



Delivering Military-History-Informed care to Homeless Veterans and Navigating your local VA Health Care and Benefits System

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Presentation Overview

VHA Homeless Programs

- History
- Current

Review of Homeless Program Services

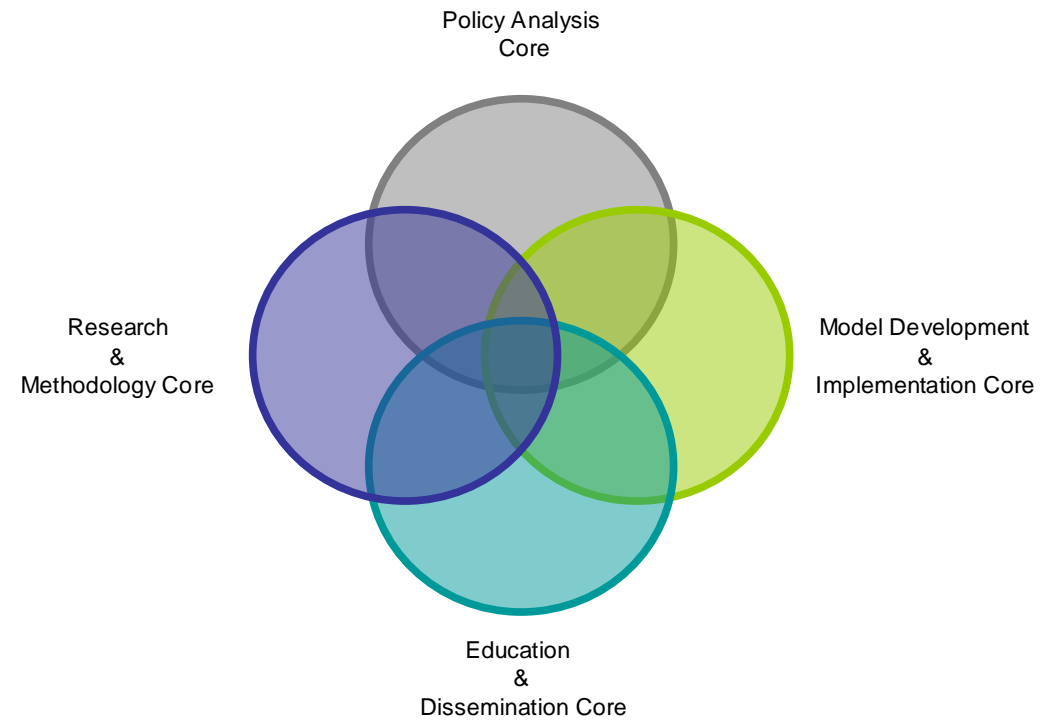
Program Principles

- Housing First
- Trauma Informed

Ending Veteran Homelessness

Opportunities and Linkages

Strategic Partnerships



Research and Evaluation

National Center on Homelessness among Veterans

Homeless Registry

- Identification, services, case management

Homeless Analytics

- National needs, gaps, forecasting, community and VA services

Screeener

- Assessment, identification, engagement

SSVF

- Services and program evaluation

Special Populations

- OEF/OIF, elderly, women, PTSD, chronic homeless

Risk, Mortality, Homeless Severity

Model Development

National Center on Homelessness among Veterans

Housing First

- Diffusion of practice; fidelity and site visits

Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (HPACTs)

- Health integration

Safe Haven

- Chronic, non-served or multiple service users

Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRCs)

- Portal, triage

Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT)

- Services enhancement

Telephone Continuing Care and Recovery Support (TCCRS)

- Alternative care and access

Synthesis

Model Development

Model Delivery

Support/TA

Overview – Homelessness and Veterans

Estimates from the HUD *2014 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)* indicate approximately 578,424 people experience homelessness on any given night.

The 2014 Point in Time Count, estimates there were 49,933 homeless Veterans on a single night in January 2014.

Indication that there has been a 33 percent reduction in Veterans homelessness since 2010.

