

Virtual VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans Virtual Meeting (ACHV)

**April 6, 2021
12:00-4:00 pm (EST)
Meeting Minutes**

The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (ACHV) convened a four-hour public meeting, which primarily focused on the response to COVID-19, Racial Equity, and other program updates on April 6, 2021.

Committee Members PresentJennifer Leimaile Ho, Chair, ACHV; Commissioner, Minnesota Housing
Tammy Bellofatto, Executive Director of Bayaud Enterprises
Brad Bridwell, Director of National Operations for Cloudbreak Communities
Karl Calhoun, Director, Enterprise Development, Volunteers of America
Margo Ellis, Consultant and Founder, EELA Solutions
Tramecia Garner, LPCC, Chief Operating Officer and Housing Director, Swords to Plowshares
Sharon Green, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Alethes Consulting Group, LLC
Jeffery Johnson, Registered Nurse, Advocate Aurora Good Shepherd Hospital
Kimberly Mitchell, Senior Vice President for Military, Veteran, and Government Affairs, National University
Kathryn Monet, Chief Executive Officer, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
Bilal Mustafa, Community Organizer, Swords to Plowshares
Abraham Thompson Jr., DC VAMC Employee and Veteran
Jessica Venegas, Principal for Strategic Partnerships, Community Solutions International
Brandon Wilson, Director of Veterans Services of the Carolinas

Ex Officio Members Present

William B. Ashton, Military Veteran Agricultural Liaison for the United States Department of Agriculture
Greg Crawford, Correctional Program Specialist, National Institute of Corrections (NIC)
Anthony Love, Interim Executive Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
John McLaughlin, Department of Education (ED)
Yashika D. Neaves, Ph.D., Policy & Communication Strategist, Department of Defense (DoD) Military-Civilian Transition Office (MCTO)
Cheryl Rawls, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, Outreach and Stakeholder Engagement, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)
Emily Rosenoff, Director, Division of Long-Term Care Policy, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Ex Officio Member Absent

Norm Suchar, Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Ivan Denton, Director, Office of National Programs, Department of Labor (DOL)

Committee Support Staff Present

Adam Ruege, Acting Director Community Engagement, Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Homeless Programs Office (HPO), Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
Leisa Davis, Program Analyst, VHA HPO, Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO)
Holly Hirsell, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator, VHA HPO
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Monica Diaz, Executive Director, VHA HPO

Jelessa Burney, Program Specialist, Advisory Committee Management Office, VA

NaShid Dickerson, Veterans Benefits Administration, VA

Dina Hooshyar, MD, MPH, Director, National Center on Homelessness among Veterans, VA

Shawn Liu, Community Engagement Coordinator, VHA HPO

John Kuhn, National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, VA

Dottie L. Guy, Program Manager at Dropbox, and Founder and Co-Lead of Vets@

Steven E. Como, President, Government Affairs Advisors

Susan K. Lee, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE, CPXP, FAAN, Program Director and Assistant Professor, Health Care Disparities, Diversity and Advocacy Program

Charlie Hall, President, Update Warrior Solution

Matthew Miller, PhD, MPH Director, Suicide Prevention Program Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VHA

Michael Wehrer, Health Systems Specialist, Community Engagement, VHA HPO

Nora Hunt-Johnson, Health Science Specialist, National Center on Homelessness among Veterans

Spencer Glipa, Education Technician, Employee Education System

Martin Oexner, Project Manager, Employee Education System

Sebrina A. Posey, Program Director, VHA

Jennifer Knipp, Program Analyst, VHA HPO, Clinical Operations

Chelsea A. Watson, Deputy Director, Grant and Per Diem Program, Department of Veterans Affairs

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April 6, 2021 – 12:00-12:30pm – Call to Order, Welcome/Opening Remarks, Introduction of Members, Review of Agenda

Presenter: Jennifer Ho, Chair, VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (ACHV)

- Welcome Former and New ACHV Members and them to introduce themselves
- Focuses: Employment key to ending homelessness; help people to find path out of homelessness
- Health and Human Services: fills in gaps where VA cannot.
- VBA special emphasis programs/outreach.
- DOJ (National Institute of Corrections) must treat holistically including stable housing.
- Department of Agriculture- military Veteran agricultural liaison-Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is available to homeless Veterans (can use local office addresses).
- Department of Education- children of homeless Veterans.
- Department of Defense (Military Transition Office)
- Overview of agenda for today

