



Opening Doors in North West Ohio: Aligning VA and Homeless Service Systems to End Homelessness for Ohio Veterans

Pre-Summit Report

April 2013

About CSH

CSH transforms how communities use housing solutions to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people. We offer capital, expertise, information and innovation that allow our partners to use supportive housing to achieve stability, strength and success for the people in most need. CSH blends over 20 years of experience and dedication with a practical and entrepreneurial spirit, making us the source for housing solutions. CSH is an industry leader with national influence and deep connections in a growing number of local communities. We are headquartered in New York City with staff stationed in more than 20 locations around the country. Visit csh.org to learn how CSH has and can make a difference where you live.

PERMISSIONS REQUESTS

CSH encourages nonprofit organizations and government agencies to freely reproduce and share the information from CSH publications. The organizations must cite CSH as the source and include a statement that the full document is posted on our website, csh.org. Permissions requests from other types of organizations will be considered on a case-by-case basis; please forward these requests to info@csh.org.

Table of Contents

<p>I. Executive Summary</p>	<p>Page 5</p>
<p>II. Introduction: Background Information and Purpose of Homeless Veteran Summit(s), and Summary of March 2012 Summit</p>	<p>Page 7</p>
<p>III. Data on Veteran Homelessness and Progress in North West Ohio</p> <p>Figure 1: National Annual PIT Count Trends – Veterans Experiencing Homelessness</p> <p>Figure 2: Northwestern Ohio PIT Counts</p> <p>Figure 3: VAMC Funded/Contracted Bed Inventory in Northwestern Ohio including GPD program, HCHV program, and RRTP Homeless Domiciliary Care program</p> <p>Figure 4: Number of VASH Vouchers in VISN 11</p> <p>Figure 5: FY 2012 VASH Lease-Up (average days)</p> <p>Figure 6: FY 2012 Percentage of VASH Vouchers Leased to Chronically Homeless Veterans</p> <p>Figure 7: Update on 2012 Prioritized After-Action Items</p>	<p>Page 9</p>
<p>IV. Preparing for the April 2013 Summit</p> <p>Figure 8: Opening Doors in Northwestern Ohio: Aligning VA and Homeless Service Systems to End Homelessness for Veterans – April 30, 2013</p>	<p>Page 16</p>
<p>V. Conclusion</p>	<p>Page 17</p>
<p>VI. Attachments</p> <p>A: VISN 11 Footprint</p> <p>B. FY 2012 Action Items under the 6 Pillars of the VA’s Plan</p>	<p>Page 18</p>

I. Executive Summary

On March 27 2012, the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) held a summit in Port Clinton, Ohio on behalf of the leadership from the Veteran Integrated Service Network 11 (VISN 11) for a day-long discussion of homelessness among Veterans in northwestern Ohio. The discussion included key stakeholder groups in the 13 counties¹ in northwestern Ohio that comprise the portion of the state covered by VISN 11. This summit provided the attendees a forum to discuss programmatic and policy successes as well as areas of improvement for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its partners moving forward to eradicate Veterans homelessness in northwestern Ohio by 2015, in keeping with the VA's National Strategy to End Homelessness Among Veterans ("Strategic Plan").

To reinforce and encourage the objectives of VA's Strategic Plan to implement a 24/7 crisis response system that has "no wrong door" for homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families, CSH and the VA invited representatives from across the homeless service spectrum (and beyond) to the summit. Veterans Service Officers (VSOs) from six of the 13 counties were in attendance, along with staff from the Lucas and Allen County housing authorities, local service organizations and housing providers, HUD, and staff from the two VA medical centers that cover northwestern Ohio, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (VAAHS) and the Northern Indiana Healthcare System (NIHCS), as well as local Veteran Center staff.

At the summit, CSH presented an overview of the current gaps and opportunities in services and housing provided by the VA and local/state government and service providers in northwestern Ohio, and offered an overview of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's (USICH) plan to end homelessness, "Opening Doors." The analysis looked at the scope of the homeless problem in this area of the state and identified areas of overlap and potential collaboration between VA and non-VA service systems to address Veterans who are experiencing homelessness. The Summit led to the creation of key recommendations and after-action items to be taken into consideration as local stakeholders move forward to work more cohesively around the issue of Veterans homelessness in northwestern Ohio.