Programs have provided services to over 260,000 homeless or at-risk Veterans through special homeless programs



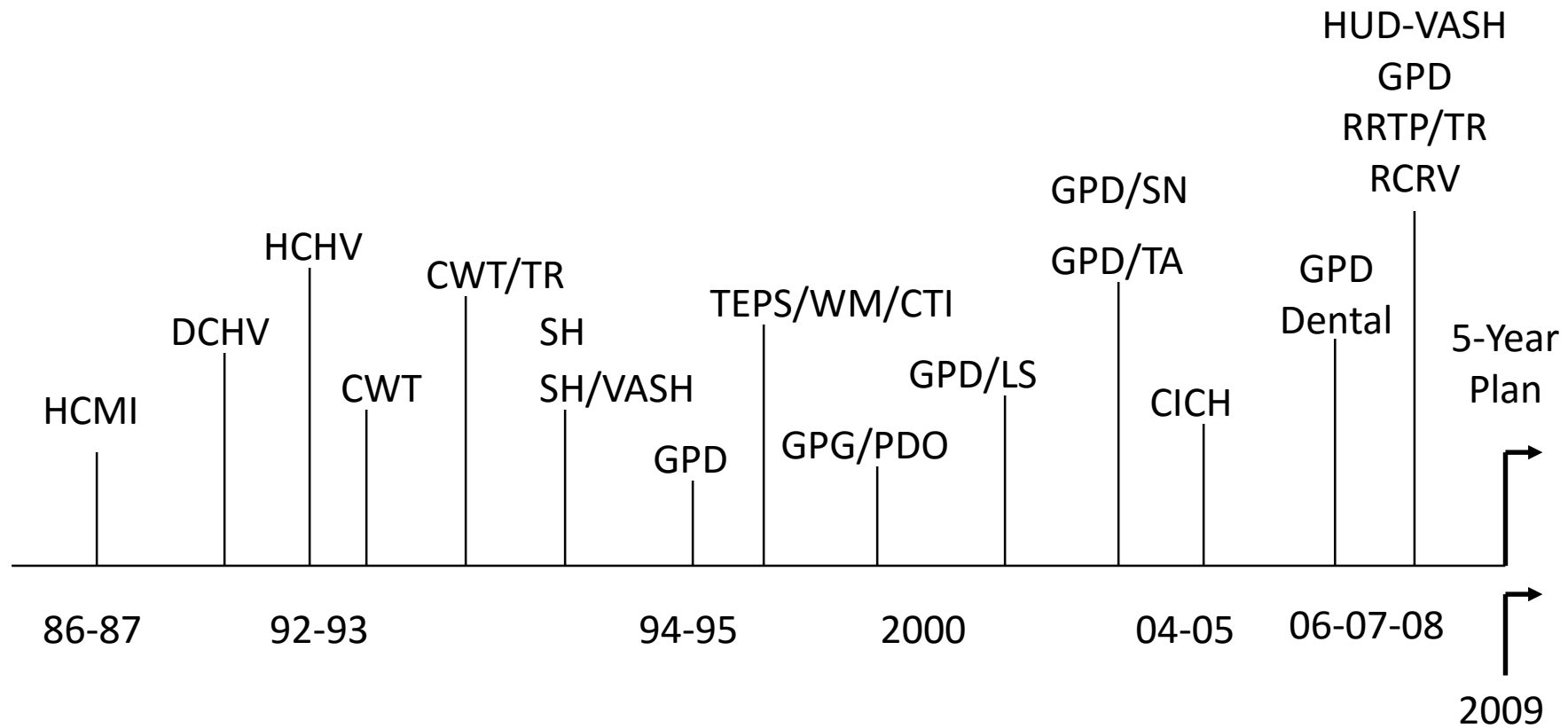
Outreach /Education Treatment Prevention Housing Employment /Income /Benefits Partnerships



Veteran Homelessness

- Poverty
- Unemployment/Economics
- Substance Use
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Domestic Violence
- Medical/Mental Health Issues
- Prior History of Incarceration
- Unsuccessful Transition from Military
- Family Decomposition
- Prior history of homelessness

VHA Homeless Program History



Overview – VA Homeless Programs

Permanent - HUD VASH

Prevention and rapid re-housing - SSVF

Bridge, transitional, and outreach - HCHV / DCHV / GPD

Immediate intervention and referral - Call Center

Outreach and services, justice involved - HCRV - VJO

Community engagement and enhanced access - Stand Downs

Addressing Identified gaps and innovative services - New Models

- HPACTs
- Safe Haven
- CRRCs
- Other

Overview – VA Homeless Programs

Select VA Homeless Program Metrics Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 through FY 2014

	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total number of Veterans served in specialized homeless or at-risk services.	157,182	208,115	259,734	264,827
Number of Veterans obtaining permanent housing during this fiscal year through VA Homeless Programs. (1)	18,597	34,877	42,716	53,475
Total number of beds available to homeless Veterans. (2)	55,885	68,738	79,800	80,178
Number of Veterans contacted through Health Care for Homeless Veterans outreach services.	98,213	119,568	146,557	158,553

1. Includes all exits to permanent housing from Compensated Work Therapy – Transitional Residence (CWT-TR), Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV), Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD), Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Contract Residential, and number of move-ins to

Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH).

