Joint Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs
November 18, 2013

Mary Forbes, WDVA Assistant Director for Veteran Services and Behavioral Health

Dan Pacholke, DOC Assistant Secretary for Prisons

Vincent Woods, WDVA Incarcerated Veterans Program Coordinator and WestCare AmeriCorps
Guiding Principles

• Veteran Centric – hands-on, experiential, one-on-one customer service resulting in measurable outcomes

• Go after and bring Federal VA monies to Washington
  ✓ Veterans Benefits and Entitlements
  ✓ Grants for Programs

• Partnerships
  ✓ WestCare Foundation
  ✓ Data Share with DOC, DSHS
  ✓ Community-Based Touch Points – Localized Delivery
    ▪ Peer to Peer (Vet Corps and AmeriCorps)
Background

- Approximately 13,000 new veterans each year will be returning to WA through 2017*

- 10%, or an estimated 1,300 veterans will likely be incarcerated (2004 Bureau of Justice Statistics report)

- Approximately 95% of all prison offenders will reenter your community

- 65% of current veteran offenders in WA DOC have an Honorable or General discharge

* Data from WDVA DD 214 database
Veteran Offender under DOC Jurisdiction During FY 2013

- Army: 1051
- Navy: 523
- Air Force: 204
- National Guard: 140
- Coast Guard: 0
- Marine Corps: 311
- More Than 1: 0
- Foreign Military: 4
- Reserve: 2

[Bar chart showing the distribution of veterans by branch and gender for FY 2013]
Partnerships

Public/Private Partnership

- WDVA & WestCare
- Northwest Justice Project

State Partnerships

- WA State Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Social and Health Services
- Health Care Authority

Federal Partnerships

- Federal VA Health Care Administration
  - One Health Care for Reentry Veterans Program Coordinator (WA, OR, ID, AK)
  - Five Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators (North Puget Sound, South Puget Sound, Vancouver, Spokane, Walla Walla)

- Federal VA Benefits Administration
  - One Homeless Coordinator
Pathway to Progress

JULY
DOC identified 3% veteran inmate population

MARCH
DOC developed veteran Internet and Intranet sites and created posters and brochures

MARCH
Trained approximately 40 Reception Counselors on VA benefits for incarcerated veterans

OCTOBER
King County Community Supervision Pilot

APRIL
38 CFR Part 17 final rule published authorizing VA to provide hospital and outpatient care to any incarcerated veteran upon their release from prison or jail

OCTOBER
WDVA/DOC developed a video for veteran offenders

MAY
King County Work Release Pilot

MARCH
Pierce County Work Release Facilities
As of November 2013

Prison Facilities with Veteran Dorms:

- **Stafford Creek** Corrections Center MI3 (in existence)
- **Coyote Ridge** Corrections Center MI3 & Medium custody (in existence)
- **Clallam Bay** Corrections Center Close Custody (pending)

Community Corrections

**King County Work Release Sites**
- Reynolds
- Bishop Lewis
- Madison Inn
- Helen B Ratcliff

**Pierce County Work Release Sites**
- RAP/Lincoln
- Progress House

Seattle Community Justice Center
Next Steps 2014 - 2016

GOAL 4: HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES
Fostering the health of Washingtonians from a healthy start to a safe and supported future

• **Veteran Offender Reintegration** – WDVA’s Decision Package, funding request to develop and sustain a full-service delivery model for veteran offenders transitioning to your community

• **Focus on enrollment and use of:**
  - VA health Care
  - VA benefits and entitlements
  - Transportation, Housing, and Employment

• **1st Year** (FY 2015) - Develop comprehensive data-driven procedures/protocols
• **2nd Year** (FY 2016) - Execute statewide model
• **3rd Year** (FY 2017) - Sustain operations and measure success

**Ultimate outcome:**
Economically stable and self-sufficient veteran offender population upon reentry into the community
Proven Cost Avoidance Model

WDVA/Health Care Authority Veterans Benefit Enhancement Program

SAVINGS | Hundreds of veterans benefit and millions in costs are avoided

Veterans Directed to Federal TRICARE or CHAMPVA

PEOPLE
Over 4,000 veterans facilitated so far

DOLLARS
Over $30 million in medical costs avoided

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