2015 Annual Conference
May 28, 2015

The Mayors Challenge
Moderator: Kate Seif, Program and Policy Analyst
National Alliance to End Homelessness

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

Matt Leslie, Director of Housing Development for Veterans
Virginia Department of Veteran Services

Jeff Doyle, VISN 6 Homeless Network Coordinator
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Brad Bridwell, Director of Community Development
Cloudbreak Communities

Melanie Zamora, Director of Housing Programs
The Road Home
• 49 state municipal leagues

• > 1,750 direct members

Dedicated to helping city leaders build better communities.
Veteran Housing

The experience of military service is a life-changing event for those who serve during wartime or peacetime. Our veterans leave the world’s best military with unique skills and talents that can benefit the communities they choose to call home.

As our veterans come home from service in Iraq and Afghanistan, they return changed men and women to communities that have also changed. A vital first step to successful reintegration is making sure veterans and their families have stable housing. With secure, safe housing, veterans can focus on other areas of life such as healthcare, employment and education.

To support cities in their efforts, NLC partners with The Home Depot Foundation to disseminate best practices, provide technical engagement and help local leaders learn from one another.

This work aligns with the federal plan to end veteran homelessness by 2015. Momentum in cities such as Phoenix, Salt Lake City and New Orleans, as well as the Commonwealth of Virginia is proving that communities can solve a problem once thought intractable.
604 local leaders
• 460 mayors
• 137 county and city officials
• 7 Governors

Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton with Denver Councilman Chris Herndon and Heather Pritchard of The Home Depot Foundations.

@HarigBlaine  @leagueofcities
Regional forums

- Austin
- Philadelphia
- Chicago
- Kansas City
- WA/ID/MT/AK
- Washington, D.C.
- Boston
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles/San Francisco
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@HarigBlaine @leagueofcities
Ending Veteran Homelessness in Virginia: The Next Tactical Mile
Virginia Department of Veterans Services

U.S. Veterans Affairs (VA)

DVS and GCCH

Community (CoCs)
2014 Point-in-Time Count
Total Homeless Veterans (Sheltered and Unsheltered)

(Total One Night Count- 620)

Legend
CoC
Homeless Vets Counted
- 0 - 5
- 9 - 14
- 18 - 21
- 51 - 79
- 137

Based on HUD 2014 January PIT Count
State Efforts

- Governor’s Coordinating Council on Homelessness
  - Veteran Sub-Committee (June 2014)
- Ending Veteran Homelessness Summit (June 2014)
- State Action Plan to End Veteran Homelessness (June 2014)
- Mayors Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness (June 2014)
  - Governor McAuliffe 4th Governor to sign on
- Homeless Veteran Boot Camp and 100 Day Challenge (Sept. 2014 - Jan. 2015)
- CoC State Veteran Liaisons (Feb. 2015 - present)
- 2nd Annual Statewide Ending Veteran Homelessness Summit
Key Partners

• Governor and Mayors
• VISN and Local VAMC’s
• National League of Cities
• USICH
• Community Solutions
• Rapid Results Institute
• Virginia Dept of Veterans Services
• Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness
• US Housing and Urban Development
• Governors Coordinating Council on Homelessness
• Virginia Dept of Housing and Community Development
• Virginia Housing Development Authority
• Local CoC leadership
• VSO’s
Community Cross-Cutting Themes

• Coordinated Outreach using common assessment tools

• Creating a by-name community list prioritized by vulnerability

• Following Housing First principles

• Process improvement/acceleration strategies aimed at removing bottlenecks
State Progress

• Additional Resources
  ➢ State
    o Rapid Re-housing, Housing Choice Vouchers
  ➢ Community Resources
    o Move-in kits, furniture, deposits, rent assistance (HUD VASH)

• Increased coordination
  ➢ State agencies (DMV, DSS, etc)
  ➢ Federal partners
  ➢ Benefits and employment
  ➢ Community resources
  ➢ Regional Coordination (multi-CoCs and PHA portability)

• Alignment of Priorities
  ➢ Implementation of Best Practices
Phoenix 25 Cities

Update on the status of ending homelessness among veterans
Ending Veterans Homelessness: What Do We Mean By ZERO?

We mean functional zero:

At any point in time, the number of Veterans experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness will be no greater than the current monthly housing placement rate for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

- Local Goals: <5% and < 30 days

*The same definition applies for chronic homelessness, minus the number of chronically homeless Veterans.
Where We Are

Street Vets

- 2013: 123
- 2014: 48
- 2015 (Preliminary): 75

Legend:
- Street Vets
- Linear (Street Vets)
Goal:

Phoenix and Maricopa County will reach functional zero for Veterans by August 31, 2015 and lay a foundation for ending all homelessness in our community.
Housing Goals over 120 Days

Maintain 30 placements/month
Salt Lake City, UT
The System Is Mostly Built: Now What?
The Beginning: October 2012

- As a community, we learned how to bring VA resources to the table
- Landlord work was key
- Our VA had to bend a lot to understand Housing First
- We “played” with other communities to ensure momentum
- We pushed for our Mayor to engage
- We created the master list
Today: May 2015 (31 months in)

- Our system to house Veterans experiencing homelessness has completely transformed
- Everyone is at the table—most of the time
- A champion is necessary
- The numbers aren’t the most important thing
- The master list is the an essential component
- Numbers are drastically reduced. We collectively know every person on the list
Threats to Momentum

- Agencies get TIRED
- Agencies snap back to September 2012 practices
- Resources begin to be allocated for different purposes
- Staff changes require new training and commitments
Where We’ll Be Sept 30, 2015

- The loose ends that are not in place will be
- The community will understand the system from start to finish
- Veterans will not spend any time in the system without being engaged
- We will be comfortable with declaring a functional zero for Veterans experiencing homelessness