YES, IN MY BACK YARD - PUTTING VETERANS FIRST

2017 NCHV ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MAY 31 - JUNE 2
WASHINGTON, D.C.
PARTNERS To End Homelessness

The Home Depot Foundation is proud to support nonprofit organizations developing affordable housing for veterans through our Veteran Housing Grant program. For more information, visit thd.co/VHG.

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Welcome to Washington, D.C.

With a new Administration underway, we are excited to have you with us as we gather as a movement - focused on keeping momentum and progress moving forward to serve each and every veteran who is experiencing or may experience homelessness. A change in government leadership does not change what works, or what we as a coalition do to ensure our communities have a comprehensive system of services able to serve any veteran in crisis with targeted, individualized resources.

Our theme this year: Yes, In My Back Yard - Putting Veterans First, is meant to highlight that local efforts are even more important, as we prove the value of these efforts to not only the veterans we serve, but the communities we live in. This theme is also intended to highlight the need for a veteran-centric system of community services that support housing stability, and make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

As you partake in the offerings of the 2017 NCHV Annual Conference: Yes, In My Back Yard - Putting Veterans First, we ask that you share your knowledge, challenges, and successes; engage with our presenters and your peers; and discover new strategies, practices, research, and contacts that can benefit the work you do in your back yard. Thank you for the work you do, and thank you for joining us!

Citi is proud to be a longstanding supporter of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans in its efforts to end homelessness among veterans.

Citi Salutes® supports veteran servicing organizations and nonprofit partners dedicated to serving the men and women who have sacrificed for our country.

Learn more at CitiSalutes.com
### Conference Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution</td>
<td>Registration table opens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution B</td>
<td>Opening Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Constitution A</td>
<td>Federal Partners Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Constitution B</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Constitution CDE</td>
<td>Public Policy Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Constitution A</td>
<td>Employment and Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Constitution B</td>
<td>Community Experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Constitution CDE</td>
<td>Program Models</td>
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### Engage in Sessions Featuring the Nation’s Top Experts

#### Veteran Homelessness Among Veterans

**BRING IN THE TAC TEAM TO:**
- Help Grant & Per Diem (GPD) providers rethink program operations and strengthen community-wide efforts.
- Support Continuums of Care in ending Veteran homelessness based on federal goals.
- Bring best practices to Veteran-related community planning.
- Integrate VA resources, including HUD-VASH, GPD, and HCHV, into community planning.
- Provide expertise in affordable housing and voucher programs.
- Align Coordinated Entry mandates with the specific needs of Veterans.

Lead technical assistance provider for the VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families program. Technical assistance and coordination support for HUD’s Vets@Home initiative.

Visit us at www.tacinc.org

@TACIncBoston

#### Round Robin Table Topics by room are listed on page 10
## Conference Schedule

### Thursday, June 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Track Key</th>
<th>Session descriptions begin on page 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration table opens/Breakfast in Constitution Foyer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution A: VA’s Roadmap</td>
<td>Constitution B: Predicting Evictions from HUD-VASH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution C: HUD-VASH Coordination</td>
<td>Constitution D: Interventions that Impact Hospital Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution E: The Mission Model</td>
<td>Constitution D: Improving Housing Access for Homeless Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution F: Integrating Peer Support and Case Management</td>
<td>Constitution G: Predicting Evictions from HUD-VASH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Constitution C: HUD-VASH Coordination</td>
<td>Constitution G: Interventions that Impact Hospital Use</td>
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<td>Constitution D: Interventions that Impact Hospital Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Constitution F: Integrating Peer Support and Case Management</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Constitution F: Integrating Peer Support and Case Management</td>
<td>Constitution G: Predicting Evictions from HUD-VASH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>NCHV Awards Cocktail Reception</td>
<td>Constitution Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Annual NCHV Awards Ceremony</td>
<td>Constitution CDE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>NCHV Awards Celebration</td>
<td>Constitution AB</td>
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**Your Conference registration includes admission to the Annual NCHV Awards events on Thursday evening. Please join us to help honor and celebrate this year’s awardees!**
Friday, June 2
Conference Schedule

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Registration table opens/Breakfast in Constitution Foyer

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Constitution Ballroom
- Declaration A
- Declaration B

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Wilson/Roosevelt
- F3: Treating PTSD with Yoga and Meditation
- F4: HIV and Hep C: Testing, Treatment, and Prevention

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
Tiber Creek
- A10: Listening Session: Shaping Future Research
- D7: Financial Literacy and Planning: Tools for Stability

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.
Penn Quarter AB
- F1: Trends in Veteran Suicide: Causation and Prevention
- E6: Embedding Lawyers in Veteran Service Provider Organizations

Jericho Project is a proud member of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

Comprehensive services for veterans, including:
- supportive housing
- homelessness prevention
- mental and physical healthcare
- rapid re-housing
- employment and education programs
- individualized case management

Jericho Project is a 34-year-old, nationally acclaimed nonprofit organization working to end homelessness in New York City. With a 95% success rate in keeping clients stably housed, Jericho’s cost-effective programs serve thousands of individuals each year.

www.jerichoproject.org

SHARE
YOUR SUCCESSES,
CHALLENGES,
KNOWLEDGE, AND
EXPERIENCE
### Round Robin Tables Round 1

**Table Topics by Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constitution A</th>
<th>Constitution B</th>
<th>Constitution CDE</th>
<th>Penn Quarter AB</th>
<th>Declaration AB</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Employment and Income</td>
<td>Community Experts</td>
<td>Program Models</td>
<td>Health and Wellness</td>
<td>Legal Services and Community Partners</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Subtopics within Each Table Room**

- SOAR Benefits Processing
- Veteran Staffing Network
- Ticket to Work
- SCSEP
- IPS Supported Employment
- Employment First
- Geography and Employment
- SSVF as the Entry Point
- VETLink
- Mayors Challenge 2.0

### Round Robin Tables Round 2

**Table Topics by Room**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Constitution A</th>
<th>Constitution B</th>
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**Subtopics within Each Table Room**

- SOAR Benefits Processing
- Veteran Staffing Network
- Ticket to Work
- SCSEP
- IPS Supported Employment
- Employment First
- Geography and Employment
- SSVF as the Entry Point
- VETLink
- Mayors Challenge 2.0
Ruth Christopherson, Senior Vice President, Citi Community Development and Citи Salutes

Ruth Christopherson manages Citi Salutes, a company-wide initiative to support veterans, service members, and their families through dedicated programs, products, and partnerships. Citi Salutes serves the greater veterans community through career opportunities, collaborating with peer institutions, and partnering with leading veteran service organizations in the areas of employment, financial education, and housing.

She also serves as the Citi Community Development Market Manager for South Dakota, working with local nonprofits to create and support programs that ensure economic empowerment and growth for underserved communities in the Greater Sioux Falls region.

Christopherson is a 19-year veteran of Citi, holding a variety of previous positions including Financial Controller for Citi Global Technology, Director of Operations for Citi’s Student Loan Corporation and Managing Director of Mortgage Wholesale Originations for CitиMortgage in St Louis.

She returned to South Dakota and assumed the role of Chief of Staff for the SD Air National Guard prior to her retirement in 2008. She received her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Business Administration from the University of South Dakota. She currently serves as a director on four community and one advisory board as well as serving in numerous other volunteer activities.

John Ellington, Director, Finance and Grants Administration, The Home Depot Foundation

John Ellington is the Director of Finance and Grants Administration for The Home Depot Foundation. He is responsible for establishing and managing the collaborative strategies to implement the Foundation’s focus – working to improve the homes and lives of U.S. military veterans and their families.

Ellington joined The Home Depot in 2005 in the Assurance and Advisory Management Program, a two-year program designed to develop the future leaders of the Company. Since that time, Ellington has held roles of increasing responsibility across the Company’s corporate finance landscape in the functional areas of Financial Planning & Analysis, Store Operations, Merchandising Services, and Online Merchandising.

Prior to joining The Home Depot, Ellington spent four years at Ernst & Young in a variety of roles within their Atlanta office.

A native of the Acadiana region of southern Louisiana, Ellington graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Accounting and minor in Economics from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, GA. He proudly serves in The Foundation in honor of his late father, a veteran of the Vietnam War.

Session Descriptions

Round Robin Tables

In the Round Robin table sessions, you have the opportunity to speak directly with several of our Conference’s issue experts on the most pressing topics in your community. You can choose between several different themed rooms based on your area of interest.

In each room, you’ll find a series of issue experts at tables devoted to specific topics. Choose a starting table. You will have 15 minutes at this table before being given the option to rotate to a new table in the same room (although you can stay at your current table if you want to!). When the session ends, head into a new room to engage in a new theme. These interactive workshops are all about engaging in rapid-fire trouble-shooting with experts across disciplines, quickly learning about best practices, tools, resources, and strategies, and absorbing the energy of service-organization peers who have been successful.

We are asking Conference participants to stay in one room for the entire workshop time block, so choose your room in advance! If the room you enter is full, please have a second choice option as room capacity is limited and no standing room will be permitted.

Federal Partners Session

NCHV staff moderate a discussion featuring representatives from the Federal Agencies involved in the work of ending veteran homelessness. Hear directly from agency staff on what they are thinking about, and planning for, in the federal response to homelessness among veterans.

Representatives from the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and Health and Human Services, as well as a representative from the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness will all be on hand to participate in this discussion. Bring your questions; this is your opportunity to get answers from a cross section of the federal government all at once.

Public Policy Forum

This session will give you the latest on what is happening in Congress relating to veteran homelessness. We will discuss upcoming and current legislation that could impact your work, and the appropriations process that determines how much the federal government spends on homeless veteran programs.

We’ll also introduce you to and give updates on the NCHV Advocacy Team. Are you interested in helping advance...
Track A - Dive into Research: Hot Topics

Back by popular demand this track is designed to help you make the connection between research and practice. Expert researchers will be sharing the findings from some of the most groundbreaking and relevant research that impacts the veterans we serve to help us inform and rethink some of our ways of doing business. Get ready to work in each session participants will be expected to think through the practical implications of the research on homeless veterans and program operations. At the end of the session, NCHV staff will gather your verbal and written input to inform future products and resources. Major areas of research to consider are as follows:

A1: Predicting Evictions from HUD-VASH
A2: Connections between Healthcare and Expedited Housing Placement
A3: Interventions that Impact Hospital Use
A4: Shelter Status and Mortality
A5: The Mission Model: Integrating Peer Support and Case Management
A6: Opioid Use and Homelessness
A7: Food Insecurity
A8: New Findings from Ongoing Research: VA Homelessness Screening Clinical Reminder
A9: Legal Needs of Homeless Veterans: The Role of Medicolegal Clinics
A10: Listening Session: Shaping Future Research

Veteran Homelessness 101

Are you fairly new to working in the veteran homelessness and homeless prevention space, or are you bringing some new team members along? This training platform, Veteran Homelessness 101, led by NCHV’s TA Center, is back again by popular demand to help build a foundation in the history of our work, major programs and initiatives, and critical players working across the country to end veteran homelessness. If you have staff members who have joined your organization within the last year who could use this foundation, or you’ve promoted some staff members into management or leadership positions and want them to see the bigger picture, this training block is for them. This NCHV TA Center-led training will combine several interactive training platforms to help build informed advocacy and programmatic excellence out in your community. Make sure you get a seat in these sessions to put yourself on the right track to be among the next generation of leaders!

Track B - Creative Solutions: Community Spotlights

In this track of 30 minute mini-sessions, innovative community representatives from 15 communities will share specific practices they implemented to overcome hurdles, address barriers to care, or knock down silos to help veterans who are homeless or at risk connect to what they needed to get off the streets. These Community Profiles are designed to let you share what works with one another in less formal, faster-paced settings.

B1: Washington State: Leveraging Public and Private Partnerships in Rural Areas

Communities across the country are recognizing the importance of engaging and leveraging state and local government resources to effectively serve veterans. In this session you'll learn how the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs is collaborating with county government and the private sector to establish a comprehensive regional veterans' office to bring services to veterans in the geographically expansive and highly rural eastern part of the state.

- Cat Nichols, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

B2: Detroit: Women Veterans in Transitional Housing Programs

Mena Poole, Emmanuel House

This session focuses on Emmanuel House, the only agency that provides transitional housing for women veterans experiencing homelessness in Detroit. You'll learn how to create an environment of encouragement and empowerment; discuss specific interventions to transition women veterans to permanent housing; and hear from program staff about their experience working with women veterans.

