

## Operational Program Highlights

March 14, 2011

1. R. Casey queried the field regarding their status toward participation in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). VA has an expectation that operational programs become active with HMIS by March 31, 2011. The GPD office is interested in knowing if programs are having difficulty with implementation. Many of the agencies on the call noted they had been involved with HMIS in the past, or have been set up. Those that were having difficulties noted the following issues; programs that were awaiting information about software from their local Continuum of Care (COC) due to changes or negotiations going on with software developers, programs concerned about financial costs associated with implementation and were awaiting more information, programs that have received training and awaiting software, and those programs that are unfamiliar with HMIS. Programs that were unfamiliar with HMIS were encouraged to contact their local COC for additional information about implementation, training and potential costs associated with implementation. Programs were encouraged to speak with their GPD liaison about contact information for their COC. Additional information could be obtained by contacting the ABT associates who provided the VA training about HMIS. They can be contacted at [VAHMIS@abtassoc.com](mailto:VAHMIS@abtassoc.com). The training which was provided last month to GPD providers can be found on the GPD providers web page [http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD\\_ProviderWebsite.asp](http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/GPD_ProviderWebsite.asp)
2. J. Quarles noted that the legislation authorizing the Special Needs grants does expire September 30, 2011.
3. The next operational call will be April 11, 2011@ 3p.m. eastern