As a follow-up to the great work that occurred in March, 2012, CSH and VISN 11 staff are coordinating and facilitating a second statewide *Opening Doors in Northwestern Ohio: Homeless Veteran Summit* to be held on April 30, 2013.

¹ These counties are: Williams, Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert, Fulton, Henry, Putnam, Lucas, Wood, Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca.

This Pre-Summit report is intended to provide summit participants with the following:

- Background information on Federal and State homelessness planning efforts, including the purpose and intent of the Veteran Homeless Summit;
- Updates on the progress of Federal, VISN, VAMC, State, and local CoC Plans to End Homelessness;
- Provide updates on the action items from the March 2012 Summit;
- Analysis on available data and trends; and
- Review the April 2013 Summit agenda, topics for dialogue, and key questions for consideration.

During the April, 2013 summit, CSH, VA staff, and Summit participants will:

- Hear updates from VISN staff and United States Interagency Council (USICH) staff on the federal efforts and initiatives;
- Review and reflect on the changing landscape due to the implementation of the HEARTH Act;
- Identify and prioritize goals for implementation in 2013 through VISN 11, VAMC Plans, Statewide Plan, and local Continuum of Care plans.

Similar to the previous Summit, the key objectives of the April 2013 Opening Doors in Ohio: Homeless Veteran Summit are to generate specific action-items to be included in FY 2013 VAMC plans, local CoC plans, and carry the VA further along its goal to end Veteran homelessness by 2015.

Prior to attending the Summit, CSH, VISN, and VA staff encourage participants to reflect on the following three questions and come to the Summit with ideas, recommendations, and responses to collectively develop strategic action items for FY 2013.

1. What successes have occurred that I or my organization can build upon?
2. What are specific tasks that I can do to prevent and end homelessness for Veterans?
3. What are specific tasks my organization and community can do to prevent and end homelessness for Veterans?

II. Introduction: Background Information and Purpose of Homeless Veteran Summit(s), and Summary of January 2012 Summit

Background Information:

Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homeless sets the goal of ending homelessness for Veterans in five years by joint collaboration and partnership of the federal, state, and local leaders with providers in the community, advocates, private stakeholders, and the faith-based community organizations. *Opening Doors* was presented to the Office of the President and Congress in June, 2010 and was the nation's first comprehensive strategy to prevent and end homelessness. Key strategies and objectives fall under the following five themes:

1. Increase leadership, collaboration and civic engagement
2. Increase access to stable and affordable housing
3. Increase economic security
4. Improve health and stability
5. Retool the homeless crisis response system

In November 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) developed the *Five Year Plan to End Homelessness among Veterans*; in April 2010, each Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN) and Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) began developing what has come to be known as *Synchronized Plans to End Homelessness Among Veterans*. The VA's Plan is guided by the following six pillars:

1. Community Partnerships
2. Income/Employment/Benefits
3. Housing/Supportive Services
4. Outreach and Engagement Services
5. Prevention Services
6. Treatment Services

The individual VISN and VAMC Plans are mandated to fully synchronize with the VA's overall five-year *Strategic Plan* and the national *Opening Doors*. Moreover, it is expected that these plans align with local efforts to end homelessness in the community.

A major component of all federal, state and local planning efforts that is creating a significant impact on the changing landscape is the implementation of the HEARTH Act – the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act - which was signed into law May 2009. The HEARTH Act amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the first federal response to homelessness and largest federal program for homeless housing and services. The HEARTH Act includes a

significant number of changes that will impact CoC bodies, homeless and housing providers, state and local government, and mainstream partners including consolidation of HUD's competitive grant programs; change in HUD's definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness; development and implementation of a coordinated/centralized assessment system; and an increase in emphasis on system and program performance.

