

WISCONSIN PATH/SOAR CONFERENCE  
 APRIL 30 – MAY 1, 2024



LOCATION: UW - WHITEWATER

**Agenda**                      **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**                      UWW, University Center (UC) 259

TIME	SESSION	PRESENTER
7:30 – 8:30am	Registration, Breakfast, & Networking	
8:30 – 8:45am	<b>Welcome</b>	Jason Cram Wisconsin Department of Health Services
8:45 – 9:30am	<b>Keynote – Welcoming Wisconsin Home: Statewide Action Plan on Homelessness</b>	Mike Basford Wisconsin Department of Administration
9:30 – 11:00am	<p><b>1. SOARing Across Wisconsin: Implementing SAMHSA’s SOAR Model</b></p> <p>This session provides a brief Overview of SOAR and SOAR Process for PATH Providers, an update on Wisconsin outcomes and other data points, discusses SOAR Critical components, and how PATH Providers and other community partners can access SOAR training for staff. There will be an opportunity for Q&amp;A.</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Share the importance of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits, including income, health insurance, education and employment supports</li> <li>2. Offer opportunities for PATH Providers and other community partners to get involved with their state and local SOAR initiatives.</li> </ol>	Pam Heine SAMHSA SOAR TA Center
11:00 – 11:15am	Break & Networking	
11:15am - 12:30pm	<p><b>2. Healing Centered Engagement: Going Beyond “What Happened to You?”</b></p> <p>Healing Centered Engagement (HCE) is a new concept of dealing with those living with psychological trauma. HCE was first introduced by Shawn Ginwright, PhD, in 2018. HCE moves beyond trauma-informed care and the question "What happened to you?" HCE is a non-clinical, strengths-based approach that advances a holistic view of healing and recenters culture and identity as a central feature in personal well-being and healing from trauma.</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understand how trauma-informed care is incomplete.</li> <li>2. Gain greater understanding of how Healing Centered Engagement is a necessary next step in the evolution of trauma-informed care work.</li> <li>3. Begin to understand the principles of HCE.</li> </ol>	Scott Webb Wisconsin Department of Health Services

12:30 – 1:30pm Lunch & Networking

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1:30 – 3:00pm

**3. Working with People with Lived and Living Experience**

Steven Samra  
C4 Innovations

This session presents information and strategies for working with and integrating people with lived and living experience in PATH and SOAR programs. Across the U.S., health and human service agencies are hiring people with lived and living experience of homelessness, justice involvement, trauma, and behavioral health conditions. These individuals, sometimes called peers, can provide needed assistance and inspiration to people using services. This session, facilitated by a person with lived experience, will discuss the unique ways that PATH and SOAR programs benefit from people with lived and living experience and how to successfully integrate and support these individuals.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Provide three benefits of hiring people with lived and living experience into your program staff
  2. Discuss best practices for successfully integrating and supporting people with lived and living experience
  3. Explain how your organization and clients do or could benefit from integrating people with lived and living experience
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3:00 – 3:15pm

Break & Networking

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3:15 – 4:30pm

**4. Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) and Working with People Experiencing Homelessness**

Allison Weber  
Wisconsin Department of  
Health Services

Attendees will become familiar with the 15 standards: the principal standard and the three overarching themes. They will learn about the Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery's implementation of CLAS across the state and practice using the implementation plan and assessment tool. Attendees will brainstorm ideas for implementation of CLAS and possible scenarios which may occur in the field.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Understand the "Why" and "What" of CLAS
  2. Become familiar with the 15 CLAS standards
  3. Be able to troubleshoot possible scenarios in the field
  4. Understand assessment and implementation of agency's CLAS plan
  5. Understand how to successfully form a team for CLAS implementation in an agency
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4:30pm

