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A stack of white papers or documents, slightly blurred, set against a light blue background.A globe showing the Americas, set against a purple and blue background.

Health Care for Homeless Veterans Programs (HCHV)

A stack of white papers or documents, slightly blurred, set against a light green background.A round analog clock with a white face and black numbers, set against a yellow and orange background.

(JCHAO and CARF Accredited)

The background is a collage of four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a stack of papers on a purple background. The top-right quadrant shows a clock face on a pink background. The bottom-left quadrant shows a stack of papers on a green background. The bottom-right quadrant shows a clock face on a yellow background.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO RECOVERY

COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY
SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT
GRANT AND PER DIEM
HOMELESS VETERANS' REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

"FIFTH MISSION OF VHA"

- **In 1998, services to the homeless veterans were designated as the fifth mission of VHA.**
- **"To continue to be a key element in the nations public health safety net, in general, and to provide medical service and other support for homeless veterans, in particular."**



WHAT IS HCHV?

- The Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Staff assists homeless veterans in the Southeast Region. HCHV connects homeless veterans with the VA Medical Center and various community resources. HCHV provides assistance with healthcare, finding housing, job search, finding treatment for alcohol and drug problems, and emotional issues. The staff meets with each individual to find out what their needs are and make a plan for services to meet those needs.



What Are The Goals of the HCHV Program?

- To help veteran regain independence
- To help with obtaining better health care - medical, mental health, substance abuse treatment
- To assist with finding housing
- To assist with job search
- If it is determined that a person is unable to work, the staff will help them in applying for benefits through the VAMC or Social Security.



MISSION STATEMENT

- **To provide high-quality comprehensive and compassionate care to veterans through outreach, referrals, residential rehabilitation and case management.**



ORGANIZATIONAL VISION

- **To be the rehabilitative provider of choice; restoring and supporting veterans to reach an optimal level of independence.**



ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

- **Trust**
- **Respect**
- **Excellence**
- **Commitment**
- **Compassion**



Who Is Eligible for HCHV Services?

- Homeless veterans who are discharged from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions are eligible for HCHV services.
- If you are eligible for HCHV services, you may also be eligible for other benefits and services through the Department of Veteran Affairs. Do you know what your benefits are? Are you making use of them? Do you need help?



What Services Are Available Through the HCHV Program?

- The Staff of HCHV provide assistance in with the following
- Medical and Mental Health evaluations and care
- Case Management - provide resources and make referrals for best available treatment services
- Resources on drug and alcohol treatment and recovery within the VAMC and community
- Education on resources regarding finding housing
- Job search through the VAMC, state and local resources
- Placement in the HCHV residential home or VA Domiciliary, depending on the specific needs of the veteran.



Who Can Benefit From The Program?

- Homeless veterans that live in shelters, poor housing, or on the streets that also struggle with social, emotional, medical, and or alcohol/drug problems.



Highlights & Opportunities

- HCHV Program has utilized the DRRTP at this facility with successful outcomes.
- A PA-C has been assigned to complete History & Physicals on all referred Homeless Veterans and will collaborate with the HCHV program on indicated medical care and referrals.
- Participated in a Mini-Stand Down with other community stakeholders in Augusta in March 2007 and participated in a Stand-Down in Greenwood, SC with VAMC Columbia, SC. In May 2007
- CHALENG Meeting in August 2007 was held with Augusta/Richmond County's Mayor co-welcoming participants with all VAMC Augusta's top management. The program was "Our Nation's Newest Homeless: OEF/OIF Combat Veterans."

Housing Programs

- Grant and Per Diem
- Per Diem Only
- Contract Housing
- Community Housing Programs
- HUD
- Home Ownership



RECOVERY

- Recovery is a process of restoring or developing a meaningful sense of belonging and positive sense of identify apart from one condition while rebuilding a life in the broader community despite within the limitation by that condition.



RECOVERY

- Recovery refers to learning how to live a safe life in the face of enduring disability which may at times, be associated with serious mental illness.



RECOVERY-WORK, WORK, AND WORK

- There is a job for anyone who wants one – regardless of disability, need for workplace accommodation, economic or life circumstances.



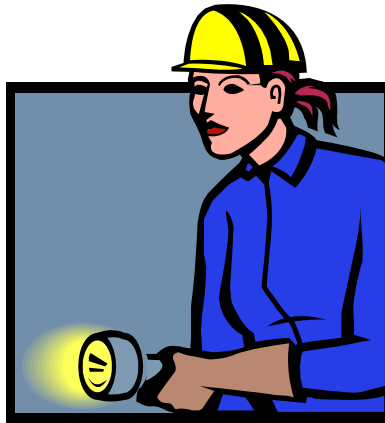
WORK, WORK AND WORK

- Work is a great healer.
- A new job opportunity can give a veteran a new sense of self-worth and pride in doing a good day's work.