April 6, 2021 – 12:30-12:50pm – Welcome Remarks, HPO CARES Funding Highlights, HPO Program Highlights, HPO Strategic Plan Highlights, Racial Equity Highlights, COVID Highlights

Presenter: Monica Diaz, Executive Director, Homeless Programs Office (HPO) Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- Kudos to Anthony Love and congratulations on his new role as the Interim Executive Acting Director, USICH
- HPO Strategic Plan will be released this month – engage in some of the discussions from this committee, so plan will be reflective of that.
- HPO 6 Objectives – look at current data to see what has worked and what hasn't from in a national perspective. With great joy we are committed to Housing First.
 1. Expand and increase housing – voice and advocacy for partnerships to help with housing
 2. Prevent and resolve homelessness
 3. Help vulnerable populations (mental health, health, etc.)
 4. Incorporate and support a highly skilled workforce
 5. Use research and data analytics to make informed timely interventions, and to create process to inform decisions
 6. Provide equitable services and outcomes throughout all programs and services
- Budget – CARES funding SSVF \$700 Million, already obligated, GPD, HCHV, Smart Phones, VJP
- Encouraging large legislative changes (Public Laws)–Good changes (HPO is in favor of all changes)
 - Nine new sections of the law impact HPO directly
 - Some highlights include: 1) 4202 – Grant through VA for legal services. 2) 4204 – increase of GPD rate. 4207 and 4208 voucher utilization, and looking at vacant staffing positions for more than Nine months
- Will be looking at new PIT Count numbers and incorporating into interventions.

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Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2021 – 12:50-12:55 pm – Introduction of Video

Presenter: Adam Ruege, LISW-S Deputy Director, Clinical Operations, Acting Director, Community Engagement, Homeless Program Office, VA, ACHV Designated Federal Officer

- SECVA Video

April 6, 2021 – 12:55-1:00 pm - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Video

- [SECVA Video](#)

April 6, 2021 – 1:00-2:25 pm – Special Remarks --New ACHV Members --Departing Members' Lessons Learned/Advice

Presenters: New ACHV Members and Former ACHV Members

Former ACHV Members:

- Steve Como: Advice for new members - ask questions, don't be afraid to go against what the VA says, and we have to tell them what to work on. You are representing the people.
- Charlie Hall: Take away for new members – try to fast track your knowledge of the coordinated entry system. See how these systems work and think innovatively. Think about how we can expand services to all Veterans who need it.
- Dottie Guy: Don't be afraid to ask the human question; wanted to know what they really thought and how the VA really thinks about the communities. Don't take on more than you can chew. Enjoy it, learn. Take care of yourself.
- Susan Lee: "It's been an honor to work on this committee for the past 4 years. I wish you all the best moving forward."

New ACHV Members:

- Brandon Wilson: How much time do you recommend subcommittees meet?
 - ACHV has one Subcommittee that was formally approved.
 - The ACHV meets twice a year but it is very manageable
 - Don't leave it to one or a few people to speak for you and the committee. Coordinate more with other important groups and committees.
- Jeff Johnson: Perspective on Veterans choosing to be homeless (especially from the higher ups in the VA, how do they perceive it).
 - Talking about mental health is still very new. Destigmatizing/normalizing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health concerns. Lack of connection to being housed, family, friends, feeling out of place due to mental health concerns that are or aren't known
 - Need to present housing options that meet people where they are and not expect everyone to fit into one type of situation. Feel that the understanding of mental health concerns is deep within the VA.
 - Think we need to be careful to say that anyone "chooses" homelessness, I think there are not enough choices available.
 - We are seeing that unsheltered Veterans are willing to enter hotels and motels when before they turned down shelters and programs. It was a more appealing choice as it was safer and was not so restrictive on personal freedoms.
 - Housing First has been pointed out by many is not Housing only. It acknowledges in fact that treatment is more effective when someone's basic physiological needs are met. Maslow recognized this long before Housing First was coined as a term

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- Jennifer Ho: Advice for new members: You put the work in on the things you care the most about, but also about building consensus among the group and then create Secretary level recommendations. How do we deliver recommendations that will be accepted but will also significantly improved VA policy, function, messaging, etc.?
- Kim Mitchell: Housing program had a hard time getting a lot of Veterans interested in pursuing housing in one of their programs.