Purpose of Homeless Veteran Summit(s) and Pre-Summit Report

A key implementation strategy for VISN and VAMC plans was to host annual VISN and VAMC “leadership sponsored Homeless Veteran Summits to promote community partnerships and collaborations.”² CSH has been retained to assist the VA’s VISN 11 with convening a one-day regional Summit to review and maximize the success of efforts to end homelessness among Northwestern Ohio Veterans. The summits are envisioned as the platform for forming a regional approach and developing implementation goals and an accountability structure to end Veteran homelessness in Northwestern Ohio. Bringing together stakeholders from communities across the different networks helps foster true alignment of VA and state and local services for homeless Veterans across communities, VAMCs, and VISNs. Summit participants are identified and invited by key VISN 11 and VAMC staff, state partners, local CoC bodies and Veteran serving organizations. Invitees include stakeholder groups from across Northwestern Ohio – Continuum of Care staff and chairpersons, supportive housing and other service and housing providers, local, state, and federal government representatives from housing and labor agencies, individuals representing the funder community, VAMC and VA Benefit Administrations, and Veterans.

The first North West Ohio Summit was held in March 2012 and was designed to be both a learning and collaborative event. As a result of the dialogue and strategic planning at March 2012 summit, an After-Action Report with recommendations for implementation in FY 2012 was shared with summit participants the weeks following the summit. Those recommendations were intended to be included and implemented in the VAMC, local and statewide plans to end homelessness. An update on progress has been included in this report.

In preparation for the March 2013 Summit, CSH reviewed relevant federal, state, local, and VA plans to end homelessness and plan updates; analyzed available data on the prevalence of Veteran homelessness in the North West Ohio; and interviewed key partners to update implementation progress. CSH has used this information to develop the agenda and key objectives for the April 2013 Summit. This Pre-Summit Report is to provide Summit participants with the following:

² Memorandum from Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management, August 10, 2011

- Updates on the progress of Federal, VISN, VAMC, State, and local CoC Plans to End Homelessness;
- Analysis on available data and trends including population and demographic information, programmatic and systematic performance and evaluation, availability and implementation of housing and service funding/resources, housing inventory make-up, and other information; and
- Review the April 2013 Summit agenda, topics for dialogue, and key questions for consideration to support a thoughtful dialogue on opportunities and challenges that will lead to specific action items for FY 2013.

III. Data on Veteran Homelessness

In December, 2012 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released a report based on Point-in-Time (PIT) counts stating that in early January, 2012, as many as 67,495 Veterans were homeless nationwide. On a federal level, this is a decrease from January, 2010, when the PIT count rose above 76,000. Additional national demographic and characteristics of homeless Veterans identified during the PIT count includes:

- 61% are between the ages of 35 and 54.
- 96% are male; however the percentage of female homeless Veterans is on the rise as is the number of homeless Veterans with dependent children.
- Approximately 50% have serious mental illness and 70% have substance abuse problems.
- A significant percentage of homeless Veterans have had involvement with the legal system.
- Veterans are more likely to live outdoors-unsheltered-and experience long-term, chronic homelessness when compared to non-Veteran homeless population.

