

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND AMERICORPS STATE
SERVICE PLAN
FOR
VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES
FOR
THE RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION FOR
NATIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE
SERVE RHODE ISLAND

Methodology

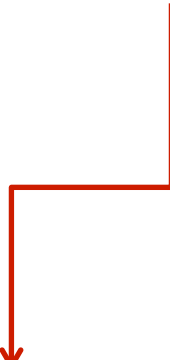


- Review of existing research (Rand publication, ProJo Series)
- Statistical analysis
- Consultation with service agencies and non-profits
- Stakeholder meetings
- Identification of needs/concerns

VA Healthcare Utilization Rates Revisited

- Total Veteran Population = 76,500
- Total RI Veteran Enrollees = 26,400
- Estimated # of Users in RI = 17,000

Gap = 50,100



Qualitative research indicates that the majority of this “gap population” has not attempted to enroll in the VA healthcare system

Homeless Veteran Population

- Point-in-Time count (January 27, 2010)
 - 1,206 homeless individuals in RI shelters; 7 percent (82 individuals) were veterans
 - 76 unsheltered individuals were counted, 4 of which were veterans

Number of Sheltered Homeless Veterans (10/1/09-9/30/10)

Emergency Shelter for Veteran Families	Transitional Housing for Veteran Families	Permanent Supportive Housing for Veteran Families	Veterans in Emergency Shelters	Veterans in Transitional Shelter	Veterans in Permanent Supportive Housing
3	2	4	161	106	66

Sources: 2010 Continuum of Care Application; 2010 AHAR

Homeless Veteran Population

Inventory of Beds Designated for Veterans

Emergency Shelter for Veteran Families	Transitional Housing for Veteran Families	Permanent Supportive Housing for Veteran Families	Veterans in Emergency Shelters	Veterans in Transitional Shelter	Veterans in Permanent Supportive Housing
0	0	42	40	73	54

Source: 2010 Continuum of Care Application; 2010 AHAR

Key Findings



- Multiple deployments increase issues
- Number of returning Veterans will increase
- Resources are significant and have increased
- VA has changed approach
- VA system can be bureaucratic and complex; difficult to understand and discouraging
- Utilization rates can improve
- Vets helping vets is an ideal dynamic

Recommendations



- Primary recommendation
 - ▣ Outreach and referral service

- Secondary recommendations
 - ▣ Several alternative services addressing multiple veteran needs

Primary Recommendation: Outreach and Referral Service

□ Key Elements

- Ideal volunteer dynamic is vet to vet
- Reach vets not enrolled in VA system
- Assist vets in understanding the system

□ Structure

- One central agency, with network of providers
- Vets and military family member recruited as members
- Recruit vet members from multiple sources

Primary Recommendation: Outreach and Referral Service

- Link vets with wide array of service
- All members trained in working with vets, collaborate closely with VA
- One member stationed at each agency (CAP)
- Other members perform outreach
- Vista members:
 - ▣ Research available programs
 - ▣ Continue needs analysis

Primary Recommendation: Outreach and Referral Service



- Service projects
 - Outdoor orientation
 - Every 10th day of service
 - Invite vet clients to participate

- Career/skill orientation
 - 20% of service time
 - Option: concentrate activities at end of service

Primary Recommendation: Outreach and Referral Service



- Marketing
 - RONA
 - Other agencies
 - Community focus points
 - Unit focus

Secondary Recommendations



- Life skills
- Employment
- Conservation Corps
- Transportation
- Legal aid
- Homeless prevention