

SOAR Dialogue Highlights

2/16/17

Attendees: Emily Carmody, Elizabeth Lewin, Tashira McGill

Introductions

- Emily Carmody, NCCEH, Raleigh- Just had a great SOAR training and preparing for maternity leave
- Tashira McGill, LATCH, Durham- Have a number of outcomes to submit
- Elizabeth Lewin, PATH Team, Statesville- Case approved yesterday

Announcements

- Emily is starting maternity leave in March
 - Be sure to email questions and issues to soar@ncceh.org so NCCEH staff can follow up to provide answers and/or assistance
- Next SOAR Training will be June 27-28th in Raleigh, NC
 - Application process is now open
 - Please refer people who are interested in coming to the NCCEH website

Updated SSA Mental Disorder Listings- Functioning Categories

- As of January 17th, SSA began operating under the new Mental Disorder Listings released in November
 - All cases in process at DDS on January 17th will be evaluated using the listings
 - New listings made changes to the functioning categories used to evaluate mental health disorders
- Emily reviewed the functioning categories via slides on the join.me/nccehrocks website (see slides posted to Dialogue page). Slides included:
 - Information on the five-point scale DDS will use to evaluate functioning
 - For Part B an applicant needs extreme limitations in 1 out of 4 or marked limitations in 2 out of 4
 - DDS has to evaluate functioning in the context of being able to function independently, appropriately, effectively, and on a sustained basis
 - Four new categories of functioning:
 - Understand, remember or apply information
 - Interact with others
 - Concentrate, persist or maintain pace
 - Adapt or manage oneself
 - How to integrate activities of daily living in all four categories
- Tips provided:
 - For each category SOAR caseworkers thought of examples of behaviors that would indicate functioning problems

- Understand, remember or apply information
 - Trouble with remembering appointments
 - Not able to complete “homework” the SOAR caseworker assigned
 - Had an applicant who was unable to sign his name without spelling it out loud
 - Unable to learn job tasks like the cash register
- Interact with others
 - Fights with supervisor
 - Issues with authority figures
 - Unable to process criticism appropriately (walk off the job, react aggressively, unable to be flexible to change)
 - Inability to get along with coworkers and/or peers
 - Unable to appropriately interact with customers/general public
 - Isolative
 - Confrontational or explosive in reactions
- Concentrate, persist or maintain pace
 - Fast food jobs- unable to keep up with the pace, get overwhelmed with working in the food line
 - Have an issue keeping up with conversation in meetings with the SOAR caseworker- distracted, need to take breaks
- Adapt or manage oneself
 - Category is both on and off the job
 - Manage one’s emotions
 - Able to take care of themselves outside of the job in order to be able to get back and sustain job
 - Using transportation
 - Budgeting
 - Cooking
 - Cleaning
 - Bathing/grooming
 - Ex. SOAR applicant who worked at Vet had an extreme reaction to animals being put down and it would interfere with job duties AND applicant had pets that he would not leave at home alone which interfered in him taking care of himself (grocery shopping, paying bills, etc.)

Next SOAR Dialogue Call will be on March 16th at 10 AM: <http://www.ncceh.org/events/1118/>

On the call, we will review the changes to the acceptable medical sources and how to outreach and engage medical providers to partner with SOAR caseworkers.