**Adjourn**

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Agenda	Wednesday, May 1, 2024	UWW, University Center (UC) 259
7:30 – 8:30am	Breakfast & Networking	
8:30 – 10:00am	<p><b>5. Harm Reduction</b></p> <p>Harm Reduction is a term that means many things to many people, but fundamentally, it is a way of reducing an individual’s risks and promoting behaviors that support them in moving towards health and well-being. It also provides a framework to foster connection and trust, and to facilitate engagement in appropriate services. This session provides an overview of the “Five Pillars” of Harm Reduction, answers common questions about harm reduction approaches, and discusses PATH and SOAR related case studies that show when harm reduction approaches are used compared to non-harm reduction approaches.</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe the philosophy, principles, and practice of harm reduction</li><li>2. Explain the benefits of harm reduction approaches for individuals and communities</li><li>3. Understand how to put harm reduction approach into action</li><li>4. Identify high-risk behaviors and corresponding harm reduction strategies</li></ol>	Steven Samra C4 Innovations
10:00 – 10:15am	Break & Networking	
10:15 – 11:45am	<p><b>6. Addressing Stigma in Recovery Services</b></p> <p>Stigmas are negative social attitudes about perceived differences between people and groups. These may be based on a range of characteristics such as appearance, behavior, beliefs, social position, and background. Stigmas can cause debilitating shame and isolation and are one of the primary reasons people who live with substance use and mental health challenges do not seek treatment and other forms of recovery support. This session explores how and why stigmas are formed and equips participants to identify the root causes of stigma in themselves and others and implement strategies to resist, reduce, and eliminate stigmas.</p> <p><b>Learning Objectives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify and describe three types of stigma</li><li>2. Explain the interventions and courtesy stigmas</li><li>3. Explain the Backbone of Stigma and why it matters</li><li>4. Discuss the impact of implicit bias and why it matters</li><li>5. Discuss the importance of person-first language to reduce stigma</li><li>6. List at least two strategies for reducing stigma and bias</li></ol>	Steven Samra C4 Innovations

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11:45am –  
12:45pm      Lunch & Networking

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12:45 – 2:15pm      **7. Data Sessions**

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Room: UC259

**PATH Providers: PATH Data Collection**

Jon Cox  
C4 Innovations

This session provides detailed information about PATH data collection requirements, explores why data collection is important and how data is used, describes the relationship between HMIS and PDX, and equips PATH providers to collect accurate data from the point of initial client contact through client discharge.

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Room: UC266

**SOAR Providers: SAMHSA OAT (Online Application Tracking)**

Pam Heine  
SAMHSA SOAR TA Center

The OAT program tracks decisions of SOAR-assisted SSI/SSDI initial applications and appeals. It is FREE, easy to use, and is located on a secure server with no personally identifiable information. SOAR case managers can easily record their use of SOAR Critical Components and outcomes for their SOAR-assisted SSI/SSDI applications. Agency, Local, and State SOAR Leaders can monitor SOAR activity and run reports that can be used for quality review, sustainability, or training efforts.

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2:15 – 2:30pm      Break & Networking

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2:30 – 4:00pm

**8. Property Owner Engagement**

Jon Cox  
C4 Innovations

This session will focus on understanding the needs of property owners who rent to people who experience homelessness and behavioral health conditions and will discuss strategies for how to build a network of local property owners who are willing to rent to clients. Attendees will also learn how to support and maintain positive relationships with property owners.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe the needs of property owners who rent to people who experience homelessness and behavioral health conditions
  2. Name two strategies to build a network of property owners
  3. Explain best practices for supporting and maintaining relationships with property owners
  4. Discuss current strengths and weaknesses of your organization's property owner engagement strategies
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4:00 – 4:15pm

**Questions & Closing Remarks**

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**PRESENTERS:**

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**Michael Basford** was appointed Director of the State of Wisconsin Interagency Council on Homelessness by Governor Tony Evers in May 2019. Prior to his appointment, he was Associate Director at Housing Initiatives in Madison – an agency which provides permanent supportive housing for persons experiencing homelessness with severe mental illness diagnoses. At Housing Initiatives, he administered nearly \$1,000,000 annually of HUD Continuum of Care Rental Assistance and Supportive Services program funding – as well as assisted in the property management of 151 units in Madison. During his 13 years at Housing Initiatives, he helped house over 400 people experiencing homelessness in permanent housing.

Among his activities since joining the Evers Administration, Basford created the Wisconsin Eviction Data Project, the first-ever resource that provides monthly data on eviction filings and judgments listed per county, and produced “Welcoming Wisconsin Home”, an updated statewide plan on homelessness. Additionally, he has assisted communities and agencies all over Wisconsin in responding to the unique challenges to homelessness systems in the wake of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Basford grew up in Monroe and Madison, graduated from Madison West High School, and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His experience also includes serving on the City of Madison’s Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals and Dane County’s Homeless Issues Committee and Poverty Task Force. He lives in Madison with his two cats.

