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

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Et al.

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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.

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.
- Referral and Screening Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identified Barriers</th>
<th>Proposed Solutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Referral and Screening Process</td>
<td>Objections raised to a pre-arraignment, pre-adjudication diversion program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research on court-mandated treatment</td>
<td>Concern that diversions would feel coerced into research participation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Confidentiality Concerns</td>
<td>Concern that imminent 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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</tbody>
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Future Directions

- Rollout of services planned for Nov. 1, 2009
- Trairngs 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 of 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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