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:
  - 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.

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 disorder
- 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 funding from different agencies, reorganizing existing funds, exploring new sources of federal, local, and private funding.
  - Data collected during study period will be used to advocate for future funding and support

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Table: Identified Barriers and Proposed Solutions

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

Development of Collaborative Relationships

- Early planning and development involving active engagement with various state and local mental health, criminal justice, and public health agencies.
- Collaboration was critical for working through issues around diversion, training, dissemination of services.