

# Integrating SOAR within the Sequential Intercept Model

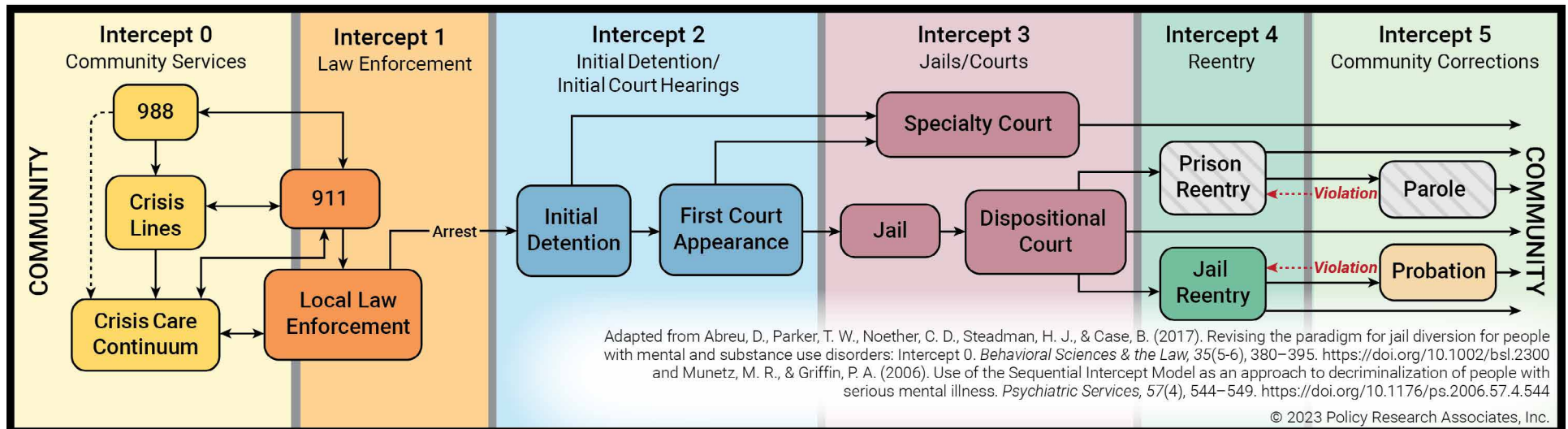
The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) model, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), increases access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness (SMI), medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) details how individuals with behavioral health conditions interact with the legal system. SOAR providers can use the SIM to divert individuals from the legal system and plan successful reentry.

Implementing the SOAR model in criminal legal settings shows promising results (Lupfer & Ware, 2019):

**71%**

71 percent of 731 initial SOAR-assisted pre-release applications were approved within an average of 99 days as of June 2024. Based on outcomes tracked in the SOAR Online Application Tracking (OAT) program.



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BEFORE ARREST →

← AFTER ARREST →

	<b>INTERCEPT 0</b> Community Services	<b>INTERCEPT 1</b> Law Enforcement	<b>INTERCEPT 2</b> Initial Detention/ Initial Court Hearings	<b>INTERCEPT 3</b> Jails/Courts	<b>INTERCEPT 4</b> Prison/Jail Reentry	<b>INTERCEPT 5</b> Community Corrections
<b>GOAL</b>	Connect individuals to a robust behavioral health care system, to prevent crises and reduce law enforcement interactions.	Divert individuals into local crisis care services and connect them with treatment instead of pursuing arrest or charges.	Divert individuals to community-based treatment during jail intake, booking, or initial hearings to prevent further legal system involvement.	Divert individuals to community-based services through jail or court processes to prevent the worsening of their illness while awaiting court.	Facilitate reentry into the community after jail or prison to reduce further legal involvement.	Prevent violations or offenses leading to another jail or prison stay through probation, parole, and supportive services.
<b>KEY PARTNERS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Police department staff, including social workers</li> <li>Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) teams</li> <li>Hospital staff</li> <li>Community support/care coordination agencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT), Critical Time Intervention (CTI)-trained staff, and behavioral health teams</li> <li>Hospital forensic units</li> <li>Mobile crisis units</li> <li>Homeless Outreach Teams (HOT) and Homeless Outreach and Proactive Engagement Teams (HOPE)</li> <li>Community Crisis Response Partnerships (CCRP) grantees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialty court officials</li> <li>Pre-trial service staff</li> <li>Jail clinicians</li> <li>Public Defender’s Office</li> <li>Prosecutor/State Attorney’s Office</li> <li>Treatment providers</li> <li>Probation officers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialty/problem-solving court officials</li> <li>Pre-trial service staff</li> <li>Jail reentry teams/discharge planners</li> <li>State/forensic hospitals</li> <li>Medical records staff</li> <li>Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reentry coordinators</li> <li>Community in-reach agencies</li> <li>Faith-based community partners</li> <li>Housing providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prison reentry unit</li> <li>Community reentry services</li> <li>Community corrections – Probation/Parole</li> <li>Housing providers</li> <li>Community-based services</li> <li>Co-occurring providers such as residential treatment facilities</li> </ul>