B3: San Francisco: Using Roommate Matching to House Chronically Homeless Veterans

In many communities, high rental costs and low inventory lead to a scarcity of affordable housing. San Francisco is using a mainstream housing model – roommate matching – to house low-income veterans experiencing chronic homelessness in permanent supportive housing. A collaboration among the local Coordinated Entry Team, the city’s Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and Swords to Plowshares, the program uses Continuum of Care subsidies and focuses on veterans who do not qualify for HUD-VASH.

- Tramecia Garner, Swords to Plowshares
- New Mexico VA: Veterans in Housing: The Path to Permanent Housing

B4: New Mexico: Transitional Housing and Jail Diversion

Data suggests that veterans who enter GPD upon release from incarceration have similar success rates as those veterans who have not been incarcerated and may have fewer challenges adapting to the program. Learn how transitional housing and GPD programs can work with local and state prisons and jail systems to help veterans avoid prison or obtain early parole. The session will include a discussion of the core elements of successful jail diversion programs including outreach to prisons and jails, establishing relationships, and involving core partners.

- Fermin Ortega, New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers
- Elton Reiners, New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers

B5: Houston: Life Skills and the Path to Permanent Housing

For many veterans experiencing homelessness, supportive services can be the difference between a successful transition to permanent housing and a return to homelessness. In Houston, Asset Building Network, Inc., incorporates life skills into the Individual Service Plans of veterans we serve to help us inform and rethink some of our ways of doing business. Get ready to work in each session participants will be expected to think through the practical implications of the research on homeless veterans and program operations. At the end of the session, NCHV staff will gather your verbal and written input to inform future products and resources. Major areas of research to consider are as follows:

- Mena Poole, Emmanuel House
- Jerry Risher, Buffalo Valley, Inc.

B6: Madison, TN: Creating Permanent Supportive Housing

A creative combination of public and private funding that provides services and affordable housing for veterans with disabilities. In this session, staff from Buffalo Valley, Inc. will identify the key partners involved in the project and walk through important steps in the development process including planning, permitting, and financing. You'll also learn about the barriers and challenges the project faced and discuss the strategies used to resolve them.

- Deborah A. Hillin, Buffalo Valley, Inc.

B7: Virginia: Developing a Community-wide Coordinated System

This session will focus on the process of developing community-wide case conferencing to more effectively identify veterans experiencing homelessness, increase communication across housing and employment providers, and target resources successfully. In Virginia, Continuums of Care have established veteran-specific work groups to help in this process. Members of VetLink, the Richmond CoC work group, will identify strategies for developing a uniform, transparent, and veteran-centric process; share lessons learned for maintaining strong partnerships; and discuss how to effectively use data to measure system performance.

- Matt Leslie, Virginia Department of Veteran Services
- Desiree Taylor, Focused Outreach Richmond

2017 NCHV ANNUAL CONFERENCE
This session will provide a case study of HELP USA’s rapid re-housing program in New York City. A collaboration with the Human Resources Administration of New York (HRB) and the City University of New York, the program’s onsite clinical and holistic aftercare services for rapidly re-housed veterans led to increases in housing retention and quality of life for participants. Learn how to integrate permanent housing needs into case management, mental health and wellness, education, and employment services.

- Jahmila Vincent, HELP USA

B9: Decatur, IL: Assessing the Effectiveness of Day Centers

Day Centers have long been a fixture in the homeless services community, but are they effective in meeting the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness? This session will use the results of a 2016 study to explore the history, programming, and outcomes of the Oasis Day Center in Decatur. Learn about the benefits of drop-in centers and how they fit into the wider homeless services network.

- Diane Pleasant, Pleasant Counseling

B11: Western New York: Stand Down Success through VA/Community Partnerships

This session explores how to make Stand Down planning a collaborative effort between VA and community stakeholders. Learn how Western New York identified gaps in the process, navigated their relationship with VA, and changed the culture around Stand Down to create an inclusive and impactful event.

- Alex Lauer, Veterans One-stop Center of WNY
- Sean Lindstrom, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Alicia Sholtz, Department of Veterans Affairs

B12: New York City: Coordinating Aftercare Resources

The presentation will provide an overview of the efforts in New York City to develop a coordinated aftercare strategy for serving formerly homeless veterans living in the community. You'll learn how the CoC created the Veterans’ Task Force, discuss the role of public/private collaboration in aftercare, and review resources and tools developed in the first year of the project.

- Nicole Branca, NYC Department of Veterans Services
- Shambhavi Manglik, The Robin Hood Foundation
- Adam Wawrynek, Services for the UnderServed

B13: Minnesota: Speeding Up Rapid Re-Housing Placements through Community Partnerships

Is your community struggling to house veterans from the master list? Come learn how partnerships between, non-profits, city, state, and federal agencies are speeding up rapid re-housing placements in Minnesota. The presenters will share successful strategies including landlord outreach and engagement, and the development of an accelerator fund to place homeless veterans while obtaining program eligibility.

- Jorelle Glubke, Minneapolis VA Community Resource Center
- Nathaniel Saltz, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans
- Ben Wilson, MN Department of Veterans Affairs

B14: Niagara, NY: Creating Housing Solutions in Small Communities

Do you have veterans experiencing homelessness in your community, with little or no housing or services? Do you have ideas to create change and "fix" things? Do you get frustrated because you don't know where to begin? From brainstorming to execution, this presentation will discuss how to identify the problem; cut through the red tape; motivate involvement in your community, and create change.

- Jennifer D'Andrea-Terrer, S.E.R.V. Niagara

B15: Philadelphia: Lessons Learned from Achieving the Federal Benchmarks and Criteria

What happens after a community achieves the goal of ending veteran homelessness? In this session, you'll examine some of the key strategies used in Philadelphia to address veteran homelessness, discuss the lessons learned in the process, and explore how breakdowns in the systems are addressed. The presenters will also share their approaches for sustaining a functional end to veteran homelessness moving forward.

- Roberta Canelles, Office of Homeless Services
- Steve Culbertson, Consultant
- Toneh Williams, Office of Homeless Services

B16: Los Angeles: SSVF as the Entry Point

The flexibility of SSVF to engage veterans, collaborate, and deliver services makes it a natural access point for homeless veterans. Los Angeles boasts a unique partnership among its SSVF grantees, a group called the SSVF Collaborative. Through the Collaborative, agencies work together to enhance consistency in service delivery; improve communication; promote sustainable practices; and leverage resources to ensure no veteran is turned away. Learn how a similar approach could benefit your community.

- Joanna Bomba, L.A. Homeless Services Authority
- Craig Joyce, PATH

Track C - Efficient and Effective: Coordinating Programs

We can't program our way out of homelessness. It takes a coordinated community effort to create a sustainable system to serve veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness. These sessions take a deeper look at Grant and Per Diem, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, HUD-VASH, and how the future directions of these core programs can collaborate to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

C1: VA’s Roadmap

The federal goal to end homelessness among veterans necessitates a closely coordinated approach to ensuring all veterans have rapid access to permanent housing, and a spectrum of needed service connections to retain that housing and improve quality of life. Increasingly, local efforts to achieve these goals rely on close coordination among VA-funded programs targeted to homeless and at-risk veterans. This close coordination extends beyond the VA-funded program too, and is a hallmark of the system-oriented approach that focuses on cooperation and gap-filling between all of the associated federal programs. In this session, you will hear from and get to ask questions of the experts within VA who are using data-driven approaches to guide VA funding and resources to ensure veterans always have a safe and stable place to call home. You will also be a partner in a deep-dive conversation that will cover the big topics of the moment. What those topics will be is up to you.

- Keith Harris, Department of Veterans Affairs
- John Kuhn, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Jeff Quarles, Department of Veterans Affairs

C2: SSVF and HUD-VASH Coordination

The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program provides an invaluable permanent housing resource for any veteran who needs it. Likewise, the GPD program has a long and proven history of providing transitional housing that promotes veteran self-determination and permanent housing outcomes. The revamp of the GPD program offers new opportunities for innovation and collaboration across programs to help move veterans quickly into permanent housing and accommodate veteran choices.

- Anne Dunn, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Keith Harris, Department of Veterans Affairs
- John Kuhn, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Jeff Quarles, Department of Veterans Affairs

C3: SSVF and HUD-VASH Coordination

Coordination between programs is critical to maximize the use of limited resources and end veteran homelessness. SSVF and HUD-VASH are programs whose services can complement one another in order to provide a more comprehensive set of services to veterans in need. This workshop will discuss the most effective ways to integrate community planning, assessment, and resource allocation across the two programs. You’ll also learn more about allowable and non-allowable forms of collaboration through innovative collaboration examples from communities.

- Molly Allen, Department of Housing and Urban Development
- John Kuhn, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Theresa Pittman, Department of Veterans Affairs

C4: Effective GPD Models

Grant and Per Diem (GPD) programs across the country provide a valuable connection point and service center for veterans making the transition out of homelessness. In December, VA issued a re-application process to revamp the program by focusing on five new models: Bridge Housing, Low Demand, Respite Care, Clinical Treatment, and Service-intensive Transitional Housing. In this session, VA experts will explain these new models and discuss how this change will increase GPD’s capacity to meet the needs of local communities, now and over the long term.

- Anne Dunn, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Jeff Quarles, Department of Veterans Affairs

C5: Health Care for Homeless Veterans

VA’s Health Care for Homeless Veterans program is a critical component of VA’s efforts to serve homeless and at-risk veterans. Come to this session to learn more about the variety of services, such as outreach, stand downs, contract residential beds, and Community Resource and Referral Centers, or CRRCs provided by HCHV. Find out how this program can coordinate with and complement local community efforts to provide permanent housing to homeless veterans.

- Eileen Devine, Department of Veterans Affairs
C6: Low Demand Model Development Initiatives in VA Homeless Programs

VA’s Low Demand model development initiatives are designed to engage chronically homeless veterans who have fared poorly in traditional homeless programs. In this session you’ll discuss the best practices and lessons learned from implementation of these innovative models in VA’s Homeless Programs and will learn how to implement similar changes in your programs.

• Roger Casey, Department of Veterans Affairs
• Paul Smits, University of South Florida
• M. Scot Young, University of South Florida

Track D - Return to Work and Income Growth

For veterans exiting homelessness, long-term stability requires both housing and income stability. In this track of sessions, community providers, partners from DOL-VETS, and Veteran Service Organization (VSO) representatives will share creative and successful strategies to help you build robust and sustainable employment services into your community planning. You’ll also learn how to ensure the veterans you work with access the benefits they have earned. Go home ready to engage local employment partners in your effort to end homelessness for all veterans!

• Roger Casey, Department of Veterans Affairs
• Paul Smits, University of South Florida
• M. Scot Young, University of South Florida

D3: Ticket to Work for America’s Veterans

This presentation spotlights the Social Security Ticket to Work program, which provides free, voluntary employment support services to individuals aged 18 through 64 who receive Social Security disability benefits and want to work. You’ll learn how it’s possible to work and still receive monthly Social Security payments and Medicare or Medicaid. We’ll also debunk the three biggest myths about disability benefits and work; share success stories of veterans who participated in the Ticket program; and discuss how to become an Employment Network service provider for the Ticket to Work program.

• Mike Greenberg, MAXIMUS
• Sheriene Knox, Operation: Job Ready Veterans

D4: Veteran-Centered Employment Programs

Experts in this session will help you develop employment programs that put the needs of veterans first. Learn how to prioritize job-seekers’ interests and preferences while meeting the needs of employers. Discover the importance of individualized case management that addresses the sociodemographic, psychological, and clinical needs of homeless veterans and promotes self-empowerment and independence. Participants will also learn how to foresee employment trends and use that knowledge in planning their programs.

