

2019 Project Highlights



PRA Well-Being Launches Wellness Resources Page

PRA Well-Being has launched a new well-being and wellness resources webpage! The new page makes PRA's wellness-related tools, resources, and trainings accessible to the field on demand. Visitors can access podcasts, animated videos, fact sheets, journal articles, workbooks, and more on this new page. The resources are organized by topic area, such as identity and wellness, youth and young adults, and workplace wellness. Visit the **Well-Being webpage** to learn more and to download these free resources.



New Article Promotes Reentry Success with SOAR

The January/February 2019 issue of American Jails magazine published an article promoting reentry success through income supports and the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) model, written by PRA staff members. The article, "Promoting Reentry Success Through Increased Access to Social Security Benefits," explores how jails across the United States are implementing the SOAR model to connect individuals reentering the community who are at risk of homelessness to income supports. Read the **full article in American Jails magazine**.



Alamogordo Enhances Safety of Individuals in Crisis

Alamogordo, New Mexico, a site of the Bureau of Justice Assistance VALOR Initiative Law Enforcement and Community: Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Model Program, has implemented a new practice to enhance the safety of individuals experiencing a mental health crisis and responding law enforcement officers. Officers on the scene now call the CIT mental health lead to assist them in determining whether an individual should be brought directly to behavioral health treatment services or detention.



NCYOJ Launches Redesigned Website

To celebrate its brand transition and to better serve its stakeholders, the National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice (NCYOJ) launched a redesigned website! The critical components of the redesigned website are a streamlined resources library, which allows users to easily access NCYOJ's wide-reaching database of publications, podcasts, videos, and toolkits, and an enhanced Trainer Network, which provides certified trainers with the tools they need to deliver NCYOJ's trainings. Everything is just a click away on the **NCYOJ website**.



Joint Policy Academy Bolsters Criminal Justice Partnerships

In April, SAMHSA's GAINS Center and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge hosted a Policy Academy that encouraged partnership development between states and local jurisdictions to identify best practices and develop strategies for diverting people with mental and substance use disorders out of the criminal justice system and into community-based treatment. Sessions emphasized diverting and treating people with opioid and other substance use disorders and financing strategies to access state and federal funding for programs, services, and supports.



SMVF Conference Highlights Suicide Prevention Strategies in Rural Communities

SAMHSA's Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF) Technical Assistance Center convened the Coming Together for SMVF: Rural Community Approaches to Suicide Prevention conference in April. The conference supported participating VA/SAMHSA Governor's and Mayor's Challenge teams to further develop their strategic action plans with a focus on rural challenges and opportunities. Participants selected among sessions critical to rural communities, such as accessing behavioral health care, collaborating with faith-based communities, preventing substance misuse, and engaging tribal communities.

2019 Project Highlights



SOAR Looks Back on the Past 5 Years

In September 2019, PRA was awarded a new 5-year SOAR contract. As we plan the next 5 years, we're celebrating the accomplishments of the previous contract! Our achievements include launching the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum; providing feedback on 13,020 SOAR Online Course practice case packets; conducting 22 SOAR Leadership Academies; training 585 new SOAR Local Leads; hosting 414 virtual technical assistance (TA) events; and more! In 2020, the SOAR TA Center will be planning innovative virtual TA opportunities for stakeholders. View the **full accomplishments on SOARWorks**!



In September 2019, PRA hosted a *Trueblood* Diversion Services Summit as part of its work with the *Trueblood* Court Monitor's Office in Washington State. The purpose of the Summit was to assist with the implementation of Washington's diversion-services plan to expand jail diversion programs statewide. The Summit provided a national perspective on the diversion of individuals with mental illness away from the criminal justice system and the competence to stand trial evaluation/restoration process, shared information about diversion programs underway throughout the state, and provided ample opportunity for cross-community networking.



PRA Releases Suicide Prevention Icons to Promote Safe Messaging

In September 2019, PRA released a suite of nine icons that illustrate key suicide prevention concepts in a strength-based and recovery-oriented manner. These icons were developed in collaboration with experts in the field and address key concepts in suicide prevention work. These icons are available to the public for free use to promote positive, proactive, and safe conversations around suicide prevention. The icon suite and recommendations for use are available on the **PRA website**.



San Francisco Works to Reduce Wait Times for Inpatient Beds

As a result of its participation in the joint Policy Academy, the City of San Francisco is making strides to reduce wait times for inpatient beds at the state hospitals. San Francisco has revamped its processes of submitting required paperwork to the state hospitals by switching to an electronic-based system to admit individuals with behavioral health disorders more quickly. The joint Policy Academy was hosted by SAMHSA's GAINS Center and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge and focused on developing strategies for diverting people with behavioral health disorders out of the criminal justice system and into community-based treatment.



Colorado, Virginia Work to Enhance Care for SMVF

Through their involvement with the VA/SAMHSA Governor's and Mayor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among SMVF, the Commonwealth of Virginia and Adams County, Colorado (Denver), are taking action to enhance care for SMVF. Virginia has launched the Virginia Identify, Screen, and Refer Pilot to recognize SMVF, screen for suicide risk, and connect individuals to services. In Adams County, the County Veterans Service Office and the Denver Vet Center are working collaboratively to provide readjustment counseling and whole-body wellness services to local SMVF.



NCYOJ Provides Training on Effectively Working with Youth in Crisis

From October to December 2019, NCYOJ provided train-the-trainer events across the country using its cornerstone training curricula: Mental Health Training for Juvenile Justice and Crisis Intervention Teams for Youth. These two programs support professionals working with adolescents experiencing behavioral health and traumatic stress conditions in juvenile justice, school, and community settings. To learn more about these training opportunities, visit NCYOJ's **Trainer Network**.