Veterans Directed Home and Community-Based Services (VD-HCBS)

SERVING RURAL VETERANS IN THE COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY LIVE

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Why SWCIL focused on Rural Veterans?

- Lack of community based services for veterans with disabilities especially in rural areas
- Greater public awareness of the need for Veteran services in the community by deployment of the local National Guard Unit
- Professional relationships with VA by SWCIL's Executive who is a Viet Nam veteran and dealt with PTSD and health issues

Importance of Rural Partnerships

- **Rural Veterans Action Team**
  - Mission: Bring outreach and services for Veterans living in rural areas to their homes and communities.
  - Vision: Establish a recognized network of rural community based providers to serve Veterans in their homes and communities in collaboration with the Federal and State Veteran Affairs systems.

Resource Members/Participants

- Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs
- MN Military Family Assistance Centers
- VA Hospital – St. Cloud
- VA Clinic - Montevideo
- VA Hospital – Sioux Falls
- Vet Centers – Sioux Falls
- MN Assistance Council for Veterans – MAC-V
- SMSU Veterans Resource Center
- Military – Unit TBI Trainer
- Clergy – Lutheran Minister & Army Chaplain
- SW Center for Independent Living (SWCIL)
- American Legion Post 113 - Marshall
- VFW Post – Granite Falls
- County Veterans Service Officers (2)
- MN Workforce Center - Veterans
- Brain Injury Association of America

VD-HCBS services offered in a person-centered way?

- **<u>Consumer Directed Program</u>** includes
  - **Veteran's Plan**
    - Has **choice** and **control** over your services
    - Decides **when** and **where** to receive services
  - **Veteran's Budget**
    - Decides how to spend budget to direct services
  - **Veteran's team of people to assist as needed**
    - Chooses **WHO** should provide your services (you may even choose a family member or friend).
    - Decides **HOW** your needs can be met in different ways than they currently are being met.

Veteran Examples Tell the Story Best

MINNESOTA & TEXAS EXAMPLES

NH Diversion Example 1

Darvin - 83 year old naval veteran from WW II in late stage Alzheimer's Disease and had several other medical issues facing nursing home admission because his 75 year old wife could not care for him

- VD-HCBS Plan
  - 65 hours per week personal care attendants
  - Medical equipment supplied and paid by VA and Medicare
  - "Care for the Person with Dementia" and "Family Caregiver: Physical Skills" for Family members
  - Hospice care paying not only attendants but family members.

Darvin died at home surrounded by his loved ones as he wished.

NH Diversion Example 2

Joe - 69 year old Staff Sergeant with ALS (Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The disease and his dependence on others was robbing him of his independence.

- VD-HCBS Plan
  - 45.9 hours personal care attendants per week, which is his budget
  - Home modifications and a lift, and electric wheelchair
  - Computer devices to "talk" and turn on the TV or appliances with his eyes
  - VA Nurse visits weekly and by VA nurse practitioner as needed.
  - Telemedicine Connection to VA Clinic regarding vitals take by attendants
  - InteractiveTV at VA Clinic Sioux Falls counselor for depression

The care manager said Joe took her hand in his weakened hand and with tears in his eyes said:

"Thank you. You have no idea"

NH Transition Example 3

Anna - 93 year old WW II Army Nurse with Alzheimer's required transition services after skilled nursing facility stay for a broken hip and a hip replacement. Her niece wanted her to live with her but works full time.

VD-HCBS Plan

- 35 hours a week of personal care attendant with her niece providing care on weekends
- "Care for the Person with Dementia" and "Family Caregiver: Physical Skills" training for niece and paid caregiver through Central Texas Center for Caregiver Excellence

"Anna remains in that home and is now 93 years old and not living in a nursing home."

SWCIL Lessons Learned

- Areas requiring care manager's assistance
  - Locating workers—Some Veterans have difficulties recruiting staff when they don't have family or friends to help them.
  - Navigating the VA and health care system
    - Example: A Veteran and his family may find it difficult to get to appointments because of the Veteran's dementia and the caregiver cannot just leave him at the door and go and park the car
  - Education VA services and requirements
    - Example: Veteran that their staff has to complete the employment paperwork and pass a criminal background check before VD-HCBS can start paying them.

Additional Information

- Materials to be posted on the MDS 3.0 conference website
  - Minnesota SWCIL VD-HCBS ORIENTATION PAMPHLET
  - VD-HCBS Sioux Falls VA Medical Center brochure will be posted
- Contact Information:

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