• John Briggs, Ohio Valley Goodwill Industries
• Henry McAllister, Friendship Place
• Demarcus Rodgers, Aletheia House

thanks and salutes the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans for your vital work to galvanize and coordinate community support to so many veterans in need
D5: Creating a Geographically Focused Employment Strategy
Location, location, location . . . nothing is more important in the life of a veteran experiencing homelessness. Clients are moving quickly through temporary housing to apartments, often on different sides of town. Follow-up of clients is being extended, often up to a year or more. Training resources and jobs that work for the sheltered phase of their lives may not be sustainable in the permanent housing phase. This interactive workshop will look at the development of training and employment strategies using a geographical perspective of clients’ lives. Each component: training, transportation, employment, and housing must be considered to promote client success.
• Dee Albilton, Fast Forward
• Brenna Bernardin, Fast Forward

D6: Integrating SOAR with VA programs: Success from the Field
Social Security disability benefits are critical sources of income for veterans with disabling mental or physical health conditions, and lead to increased housing stability and improved healthcare outcomes. SS/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR), is a federal program sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to increase access to disability benefits among people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This presentation will describe best practices for SOAR implementation including collaboration with SSVF, HUD-VASH and other VA programs and integration with Veteran Treatment Courts.
• Jenn Elder, PRA Inc.
• Brandon Pippins, Community Resource and Referral Center, Department of Veterans Affairs
• Sam Strike, Friendship Place
• Lauren Waldt, Health Care for the Homeless Maryland

D7: Financial Literacy and Planning: Tools for Stability
Although unemployment rates have decreased significantly in the last five years, many veterans are still struggling financially, living paycheck to paycheck or borrowing heavily to cover living expenses. This cycle leaves many veterans and their families vulnerable to crisis, and limits their ability to save and plan for the future. Traditional workforce development programs provide job training and placement assistance that focus on short-term income generation. In this session you’ll learn how creating an integrated approach that emphasizes improving credit, increasing income, and building assets can lead to long-term financial stability for veterans.
• Mike Palumbo, United Way of Central Maryland
• Ray Pennie ClearPoint

D8: IPS Supported Employment and Homelessness
This session will discuss the evidence based model of supported employment called Individual Placement and Support (IPS). IPS focuses on practice principles that support a person obtaining and sustaining work in an environment that is both competitive and meets the job seeker’s needs and expectations. Learn how employment specialists individualize job search strategies, use creative job search strategies, and work with people who are homeless. Be prepared to join in the conversation and participate in a fun activity as well! After participating in this session, you will be able to start implementing the model at your own agency.
• Stacey Teegardin, Colorado Department of Human Services

D9: HVRP Deeper Dive: A Listening Session with DOL-VETS
Over the past year, DOL-VETS has initiated a process to review the strengths of the current HVRP program, assess alignment with other programs serving homeless veterans, and identify opportunities for improvement. Come prepared for a deep-dive discussion with DOL-VETS staff on program elements such as service population, program structure and performance, service delivery, data collection, and reporting. Don’t miss this unique opportunity to share your ideas and ask questions.

E2: Removing Criminal History Barriers for Homeless and At-Risk Veterans: The Success of State Level Criminal Justice Reform
Criminal histories create serious barriers for veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness, who are seeking stable housing and employment. This session will discuss pre- and post-conviction options, and other strategies to reduce barriers for veterans with criminal justice involvement. Presenters will discuss the current state of local laws governing the sealing of records, and how to make meaningful policy change to improve state laws.
• Holly Harris, US Justice Action Network
• Brock Hunter, Brock Hunter Law
• Sarah Catherine Walker, MZA Company

E3: Bankruptcy, Bad Credit, and Consumer Debt Defense
This hands-on session will equip advocates, case managers and providers to assist clients with managing consumer debt and responding to debt collection. Presenters will tell you what you need to know to assist your clients and how to connect to appropriate resources. This session will also cover free access to credit reports and your right to challenge incorrect or incomplete credit reports as well as when to consider filing for bankruptcy and where to turn for help.
• Tony Camill, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
• Renato Izquieta, Legal Aid

E4: Legal Services at Stand Down: Courts and Civil Legal Assistance
Panelists will discuss how to address criminal legal matters and child support issues onsite at Stand Down along with how to address civil legal issues. Panelists will also discuss how to develop initiatives to provide legal services in rural areas.
• Steve Binder, San Diego Public Defender
• Sara Sommarrstrom, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

E5: Child Support
Speakers will discuss how advocates, case managers, and providers can effectively engage the local Office of Child Support Enforcement, where to find legal assistance in your community, and how to help your client when your client doesn’t have a lawyer. Topics will include arrears

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management, forgiveness programs, and other tools and strategies.

- James Murray, Department of Health and Human Services
- Sara Sommarstrom, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

E6: Embedding Lawyers in Veteran Service Provider Organizations
Panelists will discuss innovative programs such as Medical-Legal Partnerships that identify and serve veterans in need of legal services through holistic partnerships with hospitals, housing providers, and other venues. Participants will learn what makes these partnerships effective, how to foster similar relationships with key stakeholders, and ultimately how to develop a framework for replicating similar programming in their communities.

- Lara Elhard, Department of Veterans Affairs
- Rose Carmen Goldberg, Swords to Plowshares
- James Heaton, Legal Aid
- Keith Hoffman, NY Legal Assistance

Track F - Health and Wellness: The Whole Veteran
Mental, physical, and emotional health are all key ingredients in overall health and well-being. The sessions in this track focus on different services, trends, demographics, and strategies that acknowledge the different experiences and needs of each individual veteran. Has serving vulnerable populations is a challenge - equip yourself to improve or enhance the services that you offer. If you're looking to implement creative, strategic, veteran-centric services in your community, this track offers the best in serving "the whole veteran."

F1: Trends in Veteran Suicide: Causation and Prevention
The suicide rate among veterans is more than double that of the general population. Discovering the factors that contribute to suicide among veterans is essential in assessing individual risk and developing prevention efforts. This workshop will review emerging data from suicide autopsies on the causes of veteran suicide, identify warning signs, and discuss risk assessment and management with an emphasis on implementing trauma-informed care and cultural competency techniques in your housing program.

- Paula Clamour, Neighborhood Legal Services of L.A.
- Paul Freese, Neighborhood Legal Services of L.A.
- Robert Stohl, U.S. VETS
- Dr. Kathleen West

F2: Harnessing the Power of Peers
Peer programs are based on the belief that people who share a common experience can, by virtue of their understanding, facilitate recovery and/or self-sufficiency in others. The unique character of military culture and the veteran experience allows peers to connect in ways that non-veterans cannot. This connection often results in positive impacts that ripple beyond the initial client. In this session you'll explore the benefits of incorporating peers into your service model and discuss how to successfully engage peers in your outreach and support services.

- Matthew Havniear, Columbia Care Services
- Rev. M.A. Sempai, Berkeley Food and Housing Project
- Natalie Siva, Berkeley Food and Housing Project

F3: Creative Treatment Models
One size does not fit all when it comes to serving veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Agencies need to adapt their service delivery model to build trust and meet the individual needs of each veteran. This session will explore creative approaches for addressing mental health, substance abuse, and trauma issues. You'll also learn strategies for serving non-VA eligible incarcerated or justice-involved veterans.

- Lena Asmar, New England Center and Home for Veterans
- Tony Harris, Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health
- Carl McKnight, L.A. County Department of Mental Health
- Carston Warner, RHD

F4: Serving Minority Veterans
The recent dramatic decreases in the population of veterans experiencing homelessness notwithstanding, demographic data shows that the majority of homeless veterans live in urban areas. This data also suggests that African American veterans are overrepresented among veterans experiencing homelessness. This session will provide an assessment of homelessness among black veterans, explore the connection between urban and minority veteran homelessness, and review promising practices in serving minority veterans.

- Ron Armstead, Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust
- Ralph Cooper, Cloudbreak Houston

F5: Women Veterans: Ongoing Barriers and Challenges Faced Post-Military
This session will provide an in-depth look at women veterans including who they are and the specific challenges some face. You'll explore how challenges common to women veterans can influence their likelihood of experiencing homelessness. You will also identify how challenges related to homelessness — access to shelter, incarceration, trauma, and suicide risk — are experienced differently by women veterans.

- Romain Barnett, Catholic Charities
- Angel Garmon, Catholic Charities
- LaShondra Jones, Catholic Charities
- Mathilda Montgomery, Catholic Charities

F6: Seven Dirty Words You Can Never Say in Person-Centered Practice
Comedian George Carlin was a master of saying the things others refused to say, famously outlining “Seven Dirty Words You Can Never Say on Television.” How often do we refuse to say the things that need to be said within our programs? Do we claim to be person-centered in our approach but use words to describe the people we work with that are demeaning, deficit-focused, or cast blame? This entertaining, TED-style workshop will demonstrate how language and the stories we tell impact our perceptions of the people we serve and the services that we provide. Participants will also be encouraged to tell their own stories and find ways to highlight strengths and resilience in their narratives.

- Ben Cattell Not, Friendship Place

F7: Treating Post Traumatic Stress with Yoga & Meditation
Many veterans returning to their communities experience Post Traumatic Stress (PTS), anxiety, or depression. For these veterans, having strategies to manage mental health symptoms can increase stability in housing and daily activities. Traditional models of treatment that include therapy and prescription medications are often insufficient. In this session you’ll learn how yoga and meditation can complement traditional methods and improve mental and physical health for veterans suffering from PTS.

- Ian Cohn, Volunteers of America Colorado

F8: HIV and Hepatitis C: Testing, Treatment and Prevention
VA is the largest provider of Hepatitis C and HIV care in the United States. This presentation will provide an update on VA’s efforts to treat and care veterans with Hepatitis C and improve screening, treatment, and prevention of HIV. You’ll also learn strategies for testing veterans in the community and linking them to appropriate medical services regardless of eligibility for VA medical care.

- Reggie Dunbar, POZ VETS USA
- Lorenzo McFarland, Department of Veterans Affairs

Track G - Get Results: Using Data in Community Planning
We know that serving veterans in your program is your priority, but tracking your progress can help your community decide how close you are to achieving the federal benchmarks and criteria for ending veteran homelessness. Data will also help you understand what steps you still need to take, and what you need to ensure long-term system stability. In this track, you’ll learn strategies for assessing how well you are integrating resources into a community-focused network and how able your system is to provide affordable housing resources for all veterans who are accessing (and will access) your system. Learn more about the development of the Federal Benchmarks, the Federal Benchmarks review process, how to create a by-name list, and how to assess your community’s progress.

G1: Rapid Re-Housing Standards
This workshop will give attendees an overview of the core components of successful rapid rehousing programs, including best practices for housing identification, rental assistance, and case management. You will also learn about effective landlord engagement, effective housing...
navigators, and how to determine the right amount of rental assistance in programs. This workshop will also provide an overview of best practices in housing-focused, rapid re-housing case management, including guidance on strength-based approaches.

- Samantha Batko, National Alliance to End Homelessness
- Matt White, Abt Associates
- KO Campbell, Community Solutions
- Linda Kaufman, Community Solutions
- Elisha Harig-Blaine, National League of Cities
- Sean Terry, New England Center and Home for Veterans
- Shannon Green, Council on Accreditation
- Chapman Todd, Community Solutions
- Emily Gargiulo, Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Anthony Love, Department of Veterans Affairs

G5: Building a Solid By-Name List

More than two thirds of the communities in Built for Zero (BFZ) currently have a quality veteran by-name list, 40 percent of which were developed in the past six months. In this session you will learn about the tools that the BFZ team developed to evaluate by-name lists and define a quality threshold. This session will map the journey of communities in reaching that threshold and ensuring confidence in their ability to pull real-time data including the number of actively homeless individuals at any given time, inflow (i.e. newly identified and returns to homelessness); and outflow (housing placements and inactive). BFZ will discuss the lessons learned from 46 communities that have built a quality veteran by-name list, identify common challenges, and share promising practices.

- Meghan Arsenault, Community Solutions
- KO Campbell, Community Solutions

G6: The Mayor’s Challenge to End Homelessness 2.0

Since its inception, the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness has seen more than 880 local elected officials publicly commit to the goal of ensuring all veterans have a place to call home. With new leadership in Washington, join this session to learn how federal agencies and national partners are continuing their work to ensure local elected officials remain committed to the goal of veteran homelessness being rare, brief, and non-recurring.

- Elisha Harig-Blaine, National League of Cities
- Linda Kaufman, Community Solutions
- Joshua Stewart, NCHV

G7: Community-wide System Assessment and Improvement

This session will review the processes and practices that support community wide System Assessment and Improvement. The foundation for this work has been built through ongoing, locally driven technical assistance and is captured in a recently published System Assessment and Improvement Toolkit, a comprehensive document designed to lead communities through the process of assessing system opportunities and gaps and implementing action-oriented plans for improvement. This toolkit is applicable to any veteran-related community planning efforts as well as other homeless populations. This session will highlight the practices and processes outlined in the toolkit, and offer insight on how a system assessment effort can help move communities toward meeting the Federal Criteria and Benchmarks for Ending Veteran Homelessness.

- Doug Tetrault, TAC
- Matt White, Abt Associates

G8: Accreditation: Is it Right for Your Program?

