

NOTES:

Case Manager Session

March 12, 2018

Veterans Health Administration www.VA.gov

VA Geriatrics and Extended Care Service 502-287-5995
Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (benefits) 502-595-4447
Amy Whitaker, Social Work Supervisor amy.whitaker@va.gov
Department of Veterans Affairs has THREE branches:

- Veterans Benefit Administration - has to do with money
- National Cemetery Administration - burial
- Veteran's Health Administration - healthcare

VHA is totally separate system from VBA – you must also enroll for healthcare and make contact with your VA Healthcare system. The VHA can cross state lines and covers a large catchment area.

Not every veteran is eligible for VA health care. Most are eligible. VA serves on income based and anyone that was injured or illness during service or aggravated by service.

- 9 million veterans enrolled in healthcare
- Leading the nation in Research
- 170 hospitals
 - Local hospital on Zorn with additional outpatient clinics from Scottsburg, IN down to Ft Knox.
- Rural clinics
- Tele-health via iPad with conversation with doctor

KEY TO ACCESS IS DD-214: Discharge paper that is required to access services

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

Geriatrics is Amy and Lori's focus – aging veterans
AGING VETERANS services:

- Geriatric wellness
- Physical medicine and rehab
- Home and community based services
- Home telehealth
- Falls clinic
- Memory clinic – cognitive impairment, dementia
- Pain clinic – opioid crisis, do not prescribe in this clinic
- Contract Adult Day healthcare – referral to senior citizens with RN on staff
- Inpatient care @ Zorn
- Mobile acute care – sees all patients over age 75, to ensure medication and procedures are appropriate
- Community Residential Care -for those that need a little bit of supervision, similar to assisted living
- Geriatric patient aligned care team
- Home based primary care – for those that can't get to clinic or have more illness than clinic can handle
- Medical Foster Care –

- Hospice & palliative Care at our facility and at home
- Shared Decision Making – making decisions with a patient, collaborative discussion early not when in crisis

WHY GO TO VA FOR HEALTHCARE?

- Mental health
- Primary Care
- Substance Abuse & recovery
- Women’s health – opened women’s clinic on Newburg Rd
- Blind Rehabilitation

Veterans Benefits Administration

All have specific eligibility requirements. Some services provided:
 Disability Compensation,
 Voc Rehabilitation and Employment

TWO POTS OF FUNDS need based programs; Compensation and Pension

All money from VA is tax free. May be reevaluated over time. Enrollment in VA healthcare is first step for all medical related services.

1. **Disability Compensation-** Service-connected disability compensation is a tax-free benefit paid to Veterans for a disability that was incurred in or aggravated by military service.

Rating is independent of military ranking. Some conditions are considered presumptive conditions due to the number of Veterans who have claimed the disability before. This is true for some conditions caused by Agent Orange.

WHO is it for? Veterans who were discharged from service under conditions that were not dishonorable and have a current disability due to injury or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

2. **PENSION** –(think Soc Security type assistance, not retirement from workplace pension) to get you to a minimum standard of living. Pension is a needs-based benefit paid to wartime Veterans who meet certain financial requirements.

Veterans who were discharged from service under conditions that were not dishonorable, served during a period of war, have limited income and net worth, and age 65 and older may be eligible.

SPECIAL MONTHLY PENSION – increased pension paid to veterans who are eligible for a pension and require additional help to perform certain daily activities or are confined to their home.

SURVIVORS PENSION – a monthly tax-free benefit based on limited income and net worth and paid to the un-remarried surviving spouse and/or child(ren) of a deceased Veteran with wartime service

Lori Paris Veteran Community Partnership Coordinator lori.paris@va.gov

National Cemetery Administration

135. national cemeteries in 40 states and Puerto Rico

Biggest partner in helping a veteran after passing is a funeral home. They are familiar with process.

This earned burial benefit pays for the grave lot for Veteran and spouse, a flag for the Veteran, opening of grave, a grave liner, a presidential memorial certificate and a military (footstone) plaque for those with a discharge status of anything other than “Dishonorable”.

Medical Foster Home program

Nationwide program with residential homes throughout the community that take veterans in and offer alternative care. Instead of nursing home placement. Home based primary care is assisting

Locally we have 4 coordinators that work out of VA hospital. Over 40 residential homes in our area that do this. There is so much oversight from VA. Do inspections before homes even open. Social worker, nurse and dietician review the home. Can only take care of 3 residents maximum, to keep personal home feel. Able to provide care until end of life if needed, allows aging in place.

This program has an expedited way to get a veteran a pension. Staff complete application, sign by care giver and it is expedited within 60 days. Average fee \$2500-3500 a month dependent on care needs. SS and VA pension pays for this.

Must be connected to veteran's health administration, eligible for home based primary care. Complex medial problems. One on one, hands on care.

Care giver must live in the home. Home modifications can be done as needed, including hospital beds, ramps and accessibility.

In desperate need to open homes in Ft Knox and Scottsburg area, within 40-mile radius.

Veteran Community Partnerships

Strengthen relationships to better serve veterans through partnerships. Educate the community on VA services, seamless transitions, in identifying a veteran and how to best referral.

Goal; All veterans and their caregivers will have access to and choices among, the services that allow our veterans to stay in the place they call home. Support care givers

KVIC Kentuckiana Veteran Community Integration Coalition –

ASK campaign – Ask about military Service Kentuckiana campaign. Many don't identify as a veteran. "have you or a loved one ever served in the military? If yes – "Are you currently enrolled in VA healthcare or receiving VA benefits?"

When a vet says they are unable to get Vet assistance – call for them. Perhaps they are not eligible for benefits. VA does have a very robust homeless program.

Most recent Development: grant received to work with UofL to develop online education modules on VA 101, Empathy, and Suicide Prevention, available late March.

Modules have been implemented in over 5 local area agencies on aging to educate the case managers on Veteran Services.

Metro Veterans,

FYI – Please check out the attachments and case notes from the last Case Manager's meeting at Metro United Way. This meeting featured represents from the Veteran's Administration. All the attached information from VA covers questions some of you have already asked me in regards to Disability Compensation, Health Records and DD214. The power point presentation can serve as a great tool to use referencing your benefits as a Veteran. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

