Meeting Legal Needs of Homeless and At-Risk Veterans: VHA Programs for Justice-Involved Veterans
Training Logistics

• Date: May 14, 2013
• Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT
• Q&A at the end of the presentations
• Hosted by: National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Technical Assistance Center
Logging In and Downloading Materials

• **To join by webinar:** Within 10 minutes of the training's start time, log in here: http://lotuslive.readyshow.com using the following participant code: 26432122. You will be able to hear the audio of the call through your computer, or you can listen to the audio over the phone by dialing 1-877-366-0711 and providing the operator with the following participant code: 26432122.

• **To join by phone only (not using webinar platform):** Please dial 1-877-366-0711 within 10 minutes of the training's start time and provide the operator with the following participant code: 26432122.

• **Materials for this training will be available here:** http://nchv.org/index.php/service/service/teleconference/

• If you are having difficulties logging in, please try again or contact Baylee Crone at bcrone@nchv.org.
Asking Questions During the Training

- Submit questions in the chat box on the webinar
- E-mail questions to Baylee Crone at bcrone@nchv.org
- Submit questions through the post-training survey (received tomorrow morning)
Justice-Involved Veterans

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National Coordinator, Veterans Justice Outreach

May 14, 2013
Objectives

1) Understand the core components of Veterans Justice Programs

2) Understand the key outreach points along the justice system continuum

3) Expand awareness of the needs of justice involved Veterans
Agenda

Mission
Strategic Goals
Services

Sequential Intercept Model
National Estimates

VA and Treatment Courts
VA Authorization Limits

Incarcerated Veterans: Offense Types
Homelessness Risk

Notable Developments
Veterans Reentry Search Service

CHALENG: consumers’ needs
Discussion
VHA Justice Programs: Mission

To partner with the criminal justice system to identify Veterans who would benefit from treatment as an alternative to incarceration. VJP will ensure access to exceptional care, tailored to individual needs, for justice-involved Veterans by linking each Veteran to VA and community services that will prevent homelessness, improve social and clinical outcomes, facilitate recovery and end Veterans’ cyclical contact with the criminal justice system.
VHA Justice Programs: Strategic Goals

1. Improve Veteran identification
2. Build staff capacity/skill
3. Match Veterans to appropriate treatment
4. Reduce stigma
5. Develop systems for evaluation, research and knowledge
VHA Justice Outreach Services

**Justice Outreach**

- Gain access to the jail
- Identify Veterans and Determine Eligibility
- Conduct outreach, assessment, and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails
- Provide/coordinate training for law enforcement personnel
- Linkage to VA and Community Services/Resources

- Number of VJO Specialists funded: 173
- Number of 3,365 local jail facilities serviced: Not yet known
- Number of Veterans receiving VJO services (Oct. 2009 – Sept. 2012): 40,786

**Prison Re-Entry**

- Gain access to the prison
- Educate Veterans’ groups about VA and VA services
- Identify Veterans and Determine Eligibility
- Reentry Planning
- Linkage to VA and Community Services

- Number of HCRV Specialists funded: 44
- Number of state and federal prisons serviced: 1,008 (78%) of 1,295 US prisons
- Number of incarcerated Veterans receiving reentry services (Aug. 2007-Sept. 2012): 46,452
### Justice-Involved Veterans: National Estimates from Bureau of Justice Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criminal justice involvement</th>
<th>Number of U.S. residents, 2007</th>
<th>Percent reporting prior military service</th>
<th>Estimated number of military veterans, 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Probation supervision</td>
<td>4,293,200</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>399,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parole or supervised release</td>
<td>824,400</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local jail custody</td>
<td>780,600</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>72,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State prison custody</td>
<td>1,315,300</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>136,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal prison custody</td>
<td>197,300</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>19,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, correctional supervision</td>
<td>7,328,200</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>703,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adults Arrested**: 12,078,000

*Note: All counts are estimates, rounded to the nearest thousand.*

a/ Probation and parole population counts based on BJS Annual Probation and Parole Surveys, 2007; percentage of veterans based on SAM HSA’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2007.
b/ Local jail population counts based on BJS’ Annual Survey of Jails, 2007; percentage of veterans based on BJS’ Survey of Inmates in Local Jails, 2002.
d/ Because some offenders may have multiple statuses, this total is less than the combined populations.
e/ Arrest count is taken from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program, 2007; percentage of veterans based on SAM HSA’s National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2007.
VA Partnership with Veterans Treatment Courts