Accreditation is both the process of validating a process, program, or organization against a set of quality standards and the status of achieving those standards. Accreditation often provides organizations with competitive advantage and a means for ongoing quality improvement. This session will feature two leaders in accreditation, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and the Council on Accreditation (COA). You’ll learn about the benefits of accreditation and discuss each organization’s basic accreditation process.

- Shannon Green, Council on Accreditation
- Pete Hathaway, CARF

For more information on our programs, visit www.bvsj.org

Black Veterans for Social Justice provides “tender loving care and a listening ear” to all veterans, their family members, and the community to ensure that the transition from Military to civilian life is made easy.

Proud to support the 2017 NCHV Annual Conference

2017 NCHV ANNUAL CONFERENCE
The 2017 Annual NCHV Awards

Thursday, June 1 - Proceedings begin at 5:30 p.m.

All Conference participants will be provided with one drink ticket good for one cocktail, wine, beer, or soda during the Cocktail Reception or Awards Celebration. A cash bar will also be available.

Thomas Wynn Sr. Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement
Awarded to a person whose career reflects an exemplary devotion to bringing attention and services to homeless veterans.

Outstanding Member Award
Awarded to the NCHV member that has demonstrated leadership in coalition building.

Meritorious Service Award
Awarded to a person who exemplifies service to NCHV, its members, and homeless veterans in general.

Unsung Hero Award
Awarded to a person who has contributed to the recognition of the homeless veteran issue in a supporting or unrecognized leadership role.

Federal Agency Staff Award
Awarded to a Federal Agency staff member who has exhibited a strong commitment to the service of homeless veterans.

Public Policy Award
Awarded to a public policy partner who has displayed a strong commitment to advancing legislation that serves homeless veterans.
The Jerald Washington Memorial Founders’ Award

The Jerald Washington Memorial Founders’ Award is the highest honor bestowed in the homeless veteran assistance community. The award honors the memory of Jerald Washington, former organizer of veteran assistance programs in Florida and Tennessee, and a co-founder of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. The award is presented to an individual who embodies the spirit of service and sacrifice displayed by Washington throughout his career, and acknowledges that person’s special place in the history of the homeless veteran assistance movement.

Jerald “Jerry” Washington returned home to Tennessee from the Vietnam War and dedicated the remainder of his life to teaching and serving veterans, especially those who were experiencing difficulty readjusting to civilian life after serving in combat. He taught political science at the University of Tennessee and Sul Ross University in Texas, but he will be remembered most for his work to help homeless veterans.

Washington proudly served as one of NCHV’s leaders from the organization’s founding in 1990 until he died in 2001. He established Base Camp Inc., in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Veterans Community Leadership Corporation in Jacksonville, Florida. He served as president of Vietnam Veterans of America-Tennessee Chapter, and of the Northeast Florida Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Inc., in Jacksonville. During his term of service, NCHV grew from 16 community-based organizations to a coalition of hundreds of service providers and Federal partners reaching across America. He was driven by his unconditional devotion to all of this nation’s veterans in need, and remains an inspiration to all who knew and served with him.

2002 Eileen Conners, U.S. Department of Labor
2003 Raymond Boland, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
2004 Thomas Wynn Sr., Center for Veterans Issues
2005 Linda Boone, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
2005 Peter Dougherty, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
2006 Rep. Lane Evans, House Committee on Veterans Affairs
2007 Charles “Chick” Ciccolella, U.S. Department of Labor
2008 Mark Johnston, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
2009 President Barack Obama
2010 Secretary Eric Shinseki, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
2011 Secretary Shaun Donovan, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
2012 President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama
2013 Peter Dougherty, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
2014 The Home Depot and The Home Depot Foundation
2015 First Lady Michelle Obama and Second Lady Jill Biden
Leroy Acosta, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans

Leroy Acosta, a service-connected disabled veteran of the Marine Corps, was appointed Assistant National Legislative Director of the nearly 1.3 million-member DAV on Aug. 12, 2015. From the DAV National Service and Legislative Headquarters located in Washington, D.C., he works to support and advance federal legislative goals and policies of DAV to assist disabled veterans and their families as well as guard current veterans benefits and services from legislative erosion.

Acosta joined DAV’s professional staff as a trainee and national service officer in 2005 in San Diego. He was promoted to assistant supervisor there in 2007. In 2012, he was transferred to supervise in Oakland, California, where he served until his appointment to the national legislative staff.

Dee Albritton, Executive Director, Fast Forward

Dee Albritton is the Executive Director of Fast Forward. She has worked with the homeless for over 25 years. She has written, received and managed 50+ grants. She has presented at more than 25 national, regional, and local conferences.

Her articles: “The Changing Role of Technology in the Employment Process” and “Creative Responses to Critical Problems” were featured in Solutions Magazine and she has been published in CTCNet and PC Teach It magazine.

Molly Allen, Housing Program Specialist, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Molly Allen is a Housing Program Specialist in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program at HUD. She is a lead on the HUD-VASH program and other homelessness initiatives within the HCV program. Prior to her current role, Allen was a Program Analyst in the HCV program - monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on key programmatic data points. Before coming to HUD, she was a Research Associate at the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development in Atlanta where she worked on projects such as large-scale community redevelopment plans. Allen received both her Master’s of City and Regional Planning and her BS in International Affairs and Economics from Georgia Tech.
Ron E. Armstead, Executive Director, Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust

Ron E. Armstead, is the Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust (CBCVB), located in Washington, D.C., and a former consultant to the late Secretary Jesse Brown’s Veterans Administration’s Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. He has served as Executive Director of the CBCVB since its inception in 1988. First under Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY), a decorated Korean War combat veteran, next under Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL), former Ranking Member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and currently under Sanford Bishop, Jr. (D-GA), Ranking Democratic Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Military Families Caucus, and Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Co-Chair of the Congressional Homeless Caucus. Under his leadership the Veterans Braintrust has expanded from its small core group to become one of the premier forums for policy debate and discussion between veterans of African descent and representatives of government in the country.

Meghan Arsenault, Data and Performance Management, Community Solutions

Meghan Arsenault works as Improvement Advisor, Data and Performance Management, for Community Solutions. In this role she works directly with communities to build and improve systems to end homelessness. She is part of the Built for Zero team, where she works intensively with local partners to push toward the goals of ending veteran homelessness using data-driven interventions, focusing specifically on the development and implementation of by-name lists. Arsenault holds a Bachelor’s degree from Boston College and a Master’s from Columbia University.

Lena Asmar, Director, Veteran 360 Behavioral Health Programs, New England Center and Home for Veterans

Lena Asmar, MSW, LICCSW, has more than 15 years of experience working with people who are diagnosed with substance use and mental health disorders. Asmar is the Director of the Veteran 360 Behavioral Health Programs at the New England Center and Home for Veterans. She oversees several programs that provide direct services to veterans who have experienced homelessness, many who are diagnosed with mental health and substance use disorders. These programs support veterans in meeting their self-identified goals to move towards dignified independent living. Previously, she was the Senior Director of Program Administration at the AIDS Action Committee of MA, overseeing a variety of programs, which provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS or hepatitis C. She serves as adjunct faculty at the Simmons College Graduate School of Social Work. She teaches and designed the online curriculum for the course “Addictive Drugs and Social Work Practice.” She received a Master of Social Work, with a certificate in Urban Leadership, from Simmons College and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts.

Romaine Barnett, Veteran Liaison and Community Relations Manager, Catholic Charities

An 11-year Navy veteran, Romaine Barnett is a mother of six adults, a grandmother of five, and an advocate for women. Over the past several years, she has worked tirelessly to provide service and support to veterans and has recently joined the Women Veteran Services team of Catholic Charities, as the Veteran Liaison and Community Relations Manager. She brings with her a wealth of experience in assisting veterans to obtain VA benefits and coordinating outreach initiatives. Barnett is a skilled marketer and is currently working to help raise awareness about and expand program reach for the special population of women veterans. She is driven by her passion to help inspire and empower other women to discover their own greatness.

Samantha Batko, Director, Homelessness Research Institute, National Alliance to End Homelessness

Samantha Batko, Director of the Homelessness Research Institute, leads the research arm of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. In that role, she monitors trends in homelessness, homeless assistance, and at-risk populations; identifies and promotes promising local practices; and translates research to improve homelessness policy and practice. Batko also serves as the co-chair of the Alliance’s Research Council. Prior to this position, Batko focused on crafting policy and identifying promising programs that end homelessness for unaccompanied youth and young parents as a member of the Alliance’s policy team. She also served as the Alliance’s lead staff person on issues affecting survivors of domestic violence. She has previous experience helping state and local governments, communities, and nonprofits design and implement rapid re-housing/Housing First systems and programs.

Joanna Bomba, Veteran Services Coordinator, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

Joanna Bomba is the first Veteran Services Coordinator of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), a joint powers authority created by the City and County of Los Angeles. Working to end homelessness since 2011, she has supported the design, growth, and implementation of Los Angeles County’s Coordinated Entry System (CES). Since joining LAHSA in 2016, Bomba has focused on ensuring programs across the county are coordinating efforts and resources, gaps are identified and filled, and data is used to improve the system. Bomba holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Therapeutic and Community Psychology from Point Loma Nazarene University.

Nicole Branca, Asst. Commissioner & Senior Advisor, Housing and Support Services, NYC Department of Veterans’ Services

Nicole Branca is the Assistant Commissioner and Senior Advisor for Housing & Support Services at the newly created NYC Department of Veterans’ Services (DVS).

Since joining DVS in August of 2015, Branca has developed an innovative peer-to-peer model, hiring five exchange veteran peer coordinators to assist homeless veterans in finding affordable housing that meets their needs; created the citywide housing supply plan to end veteran homelessness; stood up a coordinated center for affordable housing referrals; and is currently working to establish an aftercare system to ensure that the veterans that we’ve housed stay housed.

Prior to joining DVS, Nicole was Deputy Executive Director at the Supportive Housing Network of New York. At the Network Nicole led city, state and federal policy and advocacy initiatives to support and expand supportive housing - permanent, affordable housing tied to onsite social services for homeless and at-risk individuals and families.

John Briggs, Ohio Valley Goodwill

John Briggs is a Vietnam veteran who started one of the first HVRP programs (1993), in Cincinnati. His expertise includes veteran employment, data mining and statistical analysis, veteran relationships, writing grant proposals, and other fields. He has been a speaker for VA, DOL, HUD, and many times for NCHV. He was the Jobs Development Professional of the Year in Cincinnati, and has received the Unsung Hero Award (2011), and the Meritorious Service Award (2016) from NCHV.

Brenna Bernardin, Program Director, Fast Forward

Brenna Bernardin received her Master’s in Public Health from the University of South Carolina. Her research and practicum centered on veterans, specifically homeless veteran food insecurity. She is a program director at Fast Forward, where she has worked for 10 years with groups including: homeless veterans, special needs adults, and children.

Steve Binder, Deputy Public Defender, San Diego Office of the Primary Public Defender

Steve Binder is a deputy public defender with the San Diego Office of the Primary Public Defender, where he has practiced since 1988. He co-founded the Homeless Court Program (HCP) in 1989, at Stand Down, and the Veteran Treatment Court (VTC) in 2011. He represented the first VTC participants to receive Restorative Relief under Penal Code 1170(h)(6) in California. He authored a grant request for Dept. of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance funding for the HCP. Binder has received many awards for his work. In May 2013, he received the Thomas Wynn St. Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement from the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. In November 2009, he received the VA Secretary’s Award for Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans from Eric Shinseki in Washington D.C. He is a Special Advisor and former Chair to the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty. He serves on the Judicial Council Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee for the Judicial Council of California.

Olivia Christina Bush, Program Director of Women Veterans Services, Catholic Charities

On July 7, 2007, Olivia Christina Bush developed The Lotus Project for Women Veterans program to empower female veterans to rebuild their lives after military service. The program recognized the need to create affordable housing options for homeless female veterans and their children due to the increasing number of women veterans experiencing unemployment and homelessness. In partnership with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, The Lotus Project was awarded half a million dollars by HUD to provide housing for chronically disabled and homeless female veterans and their families.
As the Program Director of Women Veterans Services at Catholic Charities, she is working hard to increase awareness of the issues female veterans encounter and empower them to live their best life.

KO Campbell, Improvement Advisor, Community Solutions

KO Campbell works as an Improvement Advisor for Community Solutions. In this role she works directly with communities to build and improve systems to end homelessness. She is part of the Built for Zero campaign team, where she leads the cohort of communities who have already achieved a by-name list in their work to end veteran homelessness. She also recently worked on the by-name list cohort with Meghan Arsenault. Campbell holds a Bachelor’s degree from Pomona College and a Master’s degree in Social Work Administration from the University of Michigan.