Figure 1: National Annual PIT Count Trends – Veterans Experiencing Homelessness

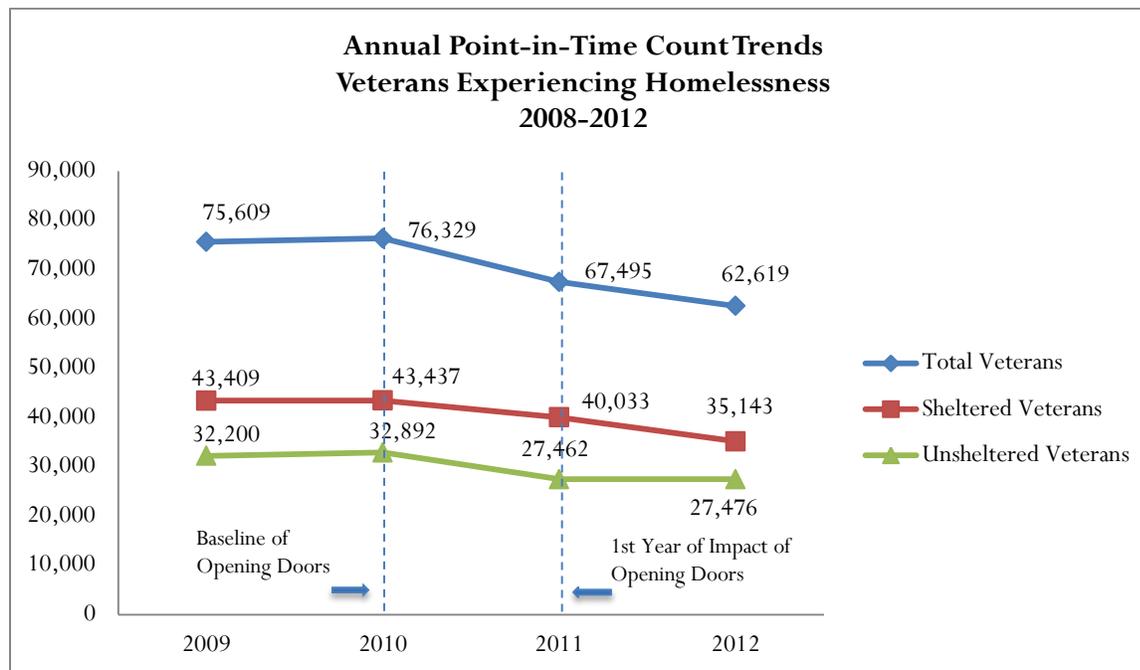


Figure 2: North West Ohio PIT Counts

Within the VISN 11 catchment area in North West Ohio, an area made up of 13 counties³, the Toledo/Lucas Continuum of Care region saw the number of homeless Veterans decrease from 2011 to 2012 from 90 to 71 Veterans. The figure below outlines the PIT data for Lucas County. The Balance of State CoC, which includes many North West Ohio counties, is also listed below.

CoC	2012 PIT Total Count	2012 PIT Veteran Count	2012 PIT Veteran Percentage	2011 PIT Count Veterans
Toledo/Lucas Co CoC	977	71	7%	90
Ohio Balance of State CoC	5,121	225	4%	200
Total State of Ohio PIT Counts	13,977	1,244	9%	1,279

³ These counties are: Williams, Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert, Fulton, Henry, Putnam, Lucas, Wood, Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Seneca.

While PIT estimates and HMIS data are known to present incomplete pictures of the overall scope, the direction of the misrepresentation indicates the problem may be greater than the numbers suggest. It is unfortunately difficult to know precisely the number of Veterans in each VAMC catchment area, and consequently each VISN, due to the transition from the CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups)⁴ data process to integrated use of the VA’s HOMES data system, which eventually will be able to report out on VAMC-level data and will include a homeless registry.

Across the country and no less in North West Ohio, the primary VA funded intervention for reaching Veterans experiencing homelessness has historically been a model of transitional housing known as Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program. Through a grant with the VA, community based organizations provide GPD transitional housing. To a lesser degree, the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) programs, contracted with community based providers, Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP) Homeless Domiciliary Care program, VAMC provided services, and Emergency Service Beds and Safe Havens connected to major medical centers; also provide residential care for this population. Currently, the avenue for Veterans to access beds and supports available through the GPD, HCHV and RRTP is to work with VAMC staff to be assessed and determined eligible. Similar to most temporary housing targeted to households experiencing homelessness, most GPD, HCHV, and RRTP programs have an existing waiting list to fill beds upon turnover.

