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INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

ACTION PLAN MEETING – JULY 16, 2018 – VETERANS COMMITTEE



MISSION

Continue the work to prevent and end homelessness among veterans and develop a portfolio of housing and services models to meet the needs of all of the Commonwealth's veterans regardless of income, status or eligibility for VA benefits

WORK TO DATE

- Working with local partners, the VA and other state agencies, the veterans committee continues to work to end homelessness among veterans.
- All but one of the MA GPD providers have received continued funding from the VA to resource new housing and service models to better support homeless veterans.
- Partnership of DCAMM/EOHHS/DVS submitted application to the VA for funding for the re-development of the long term care facility at Chelsea Soldiers Home. State capital funding for the facility has been approved by the legislature.



- DCAMM concluded a master planning process for the balance of the campus of the Chelsea Soldiers Home.
- The Department of Correction hosted federal, state and local veteran agencies to present to the veteran inmates housed at Old Colony Correctional Center, Bridgewater and North Central Correctional Institute, Gardner during April 2018. These pilot presentations were well received by participants, DOC, and community stakeholders alike.
- The Commonwealth received notification of federal funding for the redevelopment of the long term care facility at Chelsea Soldiers Home. The Commonwealth has allocated the full funding of additional resources to support the development of a state of the art facility for veterans.
- Over FY'18 , the Commonwealth has financed the development of 75 new units of permanent supportive housing for veterans and their families.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ONGOING WORK

- If approved by the DCAMM Asset Management Board, DCAMM will issue an RFP during FY'19 to competitively select a developer for the housing and supportive services component of the
- Continue the work to end veteran homelessness in all communities of the Commonwealth. City of Springfield poised to end homelessness among veterans in this fiscal year.
- Support the continued collaboration with local partners, state and federal agencies to further the development of permanent supportive housing for veterans and their families regardless of discharge status.
- With continued support from EOHHS agencies, the Department of Correction is scheduling additional veteran presentations for federal, state and local veteran agencies for veteran inmates housed at MCI- Norfolk and MCI- Shirley, during September 2018. Ongoing next steps are to present to veteran inmates at four DOC institutions per calendar year.
- The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke provides long term nursing care to 237 Veterans and 23 Veterans served in the dormitories. Improvements/Positive Changes include
 - Walking path in progress to be completed September 2018
 - Major donation from family for new outdoor area for Comfort Care unit
 - Zero deficiencies via survey for 2018- first time ever to receive such a rating.