2. Includes number of operational GPD, HCHV Contract beds, DCHV beds and HUD-VASH vouchers allocated at the end of each FY.

Continuum of Services and Special Populations

Typical community and VA services:

- Outreach
- Residential
- Rapid rehousing
- Prevention
- Services enhanced and infused
- Permanent housing
- Multi level case management

Special Populations:

- Women
- Elderly
- Rural
- Elderly

Principles

- Housing First
- Trauma Informed

Housing First

Philosophy vs Model

Housing First is an approach that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing services as needed.

What differentiates a Housing First approach from other strategies:

- an *immediate* and *primary* focus on helping individuals and families quickly access and sustain permanent housing.

This approach is consistent with what most people experiencing homelessness want and seek help to achieve.

Housing First

Housing First programs typically aim to:

- Reduce the length of time that veterans spend homeless or prevent homelessness for households at imminent risk;
- Increase the number of households who obtain permanent housing or the rate at which households obtain permanent housing;
- Increase the number of veterans who obtain needed supports to maintain their housing.

Housing First - Model

Model

- Services per veterans needs
- Team approach – team meetings
- Multi – disciplinary
- Home visits
- Outreach
- Persistence
- Housing is not contingent of services
- Tenant responsibilities remain

Trauma Informed Care

Approach:

- Realizing the prevalence
- Recognizing how trauma affects all individuals involved with the program, organization, or system
- Responding by putting this knowledge into practice

Trauma Informed Care

Homeless:

- 71% reported in homeless sample
- 20% seen in VA diagnosis of PTSD
- Responding by putting this knowledge into practice
 - Trust
 - Environment
 - Trauma informed fact sheet
 - <http://www.endveteranhomelessness.org/education/trauma-informed-care-working-homeless-veterans-fact-sheet>

Trauma Informed Care

Building awareness

- Providers
- Family
- Community groups
- Landlords
- Employers

Ending Veteran Homelessness

- USICH Criteria
 - Community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness;
 - Community no longer has any Veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness;
 - Community has resources and a plan and timeline for providing permanent housing;
 - Community has resources, plan, and system in place for continued efforts;
 - Community has adequate level of resources and appropriate plans to ensure housing stability.

Opportunities for Working with Veterans and Sustaining Services

Linking Services

- Networks (VISNs)
- VAMCs / CBOCs
- Vet Centers
- National Call Center
- Veteran Service Organizations
- County / State Service Officers

Leveraging Resources

- SSVF
- HUD VASH
- GPD
- HCHV

Developing New Models

- HPACTs
- Tele-Health

Opportunities for Working with Veterans – Linking Services

Linking Services

- Each VISN or Network - NHC (Network Homeless Coordinator):
 - <http://www.va.gov/homeless/>
- VA Medical Centers and VA Outpatient Clinics - Homeless Program Coordinators:
 - <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=1&isFlash=0>
- Many Vet Centers work closely with Homeless Veteran Programs and the community:
 - <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp?isFlash=0>
- Direct assistance and referral available at VA National Homeless Veteran Call Center:
 - 1-877-4AID VET (1-877-424-3838)
 - <http://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp>
- Veterans Service Organizations:
 - <http://www.va.gov/vso/>
- County or State Veteran Service Officers:
 - Contact local or state government

Opportunities for Working with Veterans – Leveraging Resources

Leveraging Resources

- Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF)
 - Grants for non-profit and community collaboratives for homeless prevention and rapid rehousing.
 - <http://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp>
- Department of Housing and Urban Development – VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)
 - Section 8 and VA staff - provides permanent housing and case management.
 - Contact local Public Housing Authority and VA Medical Center Homeless Program Coordinator.
- Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD)
 - Capital and operational funds for non-profits to provide transitional housing.
 - <http://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp>
- Healthcare for Homeless Veterans
 - Outreach, case management, and contracts with community-based organizations to provide residential care.
 - Contact NHC or local VA Homeless Program Coordinator.

