





# Reminders

June 30th NCCEH SOAR will be meeting with DDS/SSA to plan SOAR Annual

Please start thinking of questions you want addressed at SOAR Annual – on our July dialogue call, I will gather all questions to present to both agencies

Please invite your local SSA Liaison to your local workgroups, let me know if you need help



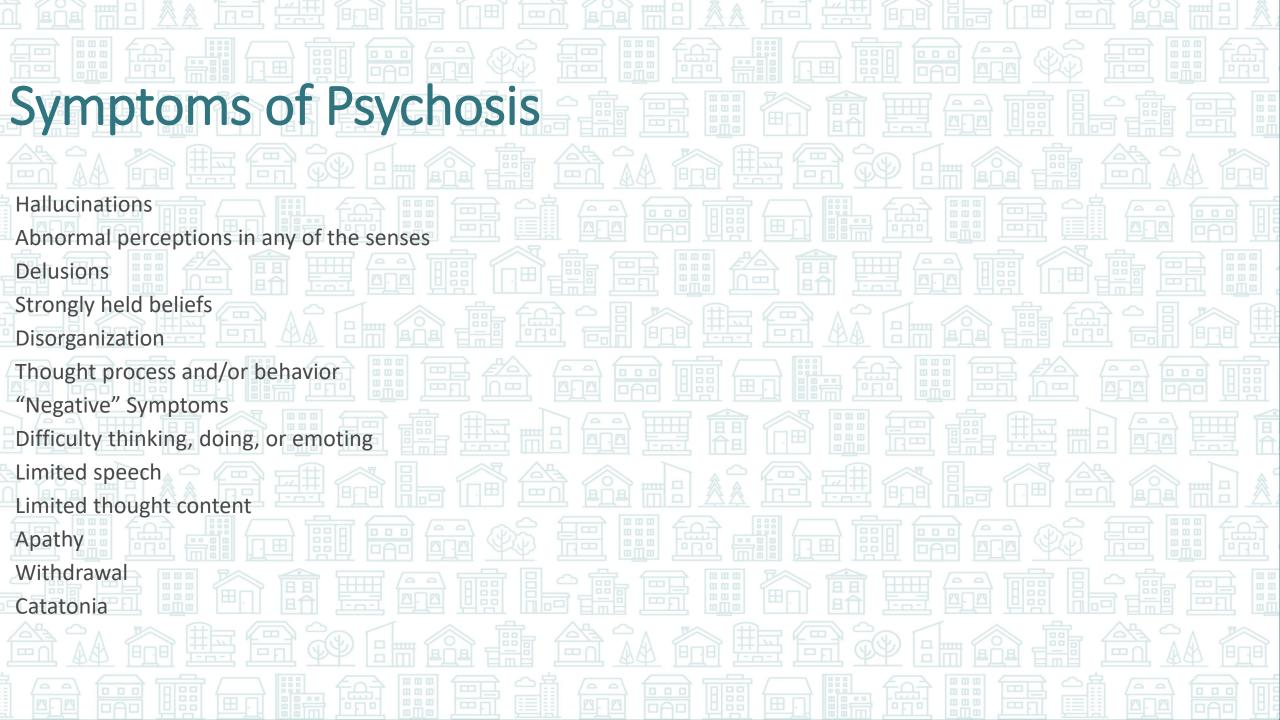


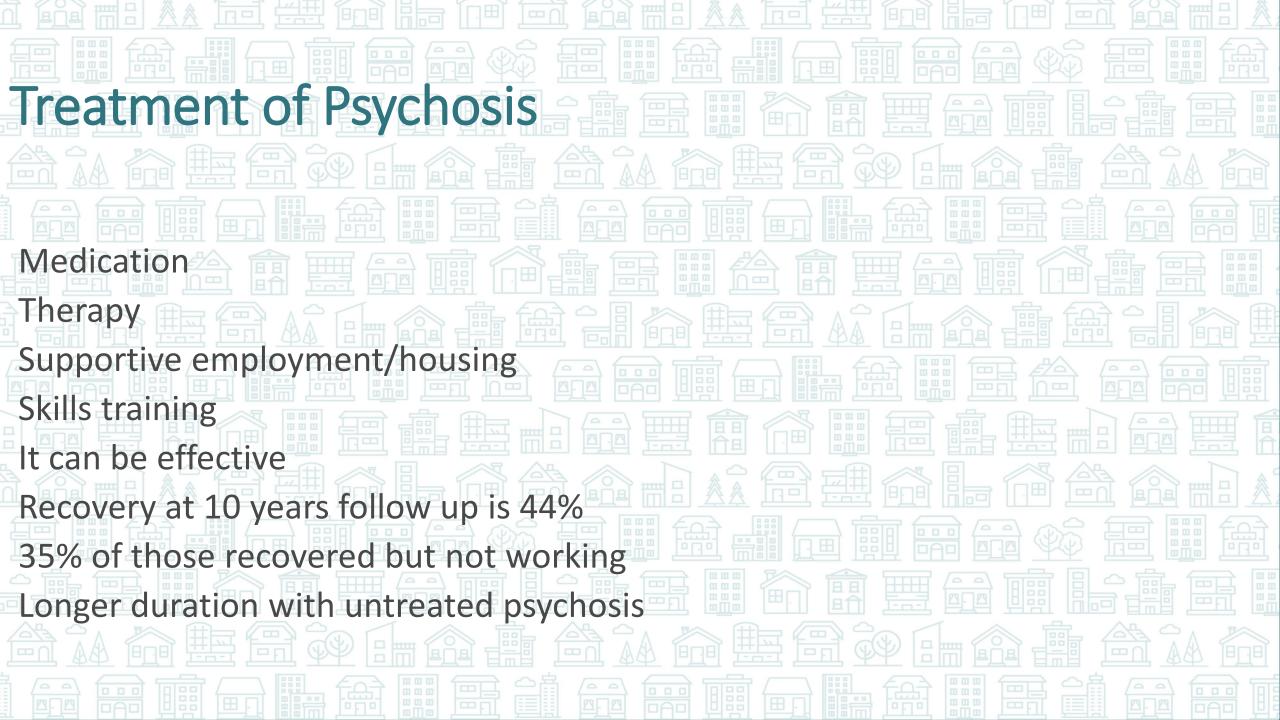




### What is Psychosis?

- Annually 100,000 teenagers and young adults in the United States experience their first psychotic episode. According to statistics, between 0.25 and 0.64% of the people in the U.S. suffer from a psychotic disorder.
- Psychosis is a category that describes a group of symptoms. It causes a disconnection from reality.
- Two types of psychosis:
  - Hallucinations. These are when parts of your brain mistakenly act like they would if your senses (vision, hearing, touch, smell and taste) picked up on something actually happening. An example of a hallucination is hearing voices that aren't there (auditory hallucination).
  - Delusions. These are false beliefs that someone holds onto very strongly, even when others
    don't believe them or there's plenty of evidence that a belief isn't true. For example, people
    with delusions of control believe someone is controlling their thoughts or actions remotely.





# Challenges for SOAR Caseworkers Typically SOAR clients are less stable by definition

Functional impairment is enough to prevent significant work

Difficult to keep clients engaged

Psychosis can disrupt rapport/trust

Though most clients who have psychosis are never violent

We want to be aware of boundaries/safety

## Having an Advocate Mindset

#### Trauma-Informed Care

- Understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma
- Social stigma and rejection
- Emphasizes the physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors, and creates opportunities for survivors to build a sense of control and empowerment

#### **Empathy**

strangers?

- O How difficult would it be to concentrate if voices would not leave you alone?
- O How difficult would it be to trust if you regularly faced fear and disgust from

#### **Practical Suggestions**

What are ways you as a SOAR Provider, could create an environment that emphasizes the physical, psychological, and emotional safety for both providers and survivors to increase their willingness to engage? That will make them feel empowered?

Meeting in familiar, trusted setting
Meeting with trusted person
Going at client's pace
Being aware of warning signs of

What else?

escalation



# Practical Suggestions continued