Paula Clamurro, Attorney, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County

Paula Clamurro, MSW, JD is a staff attorney at Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA) providing direct and indirect representation to low-income veterans under the Veteran’s Initiative, helping them access VA benefits and other legal and holistic supports. After practicing law in the areas of code enforcement and general civil litigation, she obtained a Master’s in Social Work from California State University Long Beach in 2015. Prior to joining NLSLA, Clamurro managed a veteran supportive housing program (SSVF) that provided financial relief and case management services to homeless and at-risk veterans. In addition to practicing law, she volunteers weekly at the Suicide Prevention Center Crisis Line for those who are contemplating suicide or experiencing other hardships.

Ian Cohn, Lead Veterans Specialist, Back Home, SSVF – Veterans Services Division, Volunteers of America Colorado

Originally from upstate New York, Ian moved to the Denver area in 2013 to serve in AmeriCorps with the “I Have a Dream” Foundation and to explore further his passion for the outdoors. Since then, Cohn has been working closely with the Volunteers of America (VOA) Colorado Branch first serving seniors in their Meals on Wheels Program and eventually transitioning to the Veterans Services Division. For the past year and a half, Cohn has been working with VOAA’s SSVF Back Home program which strives to end veteran homelessness in the greater Denver metro area as well as provide a myriad of services to help those experiencing homelessness obtain a sense of stability.

Steve Culbertson, Consultant, Self Employed

Steve Culbertson was the Director of Veterans and Housing Programs at Impact Services Corporation in Philadelphia, PA from 2006 to 2017. Culbertson was the co-chairperson of the successful efforts to “Effectively End” Veteran homelessness in Philadelphia which was certified by USICH in December 2015. He is also the co-chair of the City of Philadelphia’s Continuum of Care Board of Directors and has advocated for the pivot from effectively ending veteran homelessness to effectively ending chronic and youth homelessness in Philadelphia. Culbertson has a background in affordable housing development and has been advocating on behalf of homeless people and distressed neighborhoods in Philadelphia since 1990. He has a Master’s degree in City Planning form the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor’s degree in Religious Studies from Brown University. He is currently a consultant.

Ralph Cooper, Community & Residential Veteran Services Coordinator, Cloudbreak Houston, LLC

Ralph Cooper is Community & Residential Veteran Services Coordinator of Cloudbreak Houston, LLC, the largest developer of housing for homeless veterans in the nation. President of Brewco Business Enterprises located in Houston, Texas; and past Executive Director of Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, Inc. (VBC) in Roxbury, Massachusetts, a non-profit agency. VBC provided a wide range of services to all veterans and their families especially veterans of color from the Greater Roxbury area of Boston. Cooper is a co-founder of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

Jennifer D’Andrea -Terreri, President & Founder, S.E.R.V. Niagara

Growing up a military brat, Jennifer D’Andrea experienced a way of life that helped her recognize the needs of military families and veterans, well after she moved away from the base. In 2002, she founded S.E.R.V. Niagara as a nonprofit S.E.R.V. Niagara. S.E.R.V. Niagara’s mission is to S.E.R.V. – Support, Empower, and Respect, Veterans and their families.

Steve Culbertson, Consultant, Self Employed

Steve Culbertson was the Director of Veterans and Housing Programs at Impact Services Corporation in Philadelphia, PA from 2006 to 2017. Culbertson was the co-chairperson of the successful efforts to “Effectively End” Veteran homelessness in Philadelphia which was certified by USICH in December 2015. He is also the co-chair of the City of Philadelphia’s Continuum of Care Board of Directors and has advocated for the pivot from effectively ending veteran homelessness to effectively ending chronic and youth homelessness in Philadelphia. Culbertson has a background in affordable housing development and has been advocating on behalf of homeless people and distressed neighborhoods in Philadelphia since 1990. He has a Master’s degree in City Planning form the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor’s degree in Religious Studies from Brown University. He is currently a consultant.

Ralph Cooper, Community & Residential Veteran Services Coordinator, Cloudbreak Houston, LLC

Ralph Cooper is Community & Residential Veteran Services Coordinator of Cloudbreak Houston, LLC, the largest developer of housing for homeless veterans in the nation. President of Brewco Business Enterprises located in Houston, Texas; and past Executive Director of Veterans Benefits Clearinghouse, Inc. (VBC) in Roxbury, Massachusetts, a non-profit agency. VBC provided a wide range of services to all veterans and their families especially veterans of color from the Greater Roxbury area of Boston. Cooper is a co-founder of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

Jennifer D’Andrea -Terreri, President & Founder, S.E.R.V. Niagara

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Eileen Devine, National Director, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs

Eileen Devine is a licensed clinical social worker who has worked for VA since 2003. Her VA work has included direct clinical practice with veterans experiencing serious mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance use disorders, and homelessness. She was previously the homeless program manager at the Portland, Oregon VA Medical Center before spending four years as the VISN 20 Network Homeless Coordinator which covers Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. She has spent the last three years working in VHA’s National Homeless Program Office – first as the National Program Manager for the Community Resource and Referral Centers and then more recently transitioning into the role of National Director of Healthcare for Homeless Veterans this past summer.

Darrin Dorsett, Program Analyst, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Darrin Dorsett is a Program Analyst in the Office of Public and Indian Housing, Office of Housing voucher Programs at the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). His work at HUD focuses on the Housing Choice Voucher program, HUD-VASH, and the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program. Prior to joining HUD, Dorsett worked with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and a national consulting firm, providing technical assistance to elected officials, nonprofit organizations, and state and local governments on range of affordable housing and community development programs. Dorsett has a Master’s in Urban & Regional Planning.

Bev Ebersold, Director of National Initiatives, U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

Bev Ebersold has extensive experience building local partnerships with state and local governments and has held leadership roles in supportive housing development and service design, delivery, and coordination. Her background includes capacity building and technical assistance with HUD grantees, strategic planning and restructuring of Continuums of Care, and convening stakeholders to
promote the alignment of resources for persons experi-
encing homelessness, with an emphasis on developing 
dependent permanent supportive housing. Ebersold has a Master’s degree in Social Work from Wayne State University.

Lara Elhardt, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs

Lara has served as VA’s Special Advisor on Veterans’ Access to Legal Services, and Advisor to the White House Legal Aid Inter Agency Roundtable. As an attorney in VA’s Office of General Counsel (OGC), she advises on veterans’ benefits law, VA accreditation, and facilitating legal services to veterans. In 2016, she co-founded VA’s Department-wide Medical Legal Partnership Taskforce, and has presented on veterans’ legal needs at the Nation-
al Medical Legal Partnerships Summit, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Conference, VA’s Veterans Justice Programs National Training Center, VA’s Law Forum, and at law schools with veterans’ legal clinics. She also serves as VA’s Pro Bono Liaison, establishing the first ever Pro Bono Policy in her office in 2014 to al-
low attorneys to volunteer their time for legal aid. Elhardt graduated with Honors from the University of Virginia, and obtained her J.D. from the University of California-Berke-
ley School of Law.

Jen Elder, National Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, SOAR TA Center, Policy Research Associates

Jen Elder is the National Policy and Partnerships Coordi-
nator for the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery Technical Assistance Center at Policy Research Associa-
tes (PRA) and has over 10 years of experience in policy development and implementation in the homelessness sector. Elder works with federal partners to incorporate income stability strategies into national policies to end homelessness, focusing on increasing access to Social Security disability benefits for individuals who have disabling conditions. She provides technical assistance related to combining benefits with housing and employment to the VA’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, HUD-VASH and H-PACT programs, the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegra-
tion Program (PRA) and has over 20 years of experience for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) National Center on Homelessness among Veterans Speakers Bureau. Elder is a military spouse and is based at Fort Bragg, NC.

Emily Gargiulo, Performance Analyst, Department of Housing and Urban Development

Emily Gargiulo is a Performance Analyst at HUD’s Office of Strategic Planning & Management, focused on the “Housing as a Platform to Improve Quality of Life” portfolio. In this role, she develops metrics and strategies across HUD’s programs, in partnership with federal and private partners, to measure and drive the agency’s impact on ending homelessness, promoting health, and creating economic opportunity for residents. Gargiulo was part of the federal groups that developed the veteran criteria and benchmarks released in October 2015 and has since served on the review team of community submissions. She has a Master’s in Health Policy from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and Bachelor’s in Political Science and Pharmacology & Toxicology from SUNY Buffalo.

Tramica Garner, Associate Director for Housing & Residential Programs, Swords to Plowshares

Tramica Garner oversees the residential programs within Swords to Plowshares located in San Francisco, CA. This includes two transitional housing programs for homeless veterans suffering with substance use and mental health issues as well as six permanent supportive housing sites, one of which is for veterans with disabilities. She has been working for Swords to Plowshares since March of 2010 and has over nine years working with the veteran population starting with her internship in 2008 at the Atlanta Vet Center. She is currently a state of California Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) and the wife of an OF/OF combat veteran.

Jonelle Glubke, Program Director, Minneapolis VA Homeless Programs, Minneapolis VA Community Resource & Referral Center

Jonelle Glubke, LICSW, serves as the Program Director for the Minneapolis VA Homeless Programs and the Minneapolis VA Community Resource and Referral Center. Glubke has worked within the Mental Health Service Line at the Minneapolis VA Health Care System for the last 16 years. She specifically worked with the Addictive Disorder Section, providing individual, family, and group therapy to veterans who have chemical and mental health needs. During the last 12 years, Glubke has had an active role on various committees within the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and in the community in improving and developing innovative services for veterans. She has specialized in developing and oversee-
sing services for veterans experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness since 2006. She is responsible for ensuring Program services are provided to veterans that include outreach and education, prevention services, treatment, transitional and permanent housing options and employment/benefits.

Rose Carmen Goldberg, Skadden Fellow/Staff Attorney, Swords to Plowshares

Rose Carmen Goldberg is a Skadden Fellow/Staff Attorney at Swords to Plowshares. She runs a Medical-
Legal Partnership (MLP) at a VA Vet Center in Oakland, California. Through this MLP, she provides legal services to veterans through access to healthcare, disability benefits, and housing. Goldberg holds a J.D. from Yale Law School; an M.P.A. from Columbia Univer-
sity; and a B.A. from St. John’s College in New Mexico.

Shannon Green MA, Director of Accreditation Programs, Council on Accreditation

Shannon Green is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor with over 20 years of experience working on behalf of children, families and persons with disabilities. Green is also a state qualified supervisor for Mental Health Counselor or Interns. She has spent her career working in an Intensive Residential Treatment Center and Specialized Therapeutic Foster Care programs. She is accomplished in counseling, psycho-
social assessments, crisis intervention and ad-
voce. She specializes in VA's Vet Law and adolescents with severe emotional and behavioral issues. Green manages the Accreditation Operations team which is responsible for facilitating organi-
zations through the accreditation process by providing valuable insight, standards interpre-
tations, and technical assistance to organizations seeking accreditation.

Mike Greenberg, MAXIMUS

Mike Greenberg’s background combines an extensive knowledge of programs, services and organizations important to the disability community with experience planning, executing and evaluating public affairs activi-
ties. A former Deputy Associate Commissioner and senior communications advisor at the Social Security Admin-
istration (SSA), Greenberg directed numerous national projects and demonstrations testing innovative approach-
es to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities and was member of the leadership team that launched the Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in 1999.

Retired from Federal service, Greenberg is now a member of the MAXIMUS team that is designing and executing a long-term, multi-channel communications strategy for building awareness of SSA’s Ticket to Work Program and increasing participation in the program among Social Security disability beneficiaries and employment service providers.

Elisha Harig-Blaine, Principal Housing Associate, National League of Cities

Elisha Harig-Blaine is the Principal Housing Associate for the National League of Cities (NLC), connecting local leaders to best practices and efforts working to ensure all veterans have a safe place to call home. He has worked at the local, state, and federal levels on homelessness and housing for more than 15 years.

He serves as part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans and has testified before the U.S. Senate on homeless veteran issues. He has spoken across the country on the issues of homelessness and housing with organizations includ-
ing the National Association of Regional Councils, Urban Land Institute, National Housing Conference, and the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Harig-Blaine earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science from St. Mary’s College of Maryland and has a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from George Mason University.