**Peers Can Enhance the SOAR Process at Every Intercept!**

<b>HOW CAN SOAR HELP?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide SOAR services in the community</li> <li>Engage with community partners to support SOAR implementation and expansion</li> <li>Collaborate with Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, crisis response centers, and mobile crisis teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify local workgroups serving individuals with legal system involvement</li> <li>Establish relationships with local crisis care services and law enforcement staff</li> <li>Attend meetings with CIT and CTI-trained teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss SOAR with arraignment court judges and pre-trial services</li> <li>Collaborate with public defenders and medical records departments</li> <li>Educate pretrial service staff (Sheriff’s Office or Department of Corrections [DOC])</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with intake coordinator to include relevant questions</li> <li>Collaborate with local SSA office to develop a pre-release agreement</li> <li>Engage organizations to assist with applications</li> <li>Explore benefits for those incompetent to stand trial</li> <li>Assist with applications while the person is in custody and highlight at court appearance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with DOC reentry teams</li> <li>Complete application before release and ensure follow-up</li> <li>Encourage remote access/telehealth for SOAR applications</li> <li>Establish a relationship with the medical records department and establish an MOU for receiving medical records</li> <li>Submit SSA applications up to 120 days before release</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish relationships with probation, parole, community reentry partners, and housing providers</li> <li>Develop a robust transition plan for Social Security disability applications including a “warm handoff” from urgent care or crisis units to SOAR specialists</li> </ul>
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**Educate about SOAR and discuss SOAR training across all Intercepts!**

**INTERCEPT 0**

Community Services

**Independent Management Services, Minnesota:** The Social Security Advocacy Supervisor, a SOAR provider, assists individuals with legal histories who struggle to maintain employment due to disabling conditions. They assist with applications to help stabilize income and prevent further legal involvement.

**INTERCEPT 1**

Law Enforcement

**Network 180 and HOT Collaboration, Grand Rapids, Michigan:** The HOT team in Grand Rapids comprises 2 peer recovery coaches, 2 police officers, and 2 firefighters. They work with the local Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team to monitor and assist people experiencing homelessness. They identify SOAR-eligible individuals and connect them with the SOAR supervisor at Network 180, where they provide disability application assistance. If contact is lost, the HOT team aids with maintaining contact and transport.

**INTERCEPT 2**

Initial Detention/ Initial Court Hearings

**Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services, Charlotte, North Carolina:** SOAR providers support diversion from re-incarceration by linking individuals to Social Security disability benefits and other services (e.g., housing, health care), reducing the likelihood of re-incarceration and recidivism.

**Marion County Mental Health Court Collaboration, Zero Hour Life Center, Ocala, Florida:** The Mental Health Court case manager refers eligible participants to SOAR specialists at Zero Hour for SSI/SSDI application assistance, aiming to secure stable income and housing before completing the court program.

**INTERCEPT 3**

Jails/Courts

**Sea Mar’s SOAR and Clark County Jail Community Connections Pilot, Washington:** Clark County’s SOAR team works with discharge planners and reentry teams, begins the SOAR application process while individuals are incarcerated, and coordinates referrals to essential services for post-release support.

**Eleventh Judicial Circuit Criminal Mental Health Project (CMHP), Miami, Florida:** CMHP diverts people with non-violent misdemeanors and behavioral health conditions into community-based treatment. Participants are transferred from jail to a community-based crisis stabilization unit. Legal charges may be modified or dismissed, and participants are linked to treatment and housing services.

**INTERCEPT 4**

Prison/Jail Reentry

**South Carolina (SC) DOC:** SC DOC offers SOAR in prisons to help eligible individuals access SSA disability benefits, aiming for approval before discharge, with referrals made by prison clinicians.

**Forensic Discharge Program (FDP), Virginia:** FDP provides SOAR workers from community service boards to assist with case management and SOAR applications 90 days before release and continue support post-discharge until claims are finalized.

**Jail Bridge Program, Zero Hour Life Center, Ocala, Florida:** The Jail Bridge program provides SOAR services in 5 county jails, assisting individuals with completing disability applications before release to secure benefits and housing.

**INTERCEPT 5**

Community Corrections

**Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) (Homeless Services – ICM Program), Austin, Texas:** DACC, a specialty court, works with the homeless outreach street team. DACC provides wraparound supports, including SOAR application assistance, linkages to stable housing, and resources to complete judicial requirements to prevent probation or bond violations.