

MA Plan to End Veteran's Homelessness CoC's Role

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- The Boston HUD FO and CPD have partnered with the MA DVS, ICCH and the VA to create a plan to end veteran's homelessness in Massachusetts by 2015.
- Knowing that homelessness needs to be addressed at the local level, the COC's play a crucial role in the plan.
- HUD CPD chose to chair the partnership working group so that we could work with the COC's to adopt the plan.

How can the COC's help?

- Integrate VA efforts on homelessness more seamlessly into broader community efforts
- COC's have been working together to address homelessness at the local level since the 1990's
- COC's are ideally positioned to partner with local veterans providers to address veteran's homelessness using the collaborative approach that is already in place.
- Under the HEARTH Act, the COC's continue to develop a better coordinated assessment and housing placement system.

Coordinated Assessment System

- Looking for help with homelessness should not be a moving target.*
- A COC coordinated assessment system on the front door of homelessness and a responsive veteran provider network will provide more targeted, appropriate, and successful placements of vets.
- In many communities, the COC and the veteran providers have served homeless veterans on parallel tracks.**
- The COC partners with the Veteran provider network to build an inclusive centralized intake/assessment system for the homeless that includes intake and outreach to veterans.
- A centralized intake system linked to a COC veterans subcommittee can enhance the quality of client screening and assessment, and better target program assistance to where it can be most effective.***

COC Veteran Subcommittee

- Align the veteran provider system and the COC through a veteran's subcommittee structure within the COC.
- A veterans subcommittee within the COC will allow providers to determine who can serve the vet most effectively and efficiently*
- The structure looks different in every COC**

COC Veteran's Subcommittee

- Meet quarterly as part of the regular COC meeting so that busy providers do not need to come to an additional meeting
- The VA will provide a facilitator and agenda developer to support the subcommittee.
- Committee membership would include the traditional COC partners like the shelters and outreach and housing providers but would also include veteran providers who have not traditionally been part of the COC.

Insure thorough representation in the Veterans Subcommittee

- HMIS Lead
- Shelters
- Local VSO officers
- VA representatives
- Veteran providers
- SSVF providers
- Housing Authority
- Veterans
- Police
- Churches

Develop a community-wide list of homeless veterans

- Identify all homeless vets in the community
- The COC, shelters, and Veteran providers work together to create an inclusive list of homeless vets and set a target to reduce that number
- Keep an inclusive list of vets known to the shelters and outreach workers and review progress towards permanent housing
- Prioritize the list for the chronically homeless
- Discuss and target the appropriate housing interventions to those most in need*
- Assign provider to assist each veteran to attain and maintain housing
- Data sharing between HMIS and the VA**

Veterans Subcommittee Activities

- VA Needs assessment for your community – ask your VA Rep.
- Identify all homeless vets in community through data sharing with the VA
- Develop a provider resource list/referral system that includes all of the available resources
- Identify obstacles to placing veterans in VASH and other units
- Identify a plan to prevent additional vets from becoming homeless
- Participate in planning community events that educate homeless providers about VA resources and veteran providers about community resources
- Get political support

How can we help?

- CPD Representative , Cleonie Mainveille
- VA representative,
- Facilitate relations with key collaborators not yet in place. Steering Committee members can make personal calls to invitees if necessary