Holly Harris, Executive Director, U.S. Justice Action Network

Holly Harris is a veteran litigator, conservative communi-
cator and strategist. In her first year as Executive Director of USJAN, Harris oversaw efforts that passed significant legislation in 11 of 12 target states and moved unprecedented biparti-
san legislation at the federal level. She helped raise the national dialogue on justice reform, developing high profile events to address our broken justice system, testifying before state legislative committees, authoring op-eds and speaking before diverse audiences. Harris is also featured frequently in national news publications and television out-
luts, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, Politico, C-SPAN, and MSNBC.

Keith Harris, National Director of Clinical Operations, Homeless Programs Office, Department of Veterans Affairs

Dr. Keith Harris is a Clinical Psychologist who currently serves as National Director of Clinical Operations in
the Homeless Program Office. In his role over clinical operations, Harris provides guidance and oversight to the clinical programs in the VHA Homeless Program continuum. Programs under his direction include over 4,000 employees providing outreach, case management, vocational services, residential housing, and permanent supportive housing to over 200,000 homeless veterans each year. Harris oversees performance measurement, statistical modeling, and operational planning within VA homeless program services, and is responsible for ensuring quality, effectiveness, and efficiency across programs and sites. Harris also serves as a VA national leader in Federal and non-profit interagency efforts to end veteran homelessness, including the recent 25 Cities Initiative, Built for Zero, etc. Harris received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Oregon. Prior to joining VA Central Office, Harris served as the Director of Homeless Programs at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System.

Harris oversees the full continuum of homeless services at VA Palo Alto, and during his tenure these services were honored with the VA Secretary’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans.

Tony C. Harris, Forensic Peer Specialist, PA First Judicial District Mental Health Court

Raised in Norfolk, Virginia, Tony Harris quickly heard his calling to serve his country and joined the Marines Corps. Raised in Norfolk, Virginia, Tony Harris quickly heard his calling to serve his country and joined the Marines Corps. During his incarceration, Harris enrolled in RHD’s Healing Programs at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Harris oversaw the full continuum of homeless services at VA Palo Alto, and during his tenure these services were honored with the VA Secretary’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans.

Pete Hathaway, Employment and Community Services, Managing Director, CARF International

Pete Hathaway is the Managing Director of the Employment and Community Services accreditation area. He joined CARF International in 2006 as a Resource Specialist and now is the Managing Director of ECS. He has more than 25 years of experience in the rehabilitation field and has managed community-based services for adults and children with disabilities and their families. He has also been a contract manager for a state government agency.

Matthew Havinier, Qualified Mental Health Associate, Residential Specialist, and Peer Support Specialist, Columbia Care Services

Matthew Havinier is a Qualified Mental Health Associate, Residential Specialist, and Peer Support Specialist for Columbia Care Services. He is an active leader in his community and advocate for homeless veterans. Through his work, he also is also a State Approved Peer Support Specialist Instructor. He teaches the 54-hour period of instruction twice a year at the Rogue Community College in Medford, Oregon. Other responsibilities for Havinier include teaching Suicide Intervention, serving on the Jackson County Veterans Advisory Council, and he is the CEO & Founder of the nonprofit Team Overland. Team Overland guides expeditions for disabled veterans as a tool for healing and reintegration.

Nan Heald, Executive Director, Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Nan Heald grew up in Maine and, since 1990, has served as the director of its largest civil legal aid provider, Pine Tree Legal Assistance. With funding from the Legal Services Corporation, Pine Tree launched www.statesidelegal.org in 2010 as the first national clearinghouse for military and veteran families seeking legal information, self-help tools and referral resources. Heald has received recognition from the White House as a Champion of Change and received the ABA Grassroots Advocacy Award in 2015 for her efforts to promote legal services for veterans.

James Heaton, Lead Project Attorney, MISSION UNITED Veterans Pro Bono Project

James Heaton is the lead project attorney for the Mission United Veterans Pro Bono Project (VPBP) at Legal Aid Service of Broward County. The VPBP serves low-income military veterans, active duty service-members, reservists, and their families facing a variety of civil, administrative, and military legal issues by engaging resources throughout the community. Heaton has been active in the South Florida pro bono community for several years assisting both civilian and military families through the Miami VA Healthcare Center, US Southern Housing, Florida International University’s legal clinics, the Broward County Bar Association, and the United Way of Broward County.

Deborah A. Hillin, Vice President, Buffalo Valley, Inc.

Deborah A. Hillin is Vice President of buffalo Valley, Inc., and is in charge of governmental de opment and all clinical and housing grants. She has a Master’s in Management and is a License Alcohol and Drug Counselor and a Clinical Qualified Supervisor. Hillin has over 30 years of experience as a clinician, grant writer, trainer, adminis trator, and consultant. She has been a principal investigator on several SAMSHA and HRSA grants at Buffalo Valley, Inc., as well as project director for Buffalo Valley’s Certified Application Counselor project, several VA Grant Per Diem and SSVF grants, and a HUD Contin uum of Care grant for 19 rural counties in middle Tennessee. She has served as President of several state associations, serves on the Governor’s Council on Armed Forces, Veterans and their Families; and led the collaboration efforts for several organizations in the identification and implementation of an Electronic Health Record.

Keith Hoffmann, Staff Attorney, LegalHealth Division, New York Legal Assistance Group

Keith Hoffmann is a Staff Attorney in the LegalHealth Unit of the New York Legal Assistance Group. He runs a general practice Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, NY, where he represents veterans in eviction prevention cases, advance planning, VA benefits appeals, and discharge upgrades. From 2014-2016 Hoffman expanded LegalHealth’s MLPs in VA medical centers in Manhattan and the Bronx as an Equal Justice Works fellow sponsored by Latham & Watkins. He earned his J.D. at Fordham Law School and B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Brock Hunter, Attorney, Brock Hunter Law

Brock Hunter is a criminal defense attorney and founder of Brock Hunter Law. His background includes proudly serving as the President and Legislative Chair for the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (MACDL). He received the Special Achievement Award in 2009 from this organization. Additionally, he received the 2011 Professional Excellence Award from the Minnesota State Bar Association, recognizing his efforts to advance the legal profession as a whole as well as the administra tion of justice. He focuses his practice on the defense of psychologically injured veterans in the criminal courts and advocating on their behalf regarding their treatment under the justice system. He helped to draft and lead passage of Minnesota’s Veterans Sentencing Litigation Act, Minn. Stat. 609.115, Subd. 10., which was subse quently cited in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, Porter v. McCollum, 130 S. Ct. 447, at 455, n.9 (2009), which are the courts that first addressed combat trauma in criminal sentencing.

Renato Izquiera, Directing Attorney/Santa Ana Office, Legal Aid Society of Orange County

As the Directing Attorney for Santa Ana, Renato Izquiera manages a team of attorneys and paralegals in the Litigation Unit, Victims of Violent Crimes, Immigration, Health Care Advocacy, Senior Citizens Advocacy, and the Anaheim office. He also provides direct civil legal services through Orange County’s Veterans Treatment Court, a collaborative community partnership.

Izquiera currently serves on the ABA Commission on Veteran’s Legal Services. Through this Commission, he works directly with ABA President Klein and with a team of 20 respected national leaders on veterans issues. The mission and goal of this Commission is to provide legal innovative services through a holistic and sustainable effort to ensure veterans have access to justice.
Craig Joyce, LCSW, has been working to end veteran homelessness since 2008. He began his career as the Greater Los Angeles VA Medical Center where he served seven years in the HUD-VASH program, until recently joining the organization People Assisting The Homeless (PATH) in December 2017.

Matt Leslie, Director of Housing Development, Virginia Department of Veteran Services
Matt Leslie is the Director of Housing Development for the Virginia Department of Veteran Services (VDVS). He is responsible for state-wide coordination in addressing veteran homelessness and housing issues. Leslie assists communities to collaboratively develop and enhance systems through partnerships with local, state, and federal entities, including coordinating with six Veterans Affairs Medical Centers that serve Virginia veterans. He co-chairs the Governor’s Coordinating Council on Homelessness Veterans Sub-committee, which is composed of three federal agencies, seven state agencies, and members of local homeless Continuums of Care that provides state level planning to align and coordinate priorities and resources for homeless veterans. Leslie also serves on the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Center Advisory Group. In addition, he provides data and policy support to Virginia Veteran and Family Support, a state program that provides care coordination to veterans in need of behavioral health, rehabilitative, and supportive services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Before joining VDVS, Leslie worked at the Virginia Department of Housing and Development (DHCD) as both a Homeless and Special Needs Program Administrator and a Housing Policy Analyst. He has his Bachelor’s in Geography from James Madison University and a Master’s of Social Work (Policy and Planning) from Virginia Commonwealth University.

John Kuhn, Director, SSVF Program, Department of Veterans Affairs
John Kuhn has led the development and launch of the Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. VA’s homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing programs provide approximately $400 million annually in grants to community organizations assisting homeless and at-risk veteran families. In the past year, SSVF helped over 157,000 veterans and their family members find or keep permanent housing. Kuhn has played a lead role in SSVF’s community planning efforts, now engaging nearly every Continuum of Care across the country. Title VI plans are designed to build local collaborations designed to rapidly and effectively engage homeless and at-risk veterans and their families, helping them secure permanent housing. Prior to working with SSVF, for several years Kuhn authored the VA’s CHALENG Report, a community assessment on the needs of homeless veterans. Earlier in his career, Kuhn led VA homeless programs in New Jersey developing innovative employment, housing, and treatment services. He received local and national recognition for this work including Mutual of America’s Community Rapid Re-Housing by the former Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee who had the Flag of the United States flown over the Capitol in his honor. Kuhn has a BA from Brown University, a M.S.W from Columbia University and a M.P.H. from Rutgers University.

Alex Lauer, Director of Engagement & Development, Veterans One-stop Center of WNY
Alex Lauer is the Director of Engagement & Development at the Veterans One-stop Center of WNY, overseeing the entire veteran engagement spectrum from initial engagement through advocacy coordination to community peer support. She has served with the VOC of WNY for five years, after starting as an AmeriCorps Vista with the start-up nonprofit, A.M.S. She has also served as the Co-Chair for Buffalo’s annual Stand Down for the past three years and has coordinated community support for the event, including Department of Labor participation. Additionally, Lauer has completed implementation of America’s Warriors Partnership Community Integration throughout five counties in Western New York.

Cecelia Love, President and CEO, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County
Cecelia Love has coordinated implementation of America’s Warrior Partnership in Houston. In her leadership, the community developed and unveiled its First Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, coordinated one of the largest one day outreach and rapid rehousing initiatives in the state of Texas and increased its annual HUD homeless allocation from $14 million to $20 million. Love earned her Master’s degree in public administration from the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Amanda Johnson, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, Washington, D.C., VAMC
Amanda Johnson is a licensed clinical social worker, who graduated from the Catholic University of America with a master’s degree in social work. Johnson grew up in an Air Force family which is the source of her passion and dedication to serve veterans. She started working with the D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the Health Care for Homeless Veterans department in 2012, where she focuses on housing homeless veterans. Johnson also works with the first Women’s Initiative group and POW group at the DC VAMC.

LaShondra Jones, Program Coordinator, Pathways to Hope Program for Women Veterans, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
Dr. LaShondra Jones is a native Memphian and honorably discharged after military discharge, she went on to earn both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from the University of Memphis. She recently completed her doctoral degree in Administration of Justice at Texas Southern University. Her dissertation focused on the criminal behavior and resilience of combat veterans deployed during Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom. After returning from the war zone, she worked in non-profit and non-profit/government environments providing employment, housing, and treatment services. He received local and national recognition for this work including Mutual of America’s Community Rapid Re-Housing by the former Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee who had the Flag of the United States flown over the Capitol in his honor. Kuhn has a BA from Brown University, a M.S.W from Columbia University and a M.P.H. from Rutgers University.

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Sean Lindstrom, Stand Down Committee Chair, Department of Veterans Affairs
Sean Lindstrom is a Marine Corps Iraq War veteran and has worked for the VA’s Healthcare for Homeless Program for over 15 years. He currently serves as the Eastern Region of Virginia’s Community Employment Coordinator helping to expand employment access and opportunities on behalf of the veterans of WNY. He has also serves as the Chairman of Eastern Region’s Stand Down for the past four years helping that event gain notoriety as a model for a one day Stand Down. He is also the area’s SSVF point of contact as well as the VA’s Transitioning Service Members (TSM) program Coordinator, assisting those service members identifying housing as an issue as they transition to civilian life. Lindstrom has been recognized nationally in VA spotlight awards and emerging best practices.

