

Conference Call Highlights
Grant and Per Diem Program Operational Call

August 8, 2011

1. Roger Casey provided an update on last month's topics.
 - a. GAO is continuing their study on the characteristics and needs of homeless women Veterans. GPD facilities that have capacity to serve women are being surveyed. If you received a survey, please complete and return it to GAO.
 - b. VA OIG is conducting a national review the GPD Program. They will be visiting selected sites. If your agency is selected for a site visit your Liaison will notify you.
 - c. Daniel Eke and Associates is conducting fiscal reviews of GPD projects. They are contractors that have been engaged by VA to review GPD program costs and accountability of funds.
2. A Special Need (renewal-only) Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) was published on August 8, 2011. This funding will allow for the continuation of currently active Special Need grants funded in 2009.
3. Reviews of the GPD Program have identified concerns regarding projects that served mixed-gender populations which have unrelated adults cohabitating in the same facility. At some GPD facilities there will need to be immediate and significant changes. These changes may include: relocation of female participants either within the facility or to an alternate facility; increased security measures (improved locks, separate bathrooms by gender, modifications of admission/screening criteria; changes of scope, etc.); and/or designation of the facility as gender-specific. The National GPD Program Office has is in the process of conducting a national inventory of all operational GPD projects and engaged all liaisons to determine the clinical appropriateness of placements at each facility. Liaisons will be working with their provider-sites regarding these issues. Our goal is to make certain that all GPD projects are providing those services to the homeless Veteran populations described in their grant application, while ensuring both safety and privacy of these Veterans.
4. Provider question regarding temporary absence of a Veteran. The following is general guidance regarding Veteran absences:
 - a. The GPD Program may pay per diem for up to 72 hours if:
 - i. A Veteran leaves a GPD facility and there is a reasonable expectation that s/he will return; and
 - ii. The GPD provider holds the bed for the Veteran.
 - b. If a Veteran is absent more than 72 hours then it is at the provider's expense.
 - c. NEPEC requires that if a Veteran is absent from the program for more than 14 days s/he must be discharged, regardless of reason.
 - d. If a Veteran is AWOL then s/he must be discharged and the program would stop billing for him/her within 24 hours.
5. Provider suggestion to hold a separate conference call for operational Service Centers only. GPD staff are exploring the interest and feasibility.
6. Reminder: next month's GPD Provider Operational Call is scheduled for September 12, 2011 at 3:00p.m. EST. Call in number is 1-800-767-1750; access code 17663.