

SOQIC

NEWS FLASH FOR FEBRUARY 2007

A PUBLICATION OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH OFFICE OF CLINICAL BEST PRACTICES

SOQIC DOCUMENTATION HAS A NEW HOME AT ODMH

By: Lon Herman, M.A., Chief,
Office of Clinical Best Practices

I am pleased to announce that the ODMH Office of Clinical Best Practices has been chosen to manage the promotion of the SOQIC standardized integrated medical records forms toolset in Ohio. Under the direction of the ODMH Medical Director, the Office of Clinical Best Practices promotes mental health workforce development, clinical best practices, efficiency, and wellness. For more info on the Office of Clinical Best Practices, click [HERE](#).

We are excited about SOQIC and opportunities to support its implementation throughout Ohio. While many challenges remain, a key goal is to build on the great work done to date and to sharpen the focus of the forms toolset to support high quality clinical care. With your help, we can make it happen.

Please read on and meet the new ODMH Manager of SOQIC; revisions to the SOQIC electronic forms; and a survey which is attached to the email designed to solicit your input as we move ahead together to improve quality and efficiency through the SOQIC integrated medical records initiative.



IN THIS EDITION...

What is SOQIC?

An Introduction to the New Coordinator of SOQIC

Updates/Changes to SOQIC

We Want to Hear From You!

WHAT IS SOQIC?

SOQIC is:

- An acronym for Solutions for Ohio's Quality Improvement and Compliance, a statewide initiative within the mental health system dedicated to improving quality, reducing costs, and ensuring compliance with federal requirements.
- A collaborative venture between the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) mental health boards, providers and clients. The primary objective was to design, develop and implement at the State, county Board and local Provider levels a standardized consumer-centered, compliant and cost-effective mental health delivery system.
- A standardized integrated medical records forms toolset that covers the entire treatment process from demographic information to transfer/discharge, including assessment, treatment planning and progress notes. The forms accommodate the various certification, national accreditation & Medicare/Medicaid compliance requirements, as well as all ODMH and ODADAS rules and standards.
- A strategy designed to transform service delivery and documentation and addresses three of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health goals:
 - Mental Health Care is Consumer and Family Driven
 - Excellent Mental Health Care is Delivered and Research is Accelerated
 - Technology is used to Access Mental Health Care and Information





**BREAKING
NEWS!**

MEET DANA HARLOW, ODMH'S NEW SOQIC MANAGER

SOQIC E-FORMS HAVE BEEN UPDATED

You asked for it. You got it. SOQIC e-forms have been updated to comply with all regulatory standards. The e-forms and the instructions on how to utilize these electronic forms can be found at:

<http://www.mh.state.oh.us/cmtymh/soqic/soqic.eforms.html>.

The SOQIC paper forms can be obtained at:

<http://www.mh.state.oh.us/cmtymh/soqic/soqic.paper.forms.html>.

The SOQIC forms were designed to provide a standardized and integrated documentation system for mental health and alcohol and drug treatment with the benefits of:

- Promoting recovery, actively engaging clients in their treatment process
- Simplifying paperwork: prompts on forms ensure completeness of documentation
- Improving clinical practice: forms facilitate the complete and accurate documentation of the client's condition, functional level and/or deficits, treatment goals and overall supports a service planning process that is person-centered
- Ensuring compliance with regulations and accreditation standards: ODMH and ODADAS, Medicare/Medicaid, JCAHO, CARF, COA
- Saving time by reducing redundant assessment processes and promoting same day or concurrent documentation

Dana Harlow, LISW, LICDC recently joined the Office of Clinical Best Practices and will be managing the SOQIC initiative. Dana has over 25 years experience in the behavioral health care field as an administrator and clinical supervisor. He recently served as manager of ODADAS' Division of Quality Improvement in which he coordinated with ODMH to ensure SOQIC standardized documentation compliance with certification standards. Please feel free to contact Dana at harlowd@mh.state.oh.us or by phone at 614-728-4673 with your requests and needs.



"I think SOQIC is a catalyst to improve the clinical care of clients within the community mental health system and I am excited about the opportunity to work with providers, Boards, consumers and other stakeholders to build upon the accomplishments to date," said Harlow.

Some other states are looking at Ohio's SOQIC example to develop their own standardized documentation system. Agencies adopting SOQIC are on the leading edge of improving the documentation of clinical care to better meet the needs of clients.

HELP US DO OUR JOB BETTER, TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF SOQIC

SOQIC implementation surveys have provided useful information about the impact of the use of SOQIC forms upon an agency's internal processes. As one provider indicated, the SOQIC process is an effective tool to bring together consumers and care providers by identifying and summarizing key treatment planning objectives.

On the other document attached to the email please take some time to complete a survey whether your agency uses SOQIC forms or not. In coming issues of this newsletter, we would like to feature SOQIC form users and have them share their experiences. Please let Dana Harlow know if you would be willing to provide your insight and experience to others through an upcoming newsletter.



For more information on SOQIC, please visit the SOQIC section on the Ohio Department of Mental Health web site at www.mh.state.oh.us/cmtymh/soqic/soqic.index.html or email Dana Harlow at harlowd@mh.state.oh.us.