Figure 3: VAMC Funded/Contracted Bed Inventory in North West Ohio including GPD program, HCHV – ES Beds, RRTP - Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) program

VAMC	County	GPD Beds	HCVC – ES Beds	RRTP
Ann Arbor VAMC	Lucas	18	35	0
	Defiance	0	12	3*
Total North West Ohio Beds		21	47	0

*Residential substance abuse treatment beds

⁴ In 1994, the VA launched Project CHALENG (Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups) for Veterans, an innovative program designed to enhance the continuum of care for homeless Veterans provided by the local VA and its surrounding community service agencies. The guiding principle behind Project CHALENG is that no single agency can provide the full spectrum of services required to help homeless Veterans become productive members of society. Project CHALENG enhances coordinated services by bringing the VA together with community agencies and other federal, state, and local governments who provide services to the homeless to raise awareness of homeless Veterans' needs and to plan to meet those needs.

The rising number of Veterans experiencing homelessness and the long-term nature of homelessness among Veterans led to the realization that GPD transitional housing models were alone insufficient to effectively end homelessness among Veterans – a goal made clear in both the Federal and VA Plans to End Homelessness. Thus, permanent supportive housing (PSH) has become recognized as a central component of a complete “system of response” for ending homelessness among Veterans. The creation of HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, made available scattered-site and project-based PSH options for Veterans experiencing homelessness. Figure 4 outlines the total number of VASH vouchers in North West Ohio. The VASH program is structured and administered similarly as the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program (formerly known as Section 8).

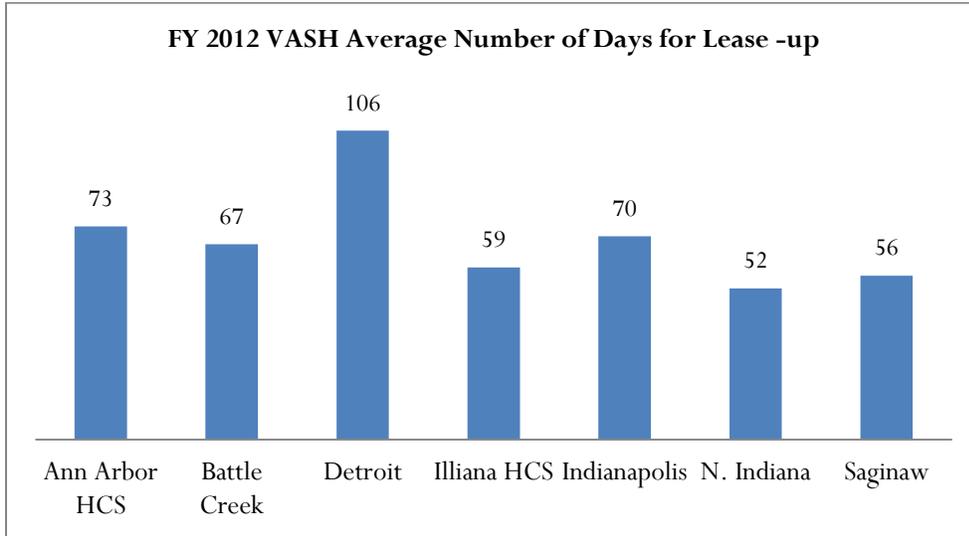
Figure 4: Number of VASH Vouchers in VISN 11

Facility	# of VASH Vouchers FY08-11
Ann Arbor HCS*	285
Battle Creek	190
Detroit	420
Illiana HCS*	85
Indianapolis	275
N. Indiana	180
Saginaw	120
TOTAL VISN 11 VASH	1480

*Provides services to Veterans in North West Ohio

VASH vouchers are primarily tenant-based, however some project based options may be available on a limited basis. As with many rental assistance programs, the lease up process – admission to VASH program to signing the lease and move-in – can be a time intensive and lengthy process. In fiscal year 2012, a VISN 11 performance measure was created to promote timely engagement and lease up with Veterans for VASH vouchers. The established performance measure is 75 days. The figure below outlines the average number of days for lease up by VA Facility in FY 2012.