COMPENSATED WORK THERAPY (CWT)

- Compensated Work Therapy (CWT) offers a wide range of vocationally oriented services to the veteran. The primary objective of CWT is to improve employability.



CASE MANAGERS

- Help veterans overcome obstacles that have prevented them from obtaining employment on their own.



Compensated Work Therapy

- CWT placements enable participants to practice negotiating the demands of a real-world work environment, while they concurrently receive treatment designed to support them in achieving their vocational goals.



THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY:

- Evaluation of work habits and vocational potential
- Identifying assets and deficits
- Development of marketable job skills.
- Use of available job-search resources, improvement of work habits and attitudes.
- Increase self esteem and confidence
- Assist with vocational readjustment and integration back into community employment.



CWT PLACEMENTS

CWT placements pay therapeutic benefits such as reinforcing good work habits, and helping veterans save for independent living.



The VETERANS BENEFITS

BY:

- Practice keeping a regular work schedule
- Feel better about themselves and have a sense of accomplishment.
- Learn to deal with others in more productive ways.
- Practice staying clean and sober.
- Practice handling stressful situations
- Develop patience and self-control
- Have a base from which to seek a competitive job.
- Prepare for life with reduced welfare or disability income.
- Learn how to feel more secure about work abilities.
- Practice maintaining quality of work standards.
- Adjust to work with prescribed medications or assistance devices.
- Get support from other veterans who are also developing vocational goals.



SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT (SE)

- The supportive employment program places participants in competitive employment in the community.



CLIENTS FOR THIS PROGRAM MUST HAVE

- PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS OF SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS
- *BIPOLAR DISORDER*
- *SCHIZOAFFECTIVE DISORDER*
- *SCHIZOPHRENIA*
- *MAJOR DEPRESSION WITH PSYCHOTIC FEATURES*



SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYMENT WILL ALSO INCLUDE VETERANS WITH

- TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)
- SPINAL CORD INJURY (SCI)



BENEFITS OF RETURNING TO WORK AFTER PHYSICAL INJURY:

- QUALITY OF LIFE
- HANDICAP IS DIMINISHED
- FUNCTIONAL INDEPENDENCE
- HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION COST DECREASE.





SERVICES PROVIDED ARE

- JOB DEVELOPMENT
- JOB PLACEMENT
- ONGOING EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT
- VOCATIONAL CASE MANAGEMENT
- REFERRALS TO SUPPLEMENTARY SERVICES AS NEEDED.

EARNINGS

- Earning while in supportive employment do not affect SC individual unemployability (IU) rating or NSC pension benefits.



A Supportive Employment Goal Is

- To improve the integration of the supportive employment specialist within the mental health treatment team and to illustrate that integration through electronic medical record documentation.



Referrals

- Work closely with MHICM Team
- TBI Coordinator
- SCI Coordinator
- Inpatient Team
- Outpatient Staff
- Goal is to increase referrals of veterans and provide feedback to the team on veterans.



HOMELESS VETERAN'S REINTEGRATION PROGRAM

- The grantee of the HVRP in South Carolina is the S.C. State Employment Commission.
- The Dorn VAMC is a sub grantee working with the S.C. Employment Commission in accomplishing the as described in the application for federal assistance.



HVRP

- The primary objectives of HVRP are to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force



HVRP

- To stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans.



EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES

- Classroom training
- Job search activities
- Job preparation
- Job placement
- Placement follow up services
- Vocational Counseling



HCHV/CWT Programs

- Case Management
- Coordination of Services
- Outreach to include at One Stop
- State VR staff at VAMC to work with veterans



Incarcerated Veterans Reentry Program

- 68% of veterans released will be re-incarcerated within three years if they do not have a structured program.
- If admitted to a structured Program with job placement/training 68% will be success.
- 12% of Incarcerated adults are veterans.



Changing the End of the Story

- For homeless veterans and those with debilitating physical and mental health issues leave many without hope. VA in collaboration with other government and community service providers, is changing the end of the story for veterans who are homeless as well as those with serious mental illness and physical health issues.



GIVEN A CHOICE

- Given a choice between work and idleness, people will almost always chose work.
- Regardless of our station in life, the conditions of our bodies and mind, or the amount of money in our bank accounts, the need to work remains one of our strongest drives. Work is central to our lives, and as such, gives a large measure of structure to our days. Commons sense tells us that we feel better about ourselves when we are working regularly.

■ Robert E. Drake, M.D., Ph.D



New Programs

- Training Program for All Housing Providers in VISN-7.
- Pilot Program to Close the Front Door to Homelessness.
 - No matter how many veterans we help off the streets, we will not eradicate homelessness unless we prevent veterans from becoming homeless.

