



**PRISONS**  
**Health and Wellness Services**  
**Policies and Procedures**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Sexual Offense Accountability and Responsibility (SOAR)</b>			
<b>Section</b>	TX I - 18	<b>Issue Date</b> February 17, 2021	<b>Supersedes Date</b> New	<b>Next Review Date</b> February 2022

**References**

**Performance-Based Standards and Expected Practices for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition 5-ACI-6A-07, 5-ACI-6A-28(M), 5-ACI-6C-04(M); Sexual Offense Accountability and Responsibility (SOAR) Operational Manual; Prisons Policy Chapter A .1200 Mutual Respect and Collaboration**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Sexual Offense Accountability and Responsibility treatment program is multifaceted, including addressing and eliminating inappropriate and deviant sexual behavior, educating offenders on appropriate and responsible sexual behavior, and lowering recidivism rates of sexual offenses. These goals are to be accomplished through group- and individual-based cognitive behavioral therapeutic interventions, psychoeducation regarding responsible sexual behaviors and associated topics, facilitation of pro-social behavior, and a unit-based therapeutic milieu intended to reinforce comprehension, retention, and utilization of the knowledge and insight gained during treatment.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy applies to North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS), Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice (DACJJ), Prisons.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- (a) **Sexual Offense Accountability and Responsibility (SOAR)** – A designated unit-based behavioral health treatment program staffed by Behavioral Health Clinicians, support services staff, and custody staff tasked with implementation of the SOAR Operational Manual.
- (b) **SOAR Operational Manual** – A written manualized set of programmatic and systemic directives, objectives/goals, materials, multidisciplinary staff responsibilities encompassing any and all staff assigned to or working within SOAR.



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- (c) **SOAR Psychological Services Coordinator** – A Psychological Services Coordinator assigned to SOAR and specifically tasked with implementing and overseeing its clinical behavioral health operations and programming relative to the SOAR Operational Manual.
- (d) **SOAR Peer Counselor (PC)** – An offender who, following successful completion of the SOAR program, has agreed to and been selected by SOAR behavioral health staff for a role in assisting with the provision of SOAR treatment programming to current participants.
- (e) **Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)** – A designated group of Custody, Medical, and Behavioral Health staff within a given facility that shall meet weekly to discuss significant cases or issues within the facility, as per NCDPS Policy and Procedure A.1200 Mutual Respect and Collaboration.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (a) The Director of Behavioral Health shall direct the Clinical Programs Manager to develop and provide regular necessary updates to a SOAR Operational Manual. This manual shall be made available to all NCDPS prisons staff and shall include guidelines and directives for, at a minimum, the following areas:
  - (1) Eligibility criteria for potential offender participation; primarily, such criteria shall include conviction of a felony sexual offense.
  - (2) Referral and screening priorities and procedures for potential SOAR placement and accompanying required documentation, including bed utilization goals.
  - (3) Program elements including group-based psychoeducational modules, cognitive behavioral therapeutic programming and skill-building, individual clinical services, and related individual and/or group assignments or activities.
  - (4) Criteria for successful completion of or necessary removal from SOAR for any offender.
  - (5) Guidelines and systemic goals for transition planning following successful completion of SOAR.
  - (6) Staff training on an initial and repeated basis.



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- (b) The SOAR Psychological Services Coordinator (or designee) shall ensure that all treatment elements and bed utilization goals of the SOAR Operational Manual are appropriately implemented, including providing direct clinical behavioral health care to appropriate offenders.
  
- (c) The Warden (or designee) shall ensure that Standard Operating Procedures outlining facility operations and requirements supporting the execution of both the SOAR Operational Manual and this policy are developed, implemented, and updated as needed. Appropriate Behavioral Health Services staff shall be consulted when necessary. Each SOAR SOP must establish, at a minimum:
  - (1) The designated cells/beds specifically assigned for SOAR use.
  - (2) The designated treatment area(s) available for SOAR use.
  - (3) Protocols for SOAR offender movement, housing requirements, and property allotments.
  - (4) Expectations and responsibilities of custody staff assigned to SOAR, including escort and supervision of SOAR offenders. When supported by the SOAR Psychological Services Coordinator (or designee), this may include circumstances in which custody staff may be present for or participate in specified SOAR activities.
  