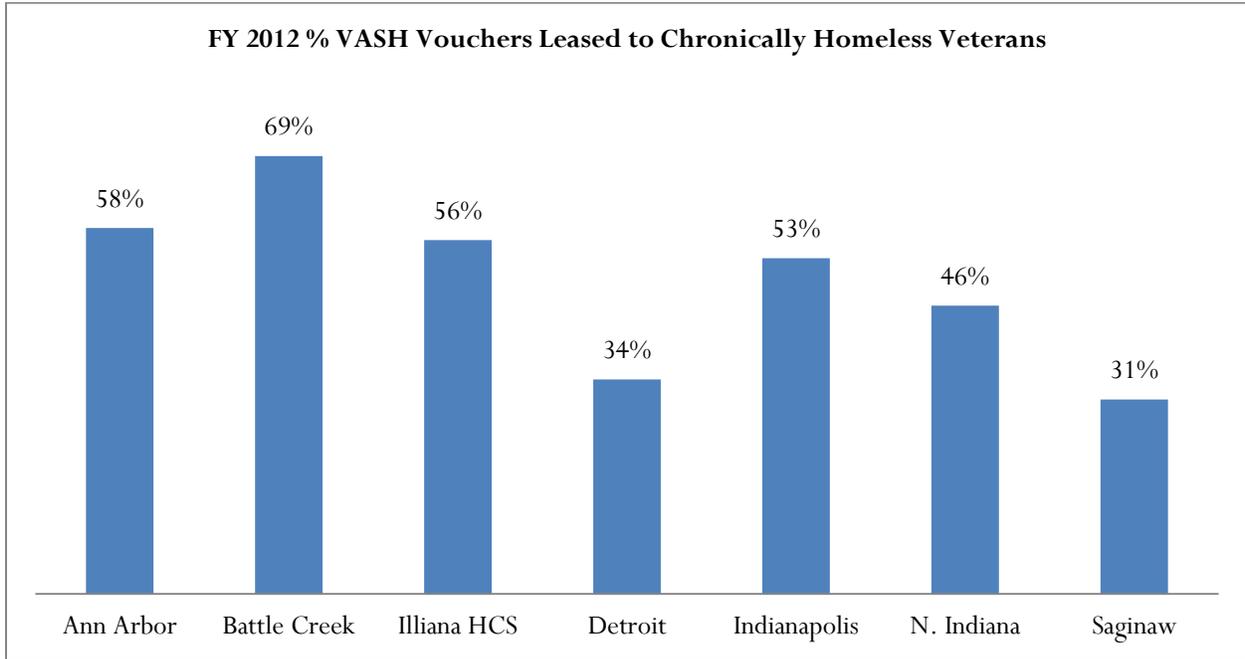
Figure 5: FY 2012 VASH Lease-Up (average days)



Additionally, there is a focus and priority to link and house chronically homeless⁵ Veterans with VASH vouchers. At a federal level within the VA there is significant focus and capacity building effort to implement a Housing First approach with VASH vouchers. For FY2013 a new performance measurement was established to measure and target VASH vouchers to HUD chronically homeless definition – 65% of a facility’s VASH vouchers targeted to chronically homeless. In FY 2012 there was not an officially established performance measurement for targeting VASH vouchers to chronically homeless individuals, however Figure 6 outlines for each respective VAMC’s targeting percentage in FY 2012.

⁵ HUD defines chronically homeless as Individual or families that lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human being or living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary living arrangements); and literally homeless for one year or four occasions in last three years; and diagnosed with a disability

Figure 6: FY 2012 Percentage of VASH Vouchers Leased to Chronically Homeless Veterans



Additionally, for Veterans experiencing homelessness that may not need the ongoing affordability and intensive support that HUD-VASH and other rental assistance provides, the Supportive Services for Veteran’s Families (SSVF) program was created to provide prevention and rapid re-housing through short to medium term housing assistance and supports. Unlike HUD-VASH, SSVF is administered locally by community-based providers that receive grant funding directly from the VA. There is one SSVF grantee in North West Ohio, Maumee Valley Guidance Center, Inc., serving Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams counties. Approximately 75 households are to be served through this grant, which was funded in FY 2012.

