – Ends
- 3/22/19 – SOAR State Steering Committee Meeting

## SOAR STAFFING CHANGES?

Please inform us of any SOAR staffing changes so we can make sure our SOAR contact list stays up-to-date! Email the MDHHS Housing and Homeless Services team at:

[MDHHS-Homeless@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-Homeless@michigan.gov)

## MICHIGAN SOAR UPDATES

### Michigan's Certified SOAR Practitioners Contact List

Michigan currently has a **over 90 Certified SOAR Practitioners** across the state! Certified SOAR Practitioners have completed comprehensive SOAR training and meet all quality standards to complete SOAR applications in Michigan.

Contact information for each practitioner can be found on the **FY 2019 MDHHS SOAR Contact List – Certified SOAR Practitioners**. Anyone who needs to connect with SOAR in Michigan may use this list to find a practitioner in their area. To ensure information is as accurate as possible, this list will be updated and redistributed as needed throughout the year.

### FY19 SOAR Quarterly Training

The MDHHS Housing and Homeless Services team, in partnership with the SOAR TA Center, is hosting quarterly SOAR training for Michigan in FY 2019. Training is organized into four cohorts, A through D, with specific schedules. Training is 100% virtual and consists of the SOAR Online Course followed by a SOAR Online Course Review & Michigan Fundamentals Session, as well as regular group check-ins throughout the process. Individuals that pass the SOAR Online Course and complete a SOAR Online Course Review & Michigan Fundamentals Session will be designated as a Certified SOAR Practitioner in Michigan. For full details, please refer to the **FY19 SOAR Quarterly Training** document.

**We are excited to announce that registration for SOAR Training Cohort B is now open!**

Cohort B runs from February 11, 2019 to March 19, 2019 with a final post-training check-in on April 24, 2019. The SOAR Online Course Review Session and Michigan SOAR Fundamentals will be virtual (webinar) on March 19, 2019.



### REGISTER HERE:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SOARTrainingFY19CohortB>

Registration closes on **February 6, 2019**.

For questions, please contact Jeanine Yard ([yardj@michigan.gov](mailto:yardj@michigan.gov)) or Michelle Woolf ([woolfm@michigan.gov](mailto:woolfm@michigan.gov)).

### SOAR Data Now in OAT

Michigan has fully transitioned to using the Online Application Tracking (OAT) system for SOAR data collection and reporting. This transition began in July 2018 to align Michigan's SOAR Initiative with other states and to allow greater functionality for end users and reporting. Thank you to our SOAR practitioners and the SOAR TA Center staff who helped make this transition a success! MDHHS will be utilizing OAT data on a regular basis to better understand Michigan's SOAR outcomes and keep Michigan's SOAR partners informed of our state's progress. Look for more on this throughout the year!

### FY19 SOAR Certifications Distributed

SOAR certifications for FY19 were emailed to each Certified SOAR Practitioner at the end of December. Existing SOAR practitioners were grandfathered in for FY19. Existing SOAR practitioners are individuals who were trained in SOAR prior to FY19 and registered in the OAT system.

To maintain SOAR certification, Certified SOAR Practitioners must meet the following criteria on an annual basis (each FY):

1. Complete at least 3 SOAR applications;
2. Maintain an initial application approval rate of at least 60%; and
3. Attend Michigan's Annual Statewide SOAR Meeting.



MDHHS will assess certification status and award SOAR certifications at the end of each FY. For questions, please contact Michelle Woolf ([woofm@michigan.gov](mailto:woofm@michigan.gov)).

### SOAR Bi-Monthly TA Check-Ins

MDHHS and the SOAR TA Center are hosting bi-monthly check-ins via webinar for Certified SOAR Practitioners. The purpose of the check-ins is to provide an avenue for Michigan's SOAR partners to connect with their peers, gain a deeper understanding of the SOAR process through topics highlighted each check-in, and have an opportunity to raise their questions or concerns. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Michelle Woolf ([woofm@michigan.gov](mailto:woofm@michigan.gov)).



### MDHHS SOAR Positions

The MDHHS Housing & Homeless Services team is growing! We are adding four full-time positions to provide leadership and support to Michigan's SOAR Initiative. A SOAR Specialist will serve as the statewide program specialist for SOAR and be designated as Michigan's SOAR State Team Lead. In addition, three Regional SOAR Navigators will each be assigned a set of [Michigan Prosperity Regions](#) to increase local SOAR capacity and ensure SOAR can be accessed in every county in Michigan. Applications were accepted through December 21, 2018 and candidates are now being reviewed. Look for a new staff announcement soon!

### Save The Date: Michigan's Annual Statewide SOAR Meeting

Mark your calendars for Michigan's Annual Statewide SOAR Meeting taking place **June 2019 in Lansing, MI**. This meeting is open to all those interested in learning more about Michigan's SOAR Initiative. Attendance is required for Certified SOAR Practitioners to maintain their SOAR certification status for the next FY. More information to come. Stay tuned!

## NATIONAL SOAR UPDATES



### **Meet Amanda Starkey: SOAR TA Center Liaison for Michigan**

Amanda Starkey is SAMHSA's SOAR TA Center Liaison for Michigan! Amanda started as a SOAR Specialist in Michigan back in 2010 and has worked with SOAR in several capacities since then. Amanda can be of assistance to anyone who is just starting out with SOAR, struggling with perfecting a Medical Summary Report (MSR), having issues with application submissions, or just needs a vent session with someone who understands the nuances of our unique roles. In addition, Amanda partners closely with MDHHS to offer her expertise and guidance around the development of Michigan's SOAR Initiative. Amanda has been particularly instrumental in the SOAR Quarterly Training process. Please join us in welcoming Amanda! Amanda can be reached at [astarkey@prainc.com](mailto:astarkey@prainc.com)

### **SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum**

The SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum trains case managers to assist children and youth who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder to apply for the Social Security Administration's (SSA) disability program: Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The techniques taught in this course can improve the quality and completeness of any application for SSI. Individuals who complete the course are encouraged to use what they learn to improve SSI applications for themselves or others. For more information visit: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/course/soar-child-curriculum>

### **SOAR Webinar: Understanding and Documenting Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders for SSI/SSDI Claims**

As opioid use disorders are becoming more prevalent, there is a growing body of knowledge about the impact on individuals and communities, and the treatment options available to help address the problem. For SOAR providers, some questions remain: If someone does have an opioid or other substance use disorder, what does it mean for their SOAR-assisted SSI/SSDI claim? How do we effectively document substance use in the Medical Summary Report (MSR)? This webinar will help answer these questions and others which impact SOAR applicants.



For more information visit: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/article/soar-webinar-opioids>

A recording of the webinar can be accessed here: <https://youtu.be/arvECvB2s4Q>

### **SAMHSA SOAR E-Newsletter**

The November 2018 issue of SAMHSA's SOAR E-Newsletter highlights **2018 SOAR outcomes** and is available here: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/sites/soarworks.prainc.com/files/2018.11eNewsletter.pdf>

We encourage you to explore the full SOAR website for more information and tools: <https://soarworks.prainc.com/>