- (d) The Warden (or designee) and the Psychological Program Manager shall ensure that all staff assigned to SOAR are assigned primary responsibilities within SOAR. Such staff shall only be assigned additional or separate responsibilities under the following circumstances:
  - (1) Emergency or acute crisis.
  - (2) Circumstances under which the additional or separate responsibilities may be executed without interference with or neglect of the staff person’s primary SOAR responsibilities as described by the SOAR Operational Manual.
  - (3) Following the resolution of such circumstances described above, SOAR staff will resume primary responsibilities. This directive does not impact the responsibilities of staff working approved additional time beyond their primary work schedule.



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- (e) The Clinical Programs Manager shall provide operational oversight and program evaluation on an ongoing and as-needed basis for all behavioral health practices specific to SOAR. The Clinical Programs Manager shall further provide operational oversight of SOAR screening, admission, and transition/discharge processes. The Clinical Programs Manager is responsible for the completion and regular update of the SOAR Operational Manual.

**V. Operational Requirements**

- (a) The SOAR Psychological Services Coordinator, with necessary consultation and oversight by appropriate Behavioral Health Services management and the Clinical Programs Manager, shall be responsible for screening offenders referred to the SOAR program, in accordance with the SOAR Operational Manual.
- (b) Screening practices shall be utilized to ensure that cells/beds designated for SOAR use shall be occupied as soon as reasonably possible by offenders assigned to or selected for assignment to the SOAR program, as outlined in the SOAR Operational Manual
- (c) SOAR is a voluntary program; as such, screening practices shall include verification of the offender’s documented interest in SOAR prior to such placement. Once placed in SOAR, offenders will be asked to give written consent on a DC-947-SOAR prior to initiating programming.
- (d) Upon assignment to SOAR, designated offenders are to be housed in the necessary facility/unit with appropriate consultation with the SOAR Psychological Services Coordinator (or designee) and facility Warden(s) (or designee).
- (e) All offenders receiving programming in SOAR shall be given an appropriate SOAR Activity Assignment in OPUS until such time of successful completion or necessary removal. During such time, offenders are to receive therapeutic treatment and related programming as outlined by the SOAR Operational Manual.
- (f) All offenders selected for and assigned as SOAR PCs shall be given an appropriate SOAR PC Activity Assignment in OPUS until such time of discontinuation of PC role. Assignments to and discontinuation of SOAR PC shall be made with consultation from the Warden (or designee) and SOAR Psychological Services Coordinator (or designee).



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- (g) In instances wherein appropriate measures are necessary to ensure the safety and security of any NCDPS facility, the Warden (or designee) shall retain the right and responsibility to enact such measures including placing offenders in SOAR in Restrictive Housing, as per NCDPS Policy and Procedure C.0300 Restrictive Housing for Administrative Purposes and/or B.0200 Offender Disciplinary Procedure.
- (h) Unless assigned a status of Restrictive Housing by appropriate staff, no offender in SOAR is to be subject to the Conditions of Confinement associated with any status of Restrictive Housing, as per NCDPS Prisons Policy and Procedure C.1200 Conditions of Confinement.
- (i) Offenders assigned to SOAR and SOAR PC are eligible to earn appropriate Sentence Credits, as per NCDPS Prisons Policy and Procedure B.0100 Sentence Credits.
- (j) In instances wherein, bed utilization goals as described in the SOAR Operational Manual are not met, the Behavioral Health chain of command (i.e. Psychological Program Manager, Regional Assistant Director of Behavioral Health) and facility management (i.e. Warden [or designee]) are to provide appropriate consultation in efforts to achieve such goals. The Clinical Programs Manager shall serve in oversight of these processes as necessary.

**VI. Evaluation**

To ensure effective progress is made towards stated programmatic and systemic goals, a review of SOAR operations and services is essential. The Clinical Programs Manager shall maintain responsibility for oversight of collection and analysis of relevant outcome data respective of overall programmatic and systemic goals; further, the Clinical Programs Manager shall provide annual written reports on SOAR to the Director of Behavioral Health. Based on applicable findings from appropriate analyses, the Clinical Programs Manager, in consultation with the Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and Director of Behavioral Health, may implement systemic program amendments.

  
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 Todd Ishee  
 Commissioner of Prisons

02/17/2021  
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 Date