

Online Appendix

In regard to the number of incarcerated persons with mental illness: In 2010 more than 7 million persons were under correctional supervision in the United States at any given time (Guerino and Sabel, 2011); five million of these are under community supervision (Glaze and Bonczar, 2011). Each year about 725,000 persons are released from federal and state prisons; 125,000 are persons with serious mental illness (Glaze, 2011). More than 20 percent of mentally-ill offenders were homeless in the months before their incarceration compared with ten percent in the non-mentally ill prison population (Council of State Governments, 2012). For those exiting the criminal justice system the rates may be even higher (Rodriquez and Brown, 2003).

* Guerino, P.M Harrison and W. Sabel. Prisoners in 2010. NCJ 236096. Washington D.C.: U.S Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2011.

* Glaze, L.E., Bonczar, T.P. Probation and Parole in the United States 2010. Washington D.C.: U.S Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics 2011

* Glaze, L. Correctional Populations in the U.S.2010, NCJ 236319. Washington D.C. U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics 2011

* Reentry Facts. The National Reentry Resource Center. Council of State Governments Justice Center, Retrieved from www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/facts Accessed December 6, 2012.

* Rodriquez, N. and Brown, B. 2003. Preventing Homelessness Among People Leaving Prison. State Sentencing and Corrections Program. Vera Institute of Justice.

In regard to the need to commit leadership: The Mercer County SOAR Coordinator, for example, resolves issues that case managers working on SSI/SSDI applications identify during their separate monthly meetings, organizes trainings, oversees the quality of applications submitted, and responds to concerns raised by SSA and DDS. The case manager meetings are attended by the Coordinator who serves as a liaison between the case managers and Steering Committee. Issues identified by case managers typically require additional collaborations with hospitals, psychiatrists, and others that must be handled at the Steering Committee level. Leadership also includes frequent regular and ad hoc communication -- in person, by phone or e-mail -- among all parties in order to identify and resolve challenges that arise.

In regard to staff training: Staff who assist with applications need time to be trained (typically 1-2 days) and time to interview and assess the applicant, gather and organize the applicant's medical records, complete the SSA forms, and write a supporting letter that documents how the individual's disability(ies) affect his or her ability to work. Full time staff working only on SSI/SSDI applications can be expected to complete about 50-60 applications per year using the SOAR approach.

Training in the SOAR approach for jail and prison staff has been modified to address the assessment and documentation of functioning within a correctional setting. Training also needs to address the specific referral and application submission process worked out within the Steering Group and with SSA and DDS so that applications submitted are consistent with those expectations, any procedures established to ensure quality review, and how outcomes of applications will be tracked and reported. Thus it is important that training take place after each of these elements have been discussed and decided by the Steering Committee.

Table 1. Outcomes from Criminal Justice Settings Utilizing the SOAR Approach							
Facility		Lead Agency	SSI/SSDI Applications ¹				Re-arrest/Re-incarceration Outcomes
			# Decisions	# Approvals	Approval Rate ²	# Days	
Jails	Miami-Dade County, FL	11 th Judicial Criminal Mental Health Project	288	262	91%	34 days	Arrests 2 years prior to receipt of benefits and housing compared to 2 years after reduced by 70%
	Mercer County, NJ	Greater Trenton Behavioral Health Care	16	14	88%	NA	Not available
	Fulton County, GA	Georgia Department of Behavioral Health	23	16	70%	114	Not available
Both	Jefferson County, TN & Tennessee DOC	Park Center Community Mental Health Center	44	44	100%	41	Not available
Prisons	New York DOC Ossining, NY	Center for Urban Community Services	255	219	86%	48	Not available
	Oklahoma DOC	Oklahoma Department of Mental Health	582	407	70%	NA	Return to prison within 3 years was 41% lower than comparison group of inmates with mental illness who did not receive benefits
	Michigan DOC	Michigan Department of Corrections	72	43	60%	105	In the year following application for SSI/SSDI, 17% of those denied benefits were reincarcerated compared to 2% of those approved for benefits.

¹ Approval for SSI includes automatic approval for Medicaid in all states represented in this table except for Oklahoma which sets its own criteria for Medicaid eligibility.

² These rates can be compared to the 29 percent approval rate for all those who apply for SSI/SSDI without assistance and estimated 10-15 percent approval rate for persons who are homeless who apply without assistance. Across all states participating in SOAR, the average approval rate from 2005 through June 30, 2013 is 65 percent (N=29,162). Source: SOAR Technical Assistance Center (2014) *2013 SOAR Outcomes Summary*. Delmar, NY: Policy Research Associates, Inc.