

National Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans Meeting
October 16 - 17, 2007
FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON SAN DIEGO
8110 AERO DRIVE • SAN DIEGO, CA 92123

The National Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans met on October 16 - 17, 2007 at FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON SAN DIEGO Room Pavilion B.

Committee Members Present:

George Basher, Chairman
Roosevelt Thompson
Sam Galbreath,
Ralph Cooper
Joseph Smith
Kathy Spearman
Leslie Lightfoot
Sandy Miller
Craig Burnette
Joseph Autry

Committee Members Absent:

Raymond Boland
Paul Moore (special consultant)
Ron Chamrin
Carlos Martinez
Charles Battaglia

Peter Dougherty, the Committee's Designated Federal Official (DFO) was present

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Chairman Mr. Basher called the meeting to order at 8:15 AM.

Mr. Dougherty introduced new members to the committee Charles Battaglia, Ron Chamrin, Carlos Martinez, Craig Burnette and Joseph Autry. Announced committee members' appointment terms and presented certificates of appointment from Secretary VA to Craig Burnette and Joseph Autry.

Mr. Dougherty continued the meeting with review of committee's annual report. Discussed findings on the subject of Permanent Housing. Mentioned that there are 2 new proposals in Congress which have multiple provisions for homeless veterans that was a direct result from findings in the committee's annual report. On the subject of Surplus Land he emphasized the committee suggestion that the VISN put in the performance plan the designation of a modest portion of property. Mr. Dougherty explained to the committee the concept of matching funds for Grant Per Diem. Discussed committee's recommendation for HUD-VASH to manage money not used and return to veteran pool.

Finally, Mr. Dougherty mentioned other significant issues in the Advisory Report. Items discussed were:

OEF/OIF homelessness and funding
Dental Care program funding grown from 9 million to 10 million
Multifamily housing significant challenges
Mental Health Task Force

Afternoon 10/16/07

Local Panel presentation

Lisa Pinner HCHV San Diego
Mona Ojay Liaison Vietnam Veterans Village of San Diego
Courtney Mayfield St. Vincent Village reserve 12 beds a month for Homeless Veterans
Rob Heiland Interfaith

Panel discussed nature of veterans seen:

Majority Vietnam Veterans
Some OIF/OEF for assistance in employment
Veterans with bad discharges
High percentage of Women veterans

Challenges:

PTSD
Housing for incarcerated veterans

Ex Officio Reports

Mr. Paul Smits, Associate Chief Consultant, Homeless and Residential Treatment Programs, Department of Veterans Affairs

Provided an update of VA's Homeless Programs:

Explained that an outside consultant will be looking at Grant Per Diem program. Discussed more on the misconception VA funding Grant Per Diem.

HCHV and HCMI will get support from Congress.

There are as of the 3rd quarter of FY07:

330 Outreach Staff
20,000 intakes
48,000 services to homeless veterans
Contract programs with \$6.5 million in funding

Residential Treatment:

Through GPD 15,000 veterans
Through contract 1,000 veterans

DOM Homeless based program 6,000 veterans

In terms of success:

60% of the veterans are housed after discharged from the DOM
55% more GPD compared to 30% in 2004

Employment for homeless veterans discharged from the DOM increased 40%
From GPD program 50%
HCHV 40%

Future Initiatives:

Incarcerated veterans see 5,000 veterans to connect with community and VA services
In 2008 request for 17 additional Specialist
Network Homeless Coordinator in each VISN

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 PM

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

Chairman Basher called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

National Coalition of Homeless Veterans (NCHV) Mr. John Driscoll assistant to Ms. Cheryl Beversdorf, President & CEO

Mr. Driscoll emphasized the progress in the following areas:

- Technical assistance grants
- GPD tripled from 250 to 3,000 organizations

Progress because of two tracks approaches: Interactive and communication

These approaches have contributed to five areas of concentration:

- 1) Consultations on GPD applications to complete
- 2) Resource diversity and potential investors/new funding sources
- 3) Veterans access to program services other than VA
- 4) Regional and National training/ Chaleng process
- 5) Training and consultations on permanent housing and transition models

Increase in Special Needs grants

Jim McGuire NEPEC Director/CHALENG Evaluator on Incarcerated Veterans

Veterans are 12% of prison population

Planning conference to outreach to prisons. Will be done in two phases.

Phase 1: Central goal to get to get these veterans connected to VA

Hire 21 Re-entry specialist for VISN basing with highest concentration of prisoners

Phase 2: Access issues

Point of Contact for Primary Care/HP/SA/MH

Working toward a national access system

Goal to contact 5,000 prisoners annually and get at least half of them in case management

Ex Officio Reports Continued

John O'Brien Interagency Council on Homelessness

Focus on 10 year plan to decrease chronic homelessness community from baseline

The plan concentrates in these areas:

Regional with use of ICH resource guide

State Department of Veterans Affairs developing plans for housing homeless veterans

Encourage VA growing involvement

GPD

Identifying innovations and best practices: Project Homeless Connect, assertive Community Intervention

Challenging issues:

Plans do not translate to a specific strategy

Lack of understanding from providers of VA as a resource

Inaccurate reports on progress

The Committee adjourned at 12:30 pm.