April 6, 2021 – 2:25-2:50 pm – Panel Session: Transitioning Service Members (TSM) Updates

Presenter: Yashika D. Neaves, Ph.D. Policy & Communications Strategist, Military-Civilian Transition Office, DoD, and Holly Hirsell, MSSA, LISW-S, LICDC-S National Call Center for Homeless Veterans Liaison Program Coordinator, Homeless Programs Office, VA

- Dr. Neaves: DoD Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
 - New changes since 2019: Transition activities can occur as early as 24 months for those retiring, and no later than 365 days (no longer only 90 days) for those separating/transitioning
 - Individualized initial counseling initiates TAP
 - Pre-separation counseling for mental health, physical health, social, financial, hope, employment, and all other aspects including housing
 - Each branch is different in how they implement (e.g., consecutive vs distributive model)
 - Capture review plan during Capstone and do a warm handover when needed
 - Housing is talked about in 4 different stages of the TAP
- Comments/Questions
 - Is TAP voluntary? – Mandatory for those who have 180 consecutive days or more on Title 10 Orders.
 - TAP has been in place since 1991 and new changes have been implemented since 2019.
 - What office does the warm handoff go to? Warm handoff for housing needs post discharge goes to the VA National Call Center for Homeless Veterans. DOL might also get handoff for housing. HPO provides feedback to DoD.
 - What is the efficacy of the referral? Is there data? Is HUD involved? Have some data but need to collect more. Will be tracking more about warm handoffs now. Hopefully, this data can be shared by the fall.
 - Partnership in TAP is written into the statute. USICH has representation on the Workgroup. We are in the midst of formalizing the transition process. DoD will be tracking handovers to VA; VA is streamlining process with DoD.
 - It also would be great to see the incorporation of tenancy education into TAP. The number of times National Coalition of Homeless Veterans (NCHV) gets hotline calls from transitioning servicemembers who just don't know how to find an apartment or understand leasing terminology is astounding.
 - Bringing in the Veteran, one-on-one element and already getting Veterans signed up for all the different services before they leave. What can the committee do to be briefed on the transition process? Can the committee do a follow-up with these Veterans?
 - How do we make sure that we are preventing them from becoming homeless?
Dr. Neaves - the DoD is tracking and monitoring. Curriculum addresses activities and monitoring progress when they get to the Capstone. It is uncommon for transitioning

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Service members to be discharge into homelessness, as homelessness may come following discharge if plans fall apart.

April 6, 2021 – 2:50-3:45 pm – Panel Session: Executive Order 13822 --Supporting Our Veterans During Their Transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life

Presenter: Yashika D. Neaves, Ph.D. Policy and Communications Strategist, Military-Civilian Transition Office, DoD, Holly Hirsel, MSSA, LISW-S, LICDC-S National Call Center for Homeless Veterans Liaison Program Coordinator, Homeless Programs Office, VA, and Matthew Miller, PhD, MPH Director, Suicide Prevention Program Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, VA

- Dr. Miller: Shared a personal story of how and why he is in his role.
 - Transitions are challenging, and some are harder than others. Especially when one's identity is closely linked to who one was, what one was, who one is now, and where one is going.
 - Executive Order focused on specific actions with intent of decreasing suicide and increasing mental health services.
- Questions/Comments:
 - Look at what data we have on who becomes homeless. We find about 15% of those enrolled in SSVF are Other Than Honorable (OTH).
 - Focus suicide prevention efforts with SSVF for those who have been homeless within the last 30 days and or staying in motels/hotels.
 - SSVF has been working with the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) to fund new models for suicide prevention. OMHSP has provided grant funds to 11 SSVF grantees. We are now looking at expanding prevention screening to all SSVF grantees
 - SSVF is able to work with OTH Veterans and family members who may also be at-risk
 - Are you collecting data broken down by racial equity? If so, please share.

April 6, 2021 – 3:45-4:00 pm – Preview of Agenda Items for ACHV April 7, 2021 Meeting

Closing Remarks

Presenter: Jennifer Ho, Chair, VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (ACHV)

- What subject do you want to see explored this year in this committee that may become a recommendation?
 - How everything relates to COVID?
 - Landlord Retention
 - Racial equity policy that works on the street, especially with shelters. People do not choose to be homeless
 - Opt-Out vs Opt-In when separating; Mandatory weekly counseling for newly separated Veterans; Preventative Care
 - What it means to really end homelessness among Veterans, and how to push this work forward?
 - Focus on the reality of Veterans post transitions. Let them tell us what they need (Job, Housing, etc.) vs us telling them.
 - Does geography matter? Where folks are discharged from? Does it impact homelessness?
 - What are better resources providers within communities need in order to have a long-term impact on our homeless Veterans?