Anthony Love, Senior Advisor, Director of Community Engagement, Department of Veteran Affairs
Anthony Love serves as the Senior Advisor and Director of Community Engagement for the Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Healthcare Administration, Homeless Programs. In this role, he develops and implements strategies to improve VA’s engagement with federal, state and local agencies, communities and other interested stakeholders to ensure every resource is available to veterans needing to exit homelessness. He also provides timely and insightful advice to the Director of Veterans Homeless Programs on operational and strategic opportunities, as well as identifies and recommends best practices related to homeless solutions, community, state and local government engagement as well as facilitates alignment of VA Homeless and Research functions. Love previously served as Deputy Director for at the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), where he was responsible for coordinating the state and local work of the Council and serve as the lead on veteran issues for the Council. Love has 20 years of experience in homelessness and poverty issues. He was Site Director for the nonprofit U.S. VETS’ Houston office. During his leadership there, US VETS Houston became the largest provider of housing and support services to homeless veterans in Texas, providing housing and services to more than 20,000 homeless veterans. Before leaving Houston for Washington, D.C., Love served as President and CEO of the Coalition by the Homeless of Houston/Harris County, the principal agency for the Homeless Continuum of Care for a county of almost four million people. Under Love’s leadership, the community developed and unveiled its first Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, coordinated one of the largest one day outreach and rapid rehousing initiatives in the state of Texas and increased its annual HUD homeless allocation from $14 million to $20 million. Love earned his Master’s degree in public administration from the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Henry McCallister, Employment Specialist, Friendship Place
Henry McCallister brings many years of experience in direct services, administration, organizational transformation and development, for organizations providing employment services. McCallister majored in psychology at University of Baltimore, and Employment Development at UCLA. He is a member of the Employment Champion Round Table and National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. Finding his passion in supported employment and employment Development, McCallister went on to work with a diverse employee and population. He continues to expand his employment growth by partnering with the employment consulting firm Griffin-Hamris Associates.

Nina McDowell, Healthcare for Homeless Veterans, Washington, D.C., VAMC
Nina McDowell is licensed social worker, who graduated from the Catholic University of America with a master’s degree in social work. At a young age, McDowell listened to the stories of her Army grandfather and was inspired to work with the military population. She started working with the D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans program in 2015, where she focuses on ending homelessness. McDowell also works with the first Women’s Initiative group and the Suicide Prevention Program at the D.C. Veterans Affairs Medical Center.
Mathilda C. Montgomery, Case Manager, Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Mathilda C. Montgomery is a Case Manager for Catholic Charities where she guides the lives of homeless female veterans back to self-sufficiency. Assisting the female veterans and their fami-
lies through case management, providing services such as medical evacuation and other needed resources, Mont-
gomery finds it rewarding to uplift and assist these female veterans as they transition. As a female veteran, Montgomery can relate to the many challenges faced by the population she serves and is honored to serve her fellow soldiers in this capacity.

James Murray, Senior Advisor, Office of Child Support Enforcement, Division of Program Innovation

James Murray is a Senior Advisor in the U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) to advance Program Innovation. As Advisor, he develops strategic partnerships to strengthen OCSE’s impact in the areas of responsible fatherhood, young parents, veterans and minority out-
reach; and financial capability. Before joining OCSE he was the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Regional Operations within ACF, where he provided executive leadership and direction to ACF’s 10 regional offices on integrating and coordinating cross-cutting, human service programs. Prior to his tenure with ACF, Murray held positions in the education and nonprofit fields. His experience includes positions with Early Head Start and the National Fatherhood Initiative.

Cathrene M. Nichols, Administrator, Spokane County & Eastern Washington Regional Veterans Services

Cathrene “Cat” Nichols is a U.S. Army Veteran and the Eastern Washington Strategic Operations Manager for VA’s Commercial Lending. As a social worker, Pleasant’s involvement with the Oasis Day Center in Decatur, IL has been pleasant in the behavioral health field for the past 19 years. In addi-
tion, she has a background in law enforcement, both as an officer and in the field in 2011 as a permanent sup-
porting OCSE’s impact in the areas of responsible fatherhood, young parents, veterans and minority out-
reach; and financial capability. Before joining OCSE he was the Director and Deputy Director of the Office of Regional Operations within ACF, where he provided executive leadership and direction to ACF’s 10 regional offices on integrating and coordinating human service programs. Prior to his tenure with ACF, Murray held positions in the education and nonprofit fields. His experience includes positions with Early Head Start and the National Fatherhood Initiative.

Ben Cattell Noll, Assistant Director, Friendship Place – Veterans First Program

Ben Cattell Noll is the Assistant Director of the Veterans Services division at Friendship Place, a homeless service organization in Washington, D.C. In this role he supervises a team of six Specialist staff members focused on outreach, housing, employment, and legal and benefit needs of veterans experiencing homelessness. He also provides administrative support for the SSVF rapid rehousing program and leads trainings for new staff members in homeless service best practices. He got his start with the organization and in the field in 2011 as a permanent supportive housing case manager, providing in-home support to formerly chronically homeless men and women and kindling his passion for ending homelessness.

Fermín Ortega, Deputy Program, Director New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers

Starting in the Army as a Non-Commissioned Officer, Fermín Ortega moved on to the New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers (NMVIC) in 2005 starting as a Monitor and progressing to the organization’s Operations Manag-
er, then Program Manager and currently Deputy Program Director. He completed his BA in Administrative Manage-
ment and has supervised staff and residents, resolved operational issues and authored and implemented various organizational policies. Service has been instrumental in vari-
ous events to include the Albuquerque Stand Down, organi-
zational fund raising and resident community activities. He has also managed the Transitional Housing and with his team, developed the Jail Diversion Program, helping veterans to avoid jail, obtain early parole or have a place to live when exiting jail or prison.

Michael Palumbo, President & CEO, MP3 Associates

Currently, Mike Palumbo is the President and CEO of MP3 Associates. He has over 30 years of experience serving the homeless including programs designed to care for chronic, incarcerated, female, disabled and at-
risk homeless veterans and others. He also serves as Baltimore City’s Coalition Steering Commit-
tee Lead, which focuses on integrating regional housing, transportation, and employment opportunities throughout the Baltimore Metropolitan Region. In addition, Palumbo serves as the Cygus Corporation, a Rockville-based healthcare related private management consulting firm, where he recently helped with the company an IDIQ contract with SAMSHA.

Palumbo actively participates on the Baltimore Mayor’s Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness and is a Develop-
ment Committee member for the Baltimore Station – a homeless veteran treatment facility located in South and West Baltimore.

Ray Pennie, Vice President of Business Development, Clearpoint Financial Solutions

Ray Pennie is Vice President of Business Development at Clearpoint Financial Solutions, a division of Money Man-
gement International (MMI). Clearpoint is a national non-
profit whose mission is “Improving Lives through Financial Education.” He is responsible for managing a national business development team that expands Clearpoint’s mission of financial capability, education and counseling outreach to underserved economic groups. The agency has a special interest in serving low- to moderate-income populations, Hispanics, veterans, and older Americans. His team is instrumental in developing new and diverse revenue streams by forming strategic alliances with na-
tional corporations and non-profits to further expand the agency’s footprint and reach. Prior to joining Clearpoint in 2012, he was Director of Sales at Dividend America Commercial Lending, where he led a national business development team. Before beginning his career in bank-
ing, Pennie proudly served for six years in the Navy.

Brandan Pippens, Outreach Social Worker, Community Resource and Referral Center

Brandan Pippens, LGSW, currently serves as the VAM-
HCS Managed Community Resource and Referral Center as the Outreach Social Worker. He earned his Bachelor’s from Salisbury University and then went on to earn his MSW with a clinical concentration and substance abuse specialization. During his Master’s program, Pippens interned at the District of Columbia Mental Health Depart-
ment in which he was a member of the Homeless Out-
reach Program connecting homeless individuals to mental health services as well as connecting them to assertive community treatment teams in the District. With experience in street outreach, Pippens spent time learning about the Housing First and harm reduction models.

Diane Pleasant, Director, Pleasant Counseling

Dr. Diane Pleasant is the Director of Pleasant Counsel-
ing, a private out-patient substance abuse and mental health facility located in Decatur, IL. Pleasant has been in the behavioral health field for the past 19 years. In addi-
tion, she has a background in law enforcement, both as a Deputy Sheriff and narcotic agent, along with serving in the Army Reserve. Pleasant’s involvement with the Oasis Day Center in Decatur, IL that caters to the area homeless and homeless veterans has been strictly as a researcher and volunteer. The most recent research, A Convergent Parallel Mixed Method Study to Determine the Efficacy of a Day Drop-In Center in Combating Homelessness will be highlighted during this conference.

Mena Poole, Veteran Coordinator, Emmanuel House

Since 2011, Mena Poole has served as the Veteran Coordinator for Emmanuel House’s Grant and Per Dime
Program. Her day-to-day responsibilities includes the management of an eighty-bed transitional housing program designed to transition homeless men and women into permanent housing. Emmanuel House is the only Grant and Per Diem Program in the City of Detroit to provide housing services specifically for homeless female veterans. Poole has been instrumental in the development of this program and this program has a 96% success rate for transitioning homeless female veterans.

Jeffery Quarles, Director, Homeless Providers National Grant and Per Diem Program Office, Department of Veterans Affairs

Jeffery Quarles serves as the Director for the VA Homeless Providers National Grant and Per Diem Program Office in Tampa, Florida. The program is part of the VA Homeless Services, VA Central Office.

Quarles is responsible for the overall management and administration of the Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD). The GPD program provides grants to community based organizations that provide transitional housing and supportive services to homeless veterans. The program has over 600 operational projects nationally. In Fiscal Year 2016 over 25,000 homeless veterans entered GPD transitional housing programs.

Quarles has a Master’s Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and is a Licensed Independent Clinical Dependency Counselor. He is a member of the VA CARF Steering Committee and has served as a consultant in CARF accreditation to VA Medical Centers nationally.

Quarles has 23 years of management experience in Substance Use Disorder Services, Transitional Housing, Vocational and Homeless Services. Quarles has worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs since 1993. During this time he has managed a variety of VA programs. He also served as the Network Homeless Coordinator in VISN 10 prior to coming to his present position.

Elinor Reiners, CEO, New Mexico Veterans Integration Centers

Starting her career in the Air Force testing navigation systems, Elinor Reiners has expanded her career to over 25 years of experience in management of small businesses and large contracts/programs ranging up to $25 million in annual revenues. Her expertise is in operations and business/financial management for research (engineering and biomedial), manufacturing and technology environments and for non-profit entities.

She has extensive experience working with diverse businesses, setting up collaborations and developing new business and partnerships. Reiners has experience working with many lending institutions, establishing partnerships, and serving as a volunteer. As the CEO of the NM Veterans Integration Centers, she has expanded the organization in five years from serving 80 veterans annually to over 700 in their last fiscal year.

Jerry T. Risner, Executive Director, Buffalo Valley, Inc.

Jerry T. Risner is Executive Director for Buffalo Valley, Inc., one of the largest nonprofit addiction and rural housing provider in Tennessee. Risner wrote the first rural HUD Continuum of Care grant in the state of Tennessee. Risner has been the Lead Agency/Collaborative Applicant since that date. Under his leadership, Buffalo Valley, Inc. now has over 650 units of housing from emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, low-income housing, home ownership, VA GPD housing, and a new VASH-Based Project in Nashville, TN. In addition to these houses, he is responsible for over 100 HUD subsidized housing for those with disabilities and the elderly. His vision has led to a diversity of funding sources for all of Buffalo Valley’s programs. He retired as a Captain in the Army where he served from 1969-1970, followed by service in the Tennessee National Guard.

Nathaniel Saltz, Program Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

Nathaniel Saltz has been serving veterans experiencing homelessness with MACV since 2003. He has served as a direct services Case Manager, Interim Executive Director, and currently Statewide Program Director. His duties within the organization have included operating and case managing veterans in a VA Grant & Per Diem Transitional Housing Program, coordinating 10 annual Minnesota Stand Down events, statewide rollout and oversight of grant programs, and leadership in community efforts to end veteran homelessness. He is currently serving on multiple Homeless Continuum of Care leadership boards. He currently heads housing, employment, and legal programs in an organization with 34 full time staff serving veterans, veterans, and their families. Saltz has overseen the implementation of federal DOL, VA, and HUD grants, along with state, foundation and corporate funding to assist homeless and in-crisis veterans in the areas of housing, employment and legal services. Saltz was awarded the 2016 NCHV Unsung Hero Award.

