MISSION Diversion & Recovery for Traumatized Veterans (MISSION DIRECT VET): Early Planning and Development

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Comments
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MISSION Diversion & Recovery for Traumatized Veterans (MISSION DIRECT VET)
Early Planning and Development

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What is MISSION DIRECT VET?

MISSION DIRECT VET is a SAMHSA-funded, court-based diversion program targeting veterans in Massachusetts with trauma-related mental health and substance use problems.

- MISSION-DIRECT VET seeks to:
  * Reduce criminal justice involvement
  * Treat mental health, substance abuse and other trauma-related symptoms
  * Use a systematic wrap-around model
  * Provide care coordination, peer support and trauma-informed services

Background

- The MISSION (Maintaining Independence and Sobriety through Systems Integration, Outreach, and Networking) model has successfully reduced chronic homelessness in veterans through:
  * Peer support
  * Case management
  * Integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment

- The goal is to adapt this model and test whether it can reduce criminal justice involvement among veterans.

Timeline: Early Project Planning and Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11/08</td>
<td>Statewide Advisory Committee (SAC) convened; quarterly meetings ongoing</td>
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</table>
| 2/09  | WAC subcommittee meeting begins; focusing on pre-arranged treatment
| 4/09  | Research recruitment/assessments to be done by non-treatment staff |
| 7/09  | Treatment slots made available for individuals who opt out of research participation |
| 8/09  | Treatment slots made available for individuals who opt out of research participation |
| 9/09  | Treatment slots made available for individuals who opt out of research participation |
| 10/09 | Defendants to be advised for program enrollment |
| 11/09 | Plan to monitor impact as project unfolds |

Development of Collaborative Relationships

- Early planning and development involving active engagement with various state and local mental health, criminal justice, and public health agencies.

- SAMHSA-approved strategic plan with endorsement from SAC and WAC representatives.

- Endorsement from 16 leaders from statewide agencies to sign a Memorandum of Agreement in support of MISSION DIRECT VET.

Identified Barriers and Proposed Solutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified Barriers</th>
<th>Proposed Solutions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Referral and Screening Process</td>
<td>Objections raised to post-adjudication, pre-sentencing program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research on court-mandated treatment</td>
<td>Concerns that diversions would feel coerced into research participation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confidentiality Concerns</td>
<td>Concerns that incriminating information revealed to peers or case managers would not be privileged.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Cuts</td>
<td>Concern for impact state budget cuts would have on availability of services.</td>
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Future Directions

- Rollout of services planned for Nov. 1, 2009

- Trainings for criminal justice staff will include trauma-informed care as well as veteran needs and co-occurring disorders

- Program Refinement:
  * Feedback from participants, peers and case managers may lead to modification of the types of services provided
  * Continue to hold advisory meetings to address potential concerns

- Program Sustainability:
  * Goal is to develop sustainable infrastructure for diversion and treatment services
  * SAC and WAC will continue to discuss blending existing funds, exploring new sources of federal, local and private funding
  * Planning and development involving active engagement with various state and local mental health, criminal justice, and public health agencies.

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