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- Racial equity and affordable housing
- Racial equity and preventing homelessness
- Racial equity; Veterans need to be part of the overall process.
- Racial equity; Understanding the TAP statute better
- Racial equity; Community Resources; Long-Term Sustainability

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND RESPONSES

The Homeless Program Office will work with the appropriate points of contact to acquire the responses to the follow-up action items and share them with the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Ho, Chair, ACHV adjourned at 4:00pm on April 6, 2021

I hereby certify, that to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Jennifer Ho, Chair, Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans

The minutes will be formerly considered by the committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

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Jelessa Burney, Program Specialist, Advisory Committee Management Office, VA

Bev Ebersold, Director of National Initiatives Team, USICH

Tess Wrzesinski, U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Shawn Liu, Community Engagement Coordinator, VHA HPO

Lindsay Hill, Program Analyst, VHA

Michael Wehrer, Health Systems Specialist, Community Engagement, VHA HPO

Temiquel, Maria E, VETS, DOL

Jennifer Knipp, Program Analyst, HPO, Clinical Operations

Keith Harris, Ph.D., National Director, Clinical Operations, VA

Jillian Weber, National Program Manager, HPO VHA

Nicole Harelik, Associate Director, Clinical Operations, HPO VACO

Matthew Stimmel, Ph.D. National Training Director, Veterans Justice Programs, VHA

Lindsay Hill, BA Program Analyst Office of Analytics and Operational Intelligence, HPO VHA

Meghan Deal, Acting National Director, HUD-VASH VA

Eileen Devine, Health Care for Homeless Veterans, National Program Director, VA

Jeff Quarles, National Director, Grant and Per Diem, VA

Dina Hooshyar, MD, MPH Director, National Center on Homelessness among Veterans, VA

John Kuhn, National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, VA

Jill Albanese, Deputy Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, VA

Sean Clark, National Director, Veterans Justice Programs, VA

Nora Hunt-Johnson, Health Science Specialist, National Center on Homelessness among Veterans

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April 7, 2021 – 12:00-12:15pm – Call to Order, Meeting Recap Review of Agenda

Presenter: Jennifer Ho, Chair, VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans (ACHV)

- Roll call of ACHV Members and provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda
- Missed the in-person connections and encouraged everyone to connect via email/calls

April 7, 2021 – 12:15-12:45 pm – Implementing Racial Equity in HPO's New Strategic Plan, Programming

Presenter: Matthew Stimmel, Ph.D. National Training Director, Veterans Justice Programs, VA and Shawn Liu, LCSW Community Engagement Coordinator, Homeless Programs Office, VA

Key Highlights are noted below:

- June 2020 Racial Equity and Justice Workgroup was formed
- Three distinct areas – organizationally, staff centric, and Veteran centric
- Diverse perspective and representation
- Values – not possible to end Veteran homelessness without first addressing racial equity, must provide racially equitable services throughout all HPO operations
- Cohesive response across all homeless programs
- Vision and Mission – make sure all the HPO is racially equitable in practice everywhere
- Inclusive of everyone
- Focusing on policy work on the organizational level
- Staff centric level focuses on frontline staff support
- Veteran centric focuses on trainings improvement for patient care
- Gather feedback from the field and Veterans to help inform what the group focuses on
- Conduct an organizational assessment – see what to work on and how
- Develop a communications plan – open communications with key partners and stakeholders
- Develop Racial Equity Dashboard – data for improvement, on demand visibility – be able to visualize the data as it relates to racial equity and the housing programs
 - Data on VISN and facility levels
- Develop Racial Equity Improvement Initiative – framework for facilities to address and reduce racial disparities. Potentially provide a toolkit for facilities to use
- Raise awareness of racial disparities
- Current plans in place to develop a National Response Team to support facility level staff.
- Already offering educational trainings for ongoing educational needs
- Opportunities going forward:
 - Improving policy
 - New training offerings
 - Incorporating Veterans with lived expertise