Rev. Marianna Sempari, Chaplain, Berkeley Food and Housing Project

Rev. Marianna Sempari is a native New Yorker. She received her Master of Divinity from Pacific School of Religion, with a concentration in Social Ministry/Training is Spiritual Care/Counseling, with a focus in the area of Moral Injury and PTSD among military veterans.

Sempari is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Associate Pastor of The Table, and an Inter-faith Chaplain for Berkeley Food and Housing Project (BFHP). Sempari provides spiritual care and accommodation to individuals living on the streets, encampments, shelters, and transitional housing programs.

Sempari partnered with Natalie Silva, Senior Program Manager of BFHP’s Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, and together they designed and implemented an innovative Peer Outreach Intern Program.

Alicia Sholtz, Case Manager, Health Care for Homeless Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs

Alicia Sholtz, LCSW, has been a HUD-VASH Case Manager for the past seven years with the WNY HCHV Program. Sholtz holds a BA in Communications from SUNY at Plattsburgh, and a BA in Social Work from Buffalo State College. She earned an MSW from the SUNY at Buffalo School of Social Work. She is an Iraq combat veteran who served in Iraq in 2003 and 2005, as a member of the Army. As the HUD-VASH Lead in WNY, Sholtz has been instrumental in creating the process used by the HUD-VASH team to both administer the vouchers and to expedite the housing process. She has been recognized nationally in VA spotlight awards and emerging best practices.

Natalie Siva, SSVF Program Manager, Berkeley Food and Housing Project

Natalie Siva has over 10 years of nonprofit experience working in the field of homeless services, delivering direct services and designing programs. During her five years with Berkeley Food & Housing Project (BFHP), Siva has managed the men’s homeless shelter and has led the development and launch of the Supported Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program. As Senior Program Manager of BFHP’s SSVF program, she designed and implemented an innovative Peer Outreach six-month Intern Program designed to give homeless veterans a chance to re-enter the work force. Prior to working at BFHP, Siva worked for five years in San Francisco’s Tenderloin District helping homeless families and individuals get back on their feet.

Paul Smits, Senior Policy Analyst, VA National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans

Paul Smits, MSW, is a Senior Policy Analyst for the VA National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans based at the University of South Florida. In this role for the National Center, he currently is guiding model development activities for Low Demand/Safe Haven Programs. During his 37 years of government service, he served in leadership roles directing the Veterans Health Administration’s Homeless Programs. From December of 2005, as Assistant Chief of Housing and Residential Treatment Programs in VA Central Office, he directed the day-to-day operations of the Veterans Health Administration’s Homeless and Residential Rehabilitation and Treatment Programs. In 2003, while the Director of Veterans Affairs Integrated Service Network (VISN) Five’s Homeless Programs, he received the prestigious Olin E. Teague award.

Sara Sommarstrom, Vetlaw Director, Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans

Sara Sommarstrom serves as the Vetlaw Director for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, working with attorneys and non-lawyers across the state of Minnesota to remove and reduce legal barriers to stability for veterans experiencing homelessness and other life crises.

Sommarstrom is a 2008 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, where she received the Excellence in Public Service Award, given to one member of the graduating class annually. After graduation, she served two years as an Equal Justice Works/AmeriCorps Fellow with the Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) before joining the staff of MJF full-time as a staff attorney and ultimately program director. She teaches as an adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Law and has received the University of St. Thomas School of Law Mission Award for Excellence in Professional Preparation, 2009 Staff Woman of the Year Award and 2010 Faculty Woman of the Year Award. She is a member of the ABA Veterans Legal Services Initiative, co-chair of the ABA Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services, a liaison to the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, and an active member of several state and local bar association committees. Sommarstrom was honored to receive recognition as a 2014 Unsung Hero from the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans for her work on addressing legal barriers to housing and employment stability for homeless veterans.
services organization that serves hundreds of vulnerable families in the D.C. area. The Veterans First program is a CARF-accredited VA grantee that is a mentor organization to new SSVF grantees and has been recognized for using best practices in the fight to end veteran homelessness. Strike has previous experience in the housing and homeless arena with the Housing Unit at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and as a Federal Policy Fellow at the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Christine Tassia, Special Projects Coordinator/Case Manager, New England Center and Home for Veterans

Christine Tassia, LMHC is the Special Projects Coordinator/Case Manager at the New England Center and Home for Veterans (NECHV). Tassia has over 10 years of experience in various capacities in the nonprofit sector, fulfilling roles from clinical staff to management, as well as program development. In her current position, she works with several statewide initiatives through the Massachusetts Alliance for Supportive Housing (MASH) and the Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA) to address issues related to homelessness. Additionally, she provides direct clinical services through the Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Office Based Buprenorphine Treatment program, which is located inside the NECHV.

Desiree Taylor, Housing Specialist, Focused Outreach Richmond

Desiree Taylor has worked with the homeless veteran population for the past four years in Richmond, Virginia. She has been an integral part of notable programs, such as Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) with Virginia Supportive Housing. Currently, Taylor is Team Lead and Housing Specialist with Focused Outreach Richmond, a nonprofit serving the most vulnerable in Greater Richmond. Taylor assisted with the development of the coordinated entry system in Richmond, and is currently the Team Coordinator of VetLink, a coalition of providers who meet weekly to facilitate the end to veteran homelessness. Taylor served in the Army from 2011-2015 as a Mental Health Specialist, assisting soldiers with mental health concerns and educating soldiers on the significance of self-care.

Stacey Teegardin, MS, CRC, Recovery Services Program Coordinator, Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services

Stacey Teegardin is the statewide trainer for the evidence-based supported employment model, Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for 11 community mental health centers in Colorado. She also serves as the State PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) Contact. Teegardin is the lead for the Colorado IPS Steering and Supervisor Committees, and a member of the Colorado Transition Community of Practice, DVR Mental Health Consortium, Aspire State Advisory Committee, IPS International Learning Community, State Youth Council, and Under One Roof. She worked for the Vermont Department of Mental Health, Addiction & Recovery as a Peer Support Specialist to name a few. The agency specializes in providing individualized case management using Life Skills in the Individual Development Plans of participants in its GPD Transition-In-Place program to teach participants money management, medication education, crisis intervention, and Group Therapy which have led to housing stability, increased in income, and greater self-determination for veterans transitioning into permanent housing.

Jahmila Vincent, Program Director, HELP USA

Jahmila Vincent is the Program Director of Veterans After Care at HELP USA. She has over four years of experience in veteran homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing direct care and program management work, most recently helping to lead New York City’s veteran aftercare initiative programming at HELP USA. In Vincent’s current role she provides direct program oversight and oversees the service-delivery of benefits coordinating, mental health and wellness, case management, and crisis intervention to support veterans’ long-term housing stability. Prior to joining HELP USA in 2014, Vincent was a Lead Case Manager at U.S. VETS, where she successfully led the program’s Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program case management team in rapidly rehousing and providing homeless prevention services to veterans in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and Virginia. While at U.S. VETS, Vincent also coordinated with regional SSVF programs to establish an interconnected resource referral system and to reduce veterans’ recidivism to shelter.

Lauren Waldt, Disability Assistance Outreach Specialist, Health Care for the Homeless

Lauren Waldt has worked for a full-time Disability Assistance Outreach Specialist at Health Care for the Homeless since July 2014. She is granted funding to prioritize veterans for the SOAR Program but also works with non-veteran clients across Baltimore City. She was part of the planning process for the newly established ‘Veterans’ Treatment Docket’ in Baltimore City and continues to participate as a service provider. She previously worked as a Case Manager for refugees at the International Rescue Committee for almost four years.

Sarah Catherine Walker, Government Affairs & Political Consultant, MA+CO

Sarah Catherine Walker is a government affairs and political consultant with MA+CO. Prior to becoming a full-time government affairs and political consultant she spent eight years as the Chief Operating Officer at 180 Degrees, one of Minnesota largest providers of community corrections services. During her time at 180 Degrees, Inc. she founded the Minnesota Second Chance Coalition. The Second
Commission’s homeless veterans initiatives, which includes aspects of healthcare, counseling, housing, education, training, employment and other issues of concern to the public and private sector constituencies, Congress and the media.

Carston Warner, Quality Assurance Analyst, Resources for Human Development (RHD) and Co-Facilitator of RHD Healing Ajax Vet-TREM Groups

Carston Warner has served as a Quality Assurance Analyst for several service lines within Resources for Human Development for over 10 years. Prior to this, he served in leadership roles in other human service organizations in the region, including the Allegheny Valley School and Clinton House in Trenton, NJ. Certified as a T.R.E.M. (Trauma, Recovery Empowerment Model) Facilitator for RHD’s Healing Ajax program, Warner co-facilitates Vet-TREM groups twice a week inside the Curran Front Royal Correctional Facility, part of the Philadelphia Department of Prisons. Reflecting a strong commitment to his fellow veterans, Warner also has facilitated community-based healing Ajax Vet-TREM groups. Warner served on active duty in the Army from 1969 to 1971, including a deployment to Vietnam. He was honorably discharged in 1971.

Adam Wawrynek, Regional Director, NYC Veterans, Services for the UnderServed (SUS)

Adam Wawrynek is Regional Director of Veterans Services in NYC for SUS (Services for the UnderServed, Inc.), overseeing a portfolio of programs ranging from various Rapid Re-housing and Homelessness Prevention to employment and suicide prevention services. He has experience in program design and development, specifically in the launch of pilot programs such as the original Supportive Services for Veteran Families grants, Grant and Per Diem-Transition in Place (GDP-TIP), two iterations of HUD-VASH contracted case management programs, and various care coordination services for military families and veterans. Wawrynek is a member of the NYC CoC Veterans Task Force Executive Committee and co-chair for the NYC Veterans Aftercare Subcommittee.

Matt White, Abt Associates

For the past 20 years Matt White has been working with communities to design and implement effective Continuum of Care systems for persons experiencing homelessness and at imminent risk of homelessness. He specializes in homeless system policy development and implementation, research and evaluation, and homeless management information system (HMIS) development. White joined Abt Associates in 2005, adding to the firm’s homeless and housing services sector practice. White’s homeless system technical assistance expertise includes improving data collection and analysis capabilities, evaluating the effectiveness of homeless systems, and leading strategic planning and facilitation engagements to reorient homeless services. His recent work at Abt focuses on developing more effective coordinated entry processes and improving crisis response services for persons experiencing homelessness. White has both a BA and MA from Columbia University in American Studies and a master’s degree in Community and Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico.

Toneh Williams, Intern to the Housing Services Deputy Director-Veterans Ministry Leader, Office of Homeless Services

Toneh Williams is social services and behavioral healthcare professional with 13 years’ experience in nonprofit executive management, policy advocacy, and veteran homeless outreach leadership. In that time, she has worked as a program director for residential programs for adults with mental disabilities, a case manager for homeless veterans, the Secretary Board of Director for a veteran’s transitional housing organization, and her current role as the veterans’ coordinator for a behavioral healthcare insurance company.

Ben Wilson, Homeless Veteran Coordinator, MN Department of Veterans Affairs

Ben Wilson is an Army veteran of the Iraq war and is employed as the Homeless Veteran Coordinator with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). Prior to his role with MDVA, he worked as a Housing and Outreach Case Manager and Statewide Program Administrator for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV). He received his Bachelor of Arts in Public Service from Hamline University in 2014, and received his Master’s in Public Administration from Hamline University in December 2016.

Swords to Plowshares proudly supports

Swords to Plowshares is one of the founding members of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and has been active since 1990.
Exhibitors (Located in Cabin John/Arlington)

We are pleased to have the following exhibitors on hand to showcase their products and services:

• The Social Security Administration
• Council on Accreditation (COA)
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Be sure to make time to stop in the exhibit area to get more information from their representatives!
NCHV’s corporate partners have played a vital role in reducing the number of homeless veterans by over 75% since 2005.

Generous donations from these and other partners provide funds for NCHV to do the following:

- Raising awareness and educating service organizations and communities about homeless veterans and the programs in place to help them
- Providing expert advice and assistance to Congress and the federal agencies involved with homeless veteran issues and service programs
- Leadership in building partnerships between service providers and government agencies
- Immediate notification of government, corporate and foundation grants for homeless service providers
- Bi-monthly newsletter with resources from private and government sources
- Support and update www.nchv.org - the nation’s most comprehensive website on homeless veteran issues and programs
- Legislative alerts and analysis of legislation affecting homeless veterans and service organizations
- Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. and regional conferences on a wide range of topics for service providers
- National toll-free Homeless Veteran Help Line 1-800-VET-HELP