


Homeless Alliance for the Lower Shore Continuum of Care (COC) Policy

Policy on HALS Community Plan on Ending Veteran Homelessness	Effective: September 1, 2016	Revised:
Approved by:	Name 	Date: September 8, 2016

I. Purpose:

Develop procedures for community plan to end Veteran homelessness by the end of December 2016, that will encompass the mid and lower shore counties.

II. Policy:

Every accessible homeless Veteran, both sheltered and unsheltered, will be identified, rapidly engaged, sheltered and/or housed, if desired, within 60 days. Our system, which includes local VA, COC partners, and community service providers, will also be prepared to effectively serve any Veteran who was initially unidentified, becomes at risk for homelessness, or experiences a future episode of homelessness.

III. Procedure for Community Plan Implementation

The COC will develop a master list by:

- Obtaining ROI
 - Use Release of Information created by the Veterans Community Plan Workgroup (VCPW) for all identified homeless veterans to be entered on the Master By-Name List.
- Master List Uploaded to Google Docs
- Both VA/SSVF eligible and non-eligible Veteran
 - All veterans that have at least one day of net active service and are not dishonorably discharged will be entered on the Master List.
- Identifying information to be entered
 - First and last name and HMIS number.
- Provider information and updates
 - Identify which agency(ies) will provide housing services to the Veteran along with expected housing date and notes regarding placement.
- Exit Destination and Plan
 - Outline where veteran is exited to and summarize plan for remaining stably housed.
- Return to Homelessness
 - Each occurrence of Veteran's homelessness will have a new entry onto Master List in order to track and analyze

Maintenance of List

- Access to Master List
 - All workgroup members will have access to review master list.
- Update of Master List
 - Only SSVF providers will update the list according to new enrollments and changes in status.
 - Changes/updates to occur daily as needed or upon changes.
- Identifying new homeless Veterans
 - Continuous identification of veterans entering homelessness through SSVF, VA and street outreach efforts, HMIS, emergency shelters, day shelters and PIT counts.
- Exit from Master List
 - Once Veteran is permanently housed, information will be documented on master list and entry shaded to indicate Veteran has been “exited”.

Case Review

- Workgroup meetings
 - Case conferencing to be held, in person, monthly.
 - Strategic planning meetings will involve VA personnel and be held quarterly.
- Strategies for Placement in Permanent Housing
 - Housing first model
 - Prioritizing those Veterans that are chronically homeless (most cost to the community)
 - Prioritization of existing housing resources (VASH, PSH, SSVF, etc.)
 - Interventions and removal of barriers
 - Enlist Mayors to participate (Mayor’s Challenge)

Evaluation and Tracking

- Using Master List to analyze recidivism
 - Repetitions of homeless incidents will be easily identified by separate entries to Master List
- Return to homelessness
 - Use Master List as a tool to monitor how often and reasons why rehoused Veterans are unable to sustain permanent housing.