

SHC SOARS!

Community Housing Staff Obtain New Certifications



We are thrilled to announce that housing & services coordinators **Sylvia Hernandez**, **Rada Moss**, and **Shurie Seeley** as well as community services manager, **Marisia Martinez** have recently completed the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Certification Course to become accredited SOAR representatives for Supportive Housing Coalition. These staff join **John Gauthier** and **Erica Barbi** on SHC's SOAR WORKS Team.

Laura Chavez, director of community housing, has been certified since 2013. She now leads the SHC team as a New Mexico State Lead, which signifies SHC as a state Lead Agency.

Completion of this certification reflects these staff members' dedication to their own professional development and their commitment to providing as many supports as possible to SHC housing participants. It also makes SHC one of the most comprehensive SOAR providers in the state, with the greatest number of certified SOAR providers in one agency.

SOAR WORKS is a national program designed to increase 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, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

The program dovetails enormously well with SHC's mission to end homelessness for good. SOAR seeks to end homelessness through increased access to SSI/SSDI income supports, directly addressing the fact that in order to recover, people need a safe stable place to live. This is essential, and for many persons in recovery, accessing benefits is a first step.

New Mexico began implementing the SOAR model in 2009 and is one of four states showing the greatest reduction in the average number of days to a decision and is one of the top ten states with an average 82% approval rate. The New Mexico Coalition to End Homelessness (NMCEH) is the State Lead for SOAR. The NMCEH partners with local leads, such as SHC, in Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Santa Fe to coordinate regular SOAR Steering Committee meetings, recruit trainees, and organize SOAR trainings.

As a NM State SOAR Lead, Ms. Chavez works with other state leads, in partnership with NMCEH, to identify and implement SOAR outreach, train on updated protocols, attend regular meetings to collaborate with the SSA and DDS, recruit potential trainees, develop action plans, and access funding for and implement sustainability programs. Ms. Chavez is also responsible for data entry, analytics, and tracking outcomes.

SHC staff will provide SOAR services to participants in its rental assistance programs and at its low-income housing units at Downtown @700-2nd, Silver Gardens, and Chuska Apartments.

THANK YOU!

We are very grateful to the **ABQ Pickleball Club**. The group hosted an online fundraiser for SHC and raised nearly \$2,300!

We are honored that you chose us as the recipient of your fundraiser this year and are overwhelmed by your generosity.

Thank you for helping us end homelessness for good!



Every Day Heroes

Caught in the Act:

Alicia Morales



Here at SHC we work every day towards ending homelessness for good. We are proud that we have built a solid team of individuals that believe in providing New Mexicans with permanent and supportive housing. In this line of work, every day is different. Our participants have different needs and situations and we are happy to assist them on their journey to housing. It is incredible seeing how having a safe and secure home allows freedom to our participants. They no longer have to worry about where they are going to stay, they can focus on employment, family, and their health.

While every team member demonstrates their commitment every day, today we focus on **Alicia Morales**, senior property manager. Alicia has been with SHC for nine years as a property manager at Sunport Plaza Apartments. She was promoted to senior property manager last year and oversees the operations at SHC's apartment communities while, still managing Sunport.

Her commitment to and willingness to be involved in all aspects of SHC, from supporting our fundraising efforts to ensuring the individual success of all her tenants, has earned her the respect of the entire staff and the people she serves. Alicia is truly a leader and exemplifies SHC values in all she does.

According to **Charles Joslin**, director of housing development & asset management, "Alicia does great work and oversees all the properties and provides wonderful assistance to all our property managers. She is a great team player and extremely helpful to the success of SHC and our residents."

Alicia loves the gratification of housing someone and being able to provide them with a second chance. "I'm a firm believer that when people are provided with the basic necessities, such as permanent shelter, it is much easier for them to willingly want to seek help for themselves and easier for them to obtain a job or an education."

This commitment to housing is what motivates Alicia to work every day to ensure that participants are successful because she knows that housing is a basic necessity. "Throughout my years at SHC, through meeting people of all walks of life and hearing a variety of testimonies, I've concluded that life is challenging and your life can turn around in a matter of seconds. You may have society's definition of a "normal life", but something as abrupt and unexpected as a(n): accident, mental illness due to chemical imbalance, traumatic experience, disease, loss of a loved one, a job loss, etc. can lead you to losing everything. Despite the multitude of stigmas society holds, what people fail to realize is we are ALL susceptible to homelessness."

www.shcnm.org/donate

Strike Out Homelessness

We are "Playing It Safe!"

Find out how to participate in our signature community event for 2020!

www.shcnm.org/bowl

8th Annual "Play It Safe" **STRIKEOUT HOMELESSNESS Bowl-A-Thon**

presented by: **HINKLE + LANDERS**
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Grant News!

Thank you to all our 2020 corporate and foundation grantors and sponsors! We are pleased to announce grants from US Bank, Bank of Albuquerque, and #HalfMyDAF.

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