3.1.d: Decrease veteran homelessness from 1,475 to 737 (50%) by 12/31/2015

**RESULTS**

**WASHINGTON**

**HOMELESS VETERANS**

**WA State Department of Veterans Affairs**

- **Alfie Alvarado-Ramos**, Director
- **Cat Nichols**, Program Manager, Financial, Transition & Homeless Reintegration Services
- **Ray Switzer**, Program Manager, Building 9

**King County**

**Patricia Lemus**
Assistant Division Director for Community Services Division
Background:

Homeless Veteran Demographics

- 70% have substance abuse issues
- 68% reside in principal cities
- 51% of individual homeless Veterans have disabilities
- 51% are white males, compared to 35% of non-Veterans
- 50% have serious mental health issues
- 50% are age 51 or older
- 41% are between the ages of 31 and 50
- 32% reside in suburban or rural areas
- 20% of male homeless population are Vets
- 12% of total adult homeless population are Vets
- 9% are between ages of 18 and 30

Data from National Coalition on Homeless Veterans

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Current State: Racial and Gender Disparities

- **General Population**
  - 93.2% Males
  - 6.8% Females

- **Homeless Population**
  - 94.7% Males
  - 5.3% Females

- **Demographics information unavailable for Unsheltered Homeless**
Current State: Needs Improvement

- Not on track to reduce number of homeless Veterans by 50%

The Good News

- Homeless Veterans either reduced or not changed in 31 out of 39 counties

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
2010

June 10, 2010 – First WDVA Homeless Veterans Housing Summit

VA HUD-VASH vouchers – 1,010
VA Grant & Per Diem Beds - 319

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2015

- WDVA Regional Veterans Housing Summits
- Homeless Conferences
- VA HUD-VASH vouchers – 2,206
- VA Grant & Per Diem Beds - 399
- VA Emergency Beds - 43
- Counties covered by Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)- 39 Counties

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2014 / 2015 Differences in PIT Homeless Veteran Count

PIT = Point in Time
PROBLEM: Point-in-Time Count results not consistent with WDVA, USDVA, and County/local efforts

WDVA Program Results 2010 – 2014
- Placed 1,704 Veterans into Housing
- Assisted 1,740 Veterans with Job Placements
- 1,438 Veterans assisted with Homeless Prevention

USDVA Program Results Fiscal FY 2014

VA Grant & Per Diem (transitional housing)
- Avg. Occupancy Rate 88%
- 11.3% Female Veterans
- 46% Chronically Homeless

HUD-VASH (permanent housing)
- 85.4% Chronically Homeless
- 92% of voucher in WA leased-up
- Housing Voucher Value average $700

County/Local HMIS Data (first 9 months of CY 2014)
Veterans entered into:
- Permanent Housing: 955
- Prevention (not homeless): 912
- Temporary Housing: 3,384 (25% of known exits then placed into Permanent Housing at exit)
Opportunity: *Homeless Prevention*

**Strategies:**

- Connection to VA Healthcare, Financial and Educational Benefits
- Transition Services on Military Installations (13-1)
- Early Intervention with Justice Involved Veterans
  - Treatment Courts
  - Reintegration
- Crisis Relief and Transition to Education or Employment (Veterans Innovations Program)
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project
- Veterans Estate Management Program (VEMP)
Problem: *Under-resourced Case Management and Access to Affordable Housing*

Strategies:

**Increase Case Management**

- Facilitate and expand access to Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF) grants
- Expand use of the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals Bringing Recovery Into Diverse Groups thru Engagement and Support Grant Program (CABHI-BRIDGES)
- Improve state interagency coordination to leverage and better distribute existing resources

**Increase Affordable Housing**

- Increase:
  - Housing commitments by landlords and property managers
  - Awareness and use of veteran housing vouchers
- Identify
  - Vacant state property for re-purposing
  - Vacant school property for re-purposing
  - Sites to build small houses
3.1.d: Decrease veteran homelessness from 1,475 to 737 (50%) by 12/31/2015

Problem: **662 Homeless Veterans in King County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Veterans w/o shelter overnight</th>
<th>January 22-23, 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trans*</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown or refused</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Facts:**

- Seattle is the fastest growing city in the Nation
- King County has a 2-percent vacancy rate
- Most resources (VASH and SSVF) rely on private market rental units
- Nearly 800 Veterans were permanently housed in King County in 2014

**Subset w/ Known CH Status**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CH</th>
<th>Not CH</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*(CH- Chronically Homeless)*

Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF)
Source: Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (www.homelessinfo.org)
King County Strategy: *System Coordination and Alignment*

**System Coordination Efforts:**
- 5 Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans in King County
- 25 Cities Initiative
- Mayor’s Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families Priority 1 Community Plan
- Zero: 2016

**How We Coordinate:**
- Use common tools to identify, assess, assist and match Veterans with choice to housing.
- Meet weekly to enhance outreach, system navigation and access to available housing options.
- Leadership team to address barriers, monitor progress and make success visible.
- One Home Campaign to increase landlord engagement in the private rental market.
- Refine data collection, sharing and reporting across multiple systems and agencies.
## Detailed Action Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Task Lead</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Expected Outcome</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research utilization and development of existing private buildings</td>
<td>WDVA</td>
<td>WestCare, King County, Pierce County</td>
<td>Creation of affordable housing opportunities</td>
<td>Not started</td>
<td>Sep 30, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and land especially in King, Pierce, Snohomish, Grant (Larson AFB)</td>
<td></td>
<td>RallyPoint 6 Metropolitan Development Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve data integrity</td>
<td>WDVA</td>
<td>DSHS, DOC, Commerce</td>
<td>Case management system</td>
<td>In process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner with VA to provide outreach on underutilized HUD-VASH and</td>
<td>WDVA</td>
<td>VA – Kathy Gerard</td>
<td>100% usage of HUD-VASH vouchers</td>
<td>Not started</td>
<td>Sep 30, 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>focus on King County landlords</td>
<td></td>
<td>HUD - Ryan Mielcarek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide technical assistance to WA Tribes on VASH voucher opportunities for Native American Veterans</td>
<td>WDVA</td>
<td>Tribes, VA – Kathy Gerard</td>
<td>Additional housing and case management for Native American Veterans</td>
<td>Not started</td>
<td>Sep 30, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>HUD – Ryan Mielcarek</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Governor’s Assistance Needed:

- Declare Ending Homelessness in Washington State a State Priority with subsequent executive actions, media and communication.

- Reenergize the Washington Interagency Council on Homelessness in order to make greater impact on the Chronically Homeless and Homeless Prevention.
Customer Focus

Veteran: Travis Yazzie

- US Army Combat Engineer 2005-2014
- Served 3 Tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom & Enduring Freedom
- WDVA Veterans Innovations Program Grant Recipient and VA WorkStudy
- Current Electrical Engineering Student, South Puget Sound Community College