FACT SHEET
Veteran Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP)

(As of 02/03/2017)

In the fall of 2014, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS), partnering with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) applied for and was awarded a $1.2 million dollar, three year grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide mental health and substance abuse services to homeless and/or chronic homeless veterans in Wisconsin. Effective October 2015, the departments were awarded a supplemental SAMHSA Enhancement Grant of $1.2 million dollars, for a two year period to provide additional resources and expand county participation in the program.

Overview of VORP

VORP is a comprehensive, coordinated outreach, treatment and recovery support program for veterans who are homeless and have a behavioral health disorder. VORP will support the existing treatment and homeless programs and provide services in the 49 counties of northern and central Wisconsin. This new program employs Outreach and Recovery Specialists (ORSs) working as case-managers, assigned to a region where veterans have difficulties accessing adequate housing and treatment services. Six regions will be established where ORSs will work with key local contacts including county homeless programs, behavioral health services, veteran organizations, and housing services to help provide the appropriate recovery supports so that veterans are successful in reaching their goals. The ORSs will use the evidence-based Motivational Interviewing method to work with the veterans to ensure that they have stable housing, connect them to proper treatment, and follow-up to ensure that the treatment is continual and effective.

When the Program began in April 2015, three ORSs were hired and supported by a Clinical Coordinator and a Program Manager. In October 2015, under the supplemental grant, three additional ORSs and two supporting positions will be added. One position is an SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) Specialist, who will assist veterans with signing up for Social Security and other available benefits. The other position is an Operations Program Associate (OPA), who will assist with administrative duties, special projects, and financial assistance.

Goals

- Establish partnerships with mental health and AODA providers in regions.
- Work with local shelters and others to find temporary, transitional and permanent housing.
- Establish a network that makes treatment options more accessible to rural veterans.
- Identify homeless veterans and define gaps in treatment.
- Provide information on housing and behavioral health treatment services to all homeless veterans contacted.
- Ensure that 90% of the enrollee target population is connected to either housing or behavioral health services at follow-up.
- Provide ongoing case management to a veteran client for the life of the grant.
- Provide transportation to connect the veteran to proper treatment and follow up to ensure that the treatment is continual and effective.

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