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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans Justice Program

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) & Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans (HCRV)

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VA is making a system-wide effort to ensure access to services for the justice involved veteran population at risk of homelessness, substance abuse, mental illness, and physical health problems

The VA – who are we?

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)

- All Health care services
- Medical Centers, Ambulatory Care & Community Based Outpatient Clinics

Veteran Benefits Association (VBA)

- All VA Benefits - VA Regional Offices
- Compensation & Pension, GI Bill, Home Loans, etc.

National Cemetery Administration (NCA)

- National and State Veterans Cemeteries
- Headstones , Markers & Presidential Memorial Certificates



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Justice Involved Veterans

A Justice-Involved Veteran is:

- Veteran in contact with local law enforcement who can be appropriately diverted from arrest into mental health or substance abuse treatment;
- Veteran in a local jail, either pre-trial or serving a sentence; or,
- Veteran involved in adjudication or monitoring by a court (probation)

VJO & HCRV Program

GOALS

- Reduce impact of medical, psychiatric and substance abuse problems
- Improve veteran's overall physical and mental status
- Increase employability
- Decrease crime and recidivism rates
- Prevent homelessness

VJO Initiative

The goal of the VJO program is to avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible justice-involved Veterans have timely access to VA mental health and substance abuse services when clinically indicated as well as other VA services and benefits.



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What is Veterans Justice Outreach

- VA outreach program which collaborates with local justice system partners to identify justice involved Veterans who are in need of treatment rather than incarceration
- VJO Coordinator works with local law enforcement to identify program appropriate Veterans and connect them with treatment services

VJO Assists with:

- VA health care enrollment
- Community treatment referrals
- VA treatment services and homeless programs



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HEALTH CARE REENTRY VISION

Veterans released from prison will have a successful reentry into their neighborhoods, strengthen their families and communities, and achieve an optimal level of psychosocial functioning.



Re-Entry

- Re-entry is the process of transition that individuals make from prison or jail to the community.
- VA re-entry planning assistance is supplemental to, not replacing, correctional re-entry planning processes.
- Following release, the role of VHA is to provide medically necessary services, which does not include legal custodial services.



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Why Re-Entry Planning?

“Reentry success or failure has implications for public safety, the welfare of children, family unification, growing fiscal issues, and community health. Our country’s high recidivism rates translates into thousands of new crimes committed each year, at least half of which can be averted through improved prisoner re-entry efforts.”

Rep. Robert Portman, R-Ohio

A critical part of HCRV is providing information to veterans while they are incarcerated so they may plan for re-entry themselves.



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Goals of HCRV Program

HCRV's goals are to prevent homelessness, reduce the impact of medical, psychiatric, and substance abuse problems upon community re-adjustment, and decrease the likelihood of re-incarceration for those leaving prison.

HCRV services include:

- Outreach and pre-release assessments services;
- Referrals and linkages to medical, psychiatric, and social services, including employment services and
- Short term case management assistance



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Health Care Re-Entry Specialist

- Outreach in correctional facilities
- Pre-release assessments
- Enroll veterans into the VA Healthcare system
- Request DD-214
- Referrals to medical, psychiatric, social services, employment services and community organizations
- Short term case management assistance



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Questions?