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VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

Integrating Veteran Peer Support in State & Local Systems

2023 MILITARY SOCIAL WORK & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN

June 12th, 2023





TEXAS VETERANS COMMISSION

- Claims Benefits
- Education
- Employment
- Entrepreneurship
- Healthcare Advocacy
- Fund for Veterans' Assistance Grants
- Women Veteran Program
- Veterans Mental Health Department



Veterans Mental Health Department



- Justice Involved Veteran Program
- Homeless Veteran Program
- Military Veteran Peer Network
- Provider Training Program
- Veteran Suicide Prevention Program
- Community & Faith-Based Partnerships



Military Veteran Peer Network

Legislative Mandated Program

Statewide Peer-To-Peer Network

TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators

Over 5, 000 MVPN Peer Volunteers

Broadest Definition of Veteran & Family Member



TVC-Certified Peer Service Coordinators



- ▶ Individual & Group Peer Support
- ▶ Military Cultural Competency
- ▶ Suicide Prevention & Means Safety
- ▶ Bridging Local SMVF Connections
- ▶ Assist Justice Involved Veterans
- ▶ Can Serve SMVF Anonymously



Veteran Peer Integration Across Texas

**Criminal Justice
System**

**Homelessness
Prevention**

**Bridging Clinical
Services**

**Community
Building**

**Suicide
Prevention**



Criminal Justice System

State & Local Law Enforcement

- Training
- Diversion Opportunities

Jails & Sheriff Departments

- JIV Info Cards
- Training
- Groups

Veteran Treatment Courts

- Court Mentorship
- SMVF Resources

TDCJ Prison & State Jail System

- Veteran Programming
- Reentry Planning

Community Supervision



Homelessness Prevention

Homeless Veteran Coordinators

- Give/Receive Referrals
- Intervention Planning

Connection to Basic Needs

- Food Pantries
- Shower
- Shelter

Connection to VA Services

- System Navigation

Homeless Outreach Street Teams (HOST)

- Peer Support Requirement
- Lived Experience



Peers & Clinical Services

- Integrated Behavioral Health Approach & Effective Treatment Planning
- Enhance Buy-in & Active Participation
- Assist in Goal Planning
- Often First Point of Contact

- MVPN:
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - Connections to LMHAs, VA, & Trusted SMVF Community Providers
 - Partner w/ Rural Veteran Counselors



Leveraging Community Partnerships



Military Cultural Competency

- Basics of How to Work w/ Veterans
- Dispelling Myths
- Improve Local Workforce

Promoting Connectedness

- Veteran Groups
- SMVF Community Events
- Volunteer Opportunities

Raising Awareness

- Ask the Question Campaign
- Buddy Check Day
- Local Campaigns

Communities of Faith

- Often Initial Touch Point
- Maximize Limited Resources in Rural Communities
- In Every Community
- Faith & Allegiance Initiative



Suicide Prevention

Suicide Risk Screening

- C-SSRS

Gatekeeper Training

- AS+K?

Lethal Means Safety

- CALM Training
- Safe Storage Options

Buddy Check Day

- The 11th of Every Month

Local Suicide Prevention Coalitions

- Texas Suicide Prevention Collaborative

Emergency Services

- Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams
- LOSS Teams
- Inpatient & Outpatient Options
- Veteran Crisis Line (988 Press 1)



www.veteransmentalhealth.texas.gov



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