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- Incorporating data
- Developing new objectives
- Questions/Comments
 - Timelines for the new development areas
 - Community level trainings as well eventually
 - How does this national level information get down to frontline staff level?
 - VA focused, continue to make sure to integrate into the community as well
 - SSVF has done training with grantees and that training is publicly available on the web here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEaaX7EJb0E>

April 7, 2021 – 12:45-2:25 pm – Panel Session: Racial Equity Dashboard and SSVF Equity Report

Presenters: Shawn Liu, LCSW, VHA-CM Community Engagement Coordinator, Homeless Program Office, VA, Lindsay Hill, BA Program Analyst Office of Analytics and Operational Intelligence Homeless Programs Office, VA, John Kuhn, LCSW, MPH National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families Homeless Programs Office, VA, and Subject Matter Experts Homeless Programs Office, VA

- Demo of Racial Equity Dashboard (Presented By: Lindsay Hill)
- There are a number of reports in VA, but they need to be able to overlay with race and ethnicity breakdown, etc. including exit outcomes. This is not ready for prime time, still in Beta. Will be more robust in final version. Incorporated feedback from Office of Health Equity. The report now just includes data in HOMES, not SSVF (HMIS) at this time
- Gender overlay for dashboard planned for a future version
- John Kuhn: SSVF data comes from HMIS
 - Report available here:
https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/SSVF_National_Webinar_Equity_Report.pdf
 - 54% of Veterans served by SSVF were persons of color – over represent people of color vs the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)
 - Consistent levels of financial support (same as Veteran enrollments)
 - One view displays the comparison of Veteran enrollments, broken out by race and ethnicity, vs RRH assistance provided, broken out by race and ethnicity
- Racial Equity Dashboard available end of FY for staff
- Can civilian counterparts benefit from this data?
 - We have been working with HUD to develop a research informed screener to determine causes of homelessness. Hopefully to stem inflows across the systems. Should be available by end of fiscal year. It is important to see what actually works (related to the legal system) We need to benchmark our data with civilian data.
- Are we benchmarking our data with civilian data?
 - Veteran homelessness has remained the same when overall homelessness has gone up.
 - When we identify how HUD-VASH works, we should partner with civilian partners to show them something that works. how do we create a rehabilitation system that acutely works. primary mission to serve Veterans, secondary should be to serve the country. We need to show what works and translate to dollars. We need to line up data with other systems like prison systems that don't work.
- Will the data be public and how often will it be updated?

Virtual VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans Virtual Meeting (ACHV)

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- Certain aspects will be real time, other will be updated annually. We are discussing how to put this public facing, with consulting with Office of Health Equity.
- There is a lot in development. What is the calendar timeline for accountability?
 - New staff are getting acclimated and adjusted to working at a national level. We have been doing the team building and onboarding to continue with the work. The Racial Equity Dashboard should be done by the end of the fiscal year. Some of timeline is dependent on other aspects of VA.
- Are there any plans to be able to do training to the community in addition to the VA-wide training?
 - Trainings are publicly available. Public health response is an aspect the has not been considered. Will take back to group to consider something similar to what is done with suicide prevention and community education.
- How will information get to line staff who work with the Veterans. What is the link between the trainings and a change of culture?
 - A lot of tasks currently are reaching out to other levels of VA. Building national level relationships. Members of workgroup are all homeless programs aligned.
- Want to commend you all with work of workgroups. It is very VA focused, necessarily so. Is there an awareness to inject policy into the broader community to improve community policy?
 - We have been getting our house in order, there is an opportunity for us to be leads and partner with community and other VA areas such as suicide prevention.
- Homeless services are often done through contracts, etc. How will the education and cultural changes be communicated to the non-VA partners, non-VA staff to provide feedback and participate?
 - Need to loop back following consultation.
- Look at support to look at issues from a different angle to consider what is valuable and encouraged.
- Eileen Devine: When I hear the wonderful ideas about expanding our work, can we translate what we do to the community... the coordinated entry specialists are in a role to communicate with community. Technical assistance support is also a need. Part of job is to help staff understand how important our work with community really is. Emphasizing the importance of community integration is important.
- Where are outcomes/effectiveness about the Safe Haven Model? Is there a plan to expand?
 - Will check to see what data is available. Being a Veteran is no longer a risk factor to being homeless but a protecting factor. We learn the most when we are vulnerable about what is not working. We have been on a flat line, including race may be the turbo charge we need to end Veteran homelessness.