Veterans Treatment Courts:
- Hybrid Drug and Mental Health Treatment Courts, serving Veteran defendants
- Volunteer Veteran Mentors
- 168 courts operating (up from 50 courts in January 2011)
- ~100 in planning process

VA Contributions:
- VJO Specialist on treatment team; in courtroom when in session
- Linkage to health care services at VA medical centers
- Benefits assistance: VBA participation (both in and out of court)
- Partner with National Association of Drug Court Professionals to spread the model and established best practices
- Clark, McGuire, Blue-Howells in *Drug Court Review* (2010) - Early Development of Veterans Treatment Courts: Local and Legislative Initiatives
Limits on VA Authorization

• Can provide:
  – Outreach, assessment, referral and linkage to services
  – Treatment for justice-involved Veterans who are not incarcerated

• Title 38 CFR 17.38 (c)(5) does not allow VHA to provide:
  – Hospital and outpatient care for a Veteran who is
    • Either a patient or inmate in an institution of another government agency
    • If that agency has a duty to give that care or services
## Incarcerated Veteran Offense Type
(sources: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000 [Jails], 2004 [Prisons])

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Offense</th>
<th>State Prison</th>
<th>Federal Prison</th>
<th>Jail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violent Offenses</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Offenses</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Offenses</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public-order Offenses</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other/unspecified</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Homelessness Risk

Incarceration as an adult male is the single highest risk factor of ever being homeless (NSHAPC/Burt, 1996)

“Lengthy periods of incarceration in remote locations often attenuate the social and family ties that are crucial for successful reentry into the community.” (p. 9-5).

“…(E)ven short term incarcerations may disrupt lives and interfere with the ability to maintain employment and housing.” (p. 9-6).

(Metraux, Roman, and Cho on prison reentry/jail stays, National Symposium on Homelessness Research, 2007)
Developments: Access to Legal Services

• VHA Directive 2011-034: VA medical centers making office space available for legal service providers to work with Veterans

• Legal services for homeless and at-risk Veterans through VHA Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program

• Promoting legal service providers’ participation in SSVF as subcontractors (example: DoJ Access to Justice Initiative webinar)
Developments: Video Outreach

• 1) “A Second Chance for Veterans” – for VA leadership/staff and community partners (includes an introduction by Secretary Shinseki)

• 2) “Suits: Support for Incarcerated Veterans” – direct outreach to incarcerated Veterans (includes a companion training video for correctional staff)

• Each is available online (http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp)

• National dissemination:
  – Veterans Justice Outreach and Health Care for Reentry Veterans Specialists use copies of “Second Chance” in presentations to VA and community audiences
  – Justice Programs staff are working with the Association of State Correctional Administrators and other partners to get “Suits” aired in correctional facilities nationwide
Developments: Police Training Initiative

- VA Police Training Initiative
  - Partnership between Veterans Justice Programs, VA Law Enforcement Training Center, VA mental health providers
  - Topics: verbal crisis de-escalation skills, mental health and other clinical issues, VA resources for justice-involved Veterans
  - Goal: train all VA Police officers by end of FY 2014
Veterans Reentry Search Service (VRSS)

Goal: Build a system to identify all Veterans currently incarcerated/in courts

Data source:
• VA/DoD Identity Repository (VADIR)
• Universal data source on Veterans (25 million + entries)

Status:
• Current demonstration users: California, Iowa and Maryland Departments of Corrections
• VRSS identifying approximately 8% of inmates with history of military service; improvement over self-report response rates of 2-5%

Next Steps:
• Add demonstration users from jails and courts
• National implementation
CHALENG needs, Consumer rated

FY 2010 13,432 Veterans completed the consumer survey

- 3. Legal assistance for child support issues
- 6. Legal assistance for outstanding warrants/fines
- 10. Legal assistance to help restore a driver’s license

FY 2011 11,446 were homeless Veterans

- 2. Housing for registered sex offenders
- 3. Legal assistance to prevent eviction/foreclosure
- 6. Legal assistance for child support issues
- 10. Legal assistance for outstanding warrants/fines
Q&A

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• E-mail questions to Baylee Crone at bcrone@nchv.org

• Submit questions through the post-training survey (received tomorrow morning)
Contact Information and Next Steps

• Thank you for participating in today’s webinar training
• Please fill out the post-training survey you will receive
• Check back for a recording of this training and other materials:
  http://nchv.org/index.php/service/service/teleconference/
• For Technical Assistance from NCHV, contact Baylee Crone at (202) 546-1969 or by e-mail at bcrone@nchv.org