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**Jon Cox, BS**, has twenty-five years of experience working in homelessness, substance use, and supportive housing in the U.S. and United Kingdom. Jon leads the housing and homelessness technical assistance work at C4 Innovations that is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development. Jon has provided technical assistance to numerous HUD Continuums of Care, including Ohio’s Balance of State (BoS), a rurally-based Continuum of Care with over 80 counties, to design and implement rapid rehousing standards that reflect best practices. Jon also led the design and implementation of a diversion program with Ohio’s BoS Continuum of Care developed to complement their coordinated entry system. Over the past two years, Jon has worked with Dayton, Ohio and Georgia BoS Continuums of Care to integrate housing first principles across the spectrum of homeless services including emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and rapid re-housing projects as well as permanent supportive housing programs. Jon is a subject matter expert in recovery housing and responds to national technical assistance requests. He is currently providing technical assistance across numerous states including West Virginia, Texas, and Kentucky, supporting communities to increase recovery housing capacity and implement Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) protocols.

Prior to joining C4 Innovations, Jon was the planning manager for Georgia’s BoS Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Entitlement regions. He managed the Notice Of Funding Availability cycle, supervised the distribution of ESG funds, oversaw the expansion of the rapid rehousing program across 151 rural counties, and piloted a harm reduction case management program for permanent supportive housing throughout the state, expanding it to 10 locations within the first two years.

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**Pam Heine, MSW** is a Senior Project Associate for the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center and Wisconsin liaison for the last 12 years. Prior, she worked at Legal Services of New Jersey’s SSI Project for 12 years, representing nearly 1,000 adult and child recipients of public assistance with the Social Security Administration. From 2008-11, she represented individuals at the Administrative Law Judge and Appeals Council stages, achieving a 97 percent approval rate. Her years of experience in the areas of developmental disabilities, mental health, public assistance, and supported employment informed her work as a non-attorney representative. She is the TA Center’s content expert on using the SOAR model with SSI/SSDI appeals.

Pam has an MSW from Monmouth University as well as certification in Psychological First Aid (PFA), providing statewide training to first responders. Pam is responsible for production of TA Center Webinars.

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**Steven Samra, MPA**, provides virtual and onsite training and technical assistance across a cross-section of behavioral health and recovery, including peer support, leadership, and professionalism; expanding access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT/MOUD); stigma and bias reduction; rural substance use disorder and homelessness support strategies; criminal justice involvement, re-entry, drug courts, and trauma-informed corrections care; and cultural humility. After entering recovery in 1999 from homelessness, complex trauma, substance use, criminal justice involvement, and mental health challenges, Steven began medication-assisted treatment (MAT) in 2000 for a severe and chronic opioid addiction. He discharged from the MAT program under medical supervision on February 13, 2014, and has dedicated his career to assisting and advocating for marginalized, disenfranchised populations.

Steven currently serves on the Nashville/Davidson Metropolitan Strategic Planning Committee to end homelessness in Nashville, TN where he lives. He utilizes his experience as a person and parent in long-term recovery and his content expertise to deliver training through both a professional and a lived experience lens.

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**Scott Webb** is a trauma survivor himself who has worked in the behavioral health field for 38 years. His career has included clinical, administrative, and consultative work. He is currently the Trauma-Informed Care Coordinator at the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services. He holds a Master of Science in Education degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

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**Allison Weber** is the Multi-Cultural Coordinator at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in Madison, Wisconsin. She is the Project Manager for the Emerging Leaders program for diverse populations in the behavioral health field. She also represents the Bureau on DEI efforts and is the CLAS standards lead, facilitating training and planning. Allison spent a decade living abroad in Switzerland and Uruguay, experiencing living as an immigrant, and using her language skills in Spanish and German. She previously had been the Prevention Coordinator at DHS. She had been involved in substance misuse prevention activities for over 18 years beginning as a frontline provider in PA. She also was Director of Community Relations and Development at a large Latino non-profit in PA for many years working with criminal justice and re-entry, homelessness, community coalition building, and English as a second language instruction among other tasks. Weber served on numerous Boards of Directors and coalitions including serving as the County Health Improvement Partnership Chair, the Re-entry Management Organization Chair, the local Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC) Vice-Chair and on the Lancaster County Coalition to End Homelessness.

Allison has a B.A in Spanish and History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and lives in Madison, Wisconsin with her partner and her puppy.

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