TSMs – Time of discharge to homelessness; when, how, gaps? Holly Hirsell (VA) will work with workgroup.

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April 7, 2021 – 2:25-3:45 pm – Panel Session: HPO COVID and Programmatic Responses and Updates

Presenter: Adam Ruege, LISW-S Deputy Director, Clinical Operations Acting Director, Community Engagement Homeless Programs Office, VA, Designated Federal Officer, ACHV and Subject Matter Experts Homeless Programs Office, VA

- 50,000 have received at least 1 portion of vaccine
- Removing programmatic and policy barriers
- Increase emergency housing and eviction prevention
- Expanding ability to provide virtual care
- Coordinated federal response
- Ensuring homeless Veterans have access to COVID vaccines
- CARES Act Funding (As of April 7: \$928M has been allocated by VA for VHA Homeless programs)
- HPO COVID Response Team was implemented in March 2020
- HUD-VASH will newly be serving Veterans who are not eligible for other VHA health care services
- Post COVID issues such as rental assistance available at state and county level, is the VA addressing this issue?
 - SSVF has essentially redefined what the program is. Grantees have re-invented themselves, created opportunities for housing, hotel/motel placements; expanded emergency housing across all of HPO.
 - Good opportunity for VA and HUD to collaborate more. Coordination aspect has been very difficult, it is an important time for VA and HUD to be talking.
 - Very little funding for coordination with the new funding
- There is interest and there is a longer term need for congregate housing
 - Not really sure what programs this pertains to, however. There is an interest in reducing the amount of congregate transitional housing. VA through GPD is offering a capital grant to create individual bedrooms and private baths in existing transitional housing.
- Save Lives Act - Congress recently passed a new law called the SAVE LIVES Act that expands VA's ability to include vaccination of Veterans who are not eligible to enroll in the VA healthcare system. This expanded authority is dependent on available COVID-19 vaccine supply and vaccination of Veterans enrolled in VA care remain priority. However, this law will allow VA to broaden vaccination efforts to include all Veterans experiencing homelessness regardless of eligibility, which in turn will help reduce the burden on state and community partners.
- Staffing and voucher utilization concurrently.
 - HPO put out a memo requiring that facilities reach a 90% hiring rate in all homeless programs. That effort combined with additional focus has yielded a net gain.
 - We just received additional funding for new vouchers that came out in January.

April 7, 2021 – 3:45-4:00 pm Closing Remarks

Presenter: Jennifer Ho, Chair, ACHV

- The ACHV Members provided the following hot topics:
 - Consider Post COVID/Post Vaccination and all of the Veterans living in the hotels.
 - What does their outcome look like, where are they going to go after the hotels go away?
 - Optimizing Homeless Programs Subcommittee Lead Role
 - The unsheltered acutely mentally ill is an area that deserves a massive amount of attention.
 - Do not lose sight of the equity topic

Virtual VA Secretary's Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans Virtual Meeting (ACHV)

April 7, 2021
12:00-4:00 pm (EST)
Meeting Minutes

- Acquire a better understanding of what our relationship is with the Center for Minority Veterans.
- Equity should be a component of each of our working groups
- Rehousing Veterans who have lost housing a few times and what does that look like in HUD-VASH
- Homeless Programs Wrap-Around Services
- Mental Health Wrap-Around Services
- Establishing a Veteran community, teaching a trade, giving them purpose and expanding that community
- Mental Health Post COVID
- With hotels closing, how are they going to receive the job training needs when there are already so many folks out of work that they will be competing with?
- Intersectional Equity (Look at folks getting left behind because services do not work for them)
- HUD-VASH Utilization
- Racial Equity and Housing
- Services are being suspended due to COVID and Veterans need these services
- Work more on partnering with community services with VA, create better communication VA and community resources
- Better alignment with HUD, DOL, and VA. (Really need to get everyone on the same page)

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND RESPONSES

The Homeless Program Office will work with the appropriate points of contact to acquire the responses to the follow-up action items and share them with the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Jennifer Ho, Chair, ACHV adjourned at 4:00pm on April 7, 2021

I hereby certify, that to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Jennifer Ho, Chair, Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans

The minutes will be formally considered by the committee at its next meeting, and any corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.