While the VA has in recent years made much headway towards building a differentiated “system of response” to end homelessness among Veterans that includes prevention, rapid re-housing, and Housing First PSH models, much still needs to be done in North West Ohio (and elsewhere) to build these systems locally and in a manner that is coordinated with non-VA homeless services. Meanwhile, state and community leaders both inside and outside the VA in North West Ohio Michigan have successfully worked towards increasing the supply of PSH, prevention and rapid re-housing resources. In addition to increasing the supply of housing and services resources, communities must also identify how households are targeted, prioritized and triaged to the most appropriate housing and service intervention. With HEARTH Act implementation, CoC bodies are required to develop a coordinated/centralized assessment system to connect households at-risk and experiencing homelessness with appropriate housing and services which they

are eligible. Local VA staff and Veteran serving organizations are key stakeholders and need to be involved in the development and implementation process of a centralized/coordinated system.

Progress On-the-Ground in North West Ohio

Positive collaboration and innovation is underway in VISN 11’s VAMCs projects and initiatives to increase the supply and quality of permanent supportive housing and improve services for homeless Veterans. This work has been accomplished by VAMCs and state and community leaders alike. Outlined below in **Figure 7** updates on the action items that were prioritized during the March 2012 Ohio Summit.

Figure 7: Update on 2012 Prioritized After-Action Items

Prioritized Action Item	Progress
1. Engage community providers to apply for the new Grant and Per Diem program NOFA with a “transition in place” component.	Unfortunately no providers in the North West OH received funding for the transition in place model. Only one OH provider in Ravenna received a grant to provide approximately 20 beds for transition in place model.
2. Build off the 2012 summit by creating a Northwestern Ohio Homeless Veterans Council to coordinate VA and community efforts in the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage formation of a subgroup of public housing authorities from each county to meet with the VA on ways to include homeless Veterans in public housing • Identify best practices in local communities using HUD’s Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing (HPRP) funds and the Ohio Department of Development’s family homeless prevention pilot. Identify methods to integrate these best practices into local services for Veterans, starting with VSOs 	While this was a significant priority that grew out the 2012 Summit, little progress has been made on this action item. The April, 2013 Summit will explore and discussion opportunities to further progress on this action item, specifically addressing staffing issues, travel and distance concerns.
3. Reach out to existing CoCs to determine where local expertise and resources can be leveraged and built upon to develop PSH in northwestern Ohio counties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the setting of CSH’s Supportive Housing 	National Church Residences teamed with the VISN 11 to submit funding applications to the Ohio Housing Finance Agency and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati to develop a 75 unit PSH project targeting veterans. The

<p>Institute to form partnerships and plans for new housing developments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimate the actual need for PSH units; draft a financial model to meet the unit need 	<p>FHLB has awarded \$1,000,000. The OHFA awards will be announced in June 2013.</p> <p>New Homes Development has secured partial funding from the Ohio Department of Mental Health for a 10 unit PSH development in Defiance. It is expected that the additional funds will be approved by OHFA in May 2013.</p>
--	---

Located in Attachment C of this report is the progress on the FY2012 Action Items. Summit participants will have an opportunity and are encouraged to make note of any updates and/process at the summit.

IV. Preparing for April 2013 Summit

The second summit, scheduled for April 30, 2013 in Toledo, Ohio, will review the work to date, celebrate the collective progress and successes, identify challenges and opportunities to overcome them, while also re-focusing and re-energizing the collaborative efforts needed to move implementation forward.

Figure 8: Opening Doors in North West Ohio: Aligning VA and Homeless Service Systems to End Homelessness for Veterans – April 30, 2013

Tentative Agenda

8:30 am	Continental Breakfast and Registration
9:00 am	Welcome
9:20 am	Federal Perspective – Update from U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, VISN 11
9:40 am	Federal Perspective – Update from U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
10:30 am	Break
10:45 am	Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program – Panel Discussion
11:30 am	Toledo Supportive Housing Team Presentation
11:45 am	Lunch
12:15 pm	Creating North West Ohio Veteran Council – Facilitated Discussion
1:15 pm	North West Ohio Update and Data Overview
1:45 pm	Break
2:00 pm	2013 Strategic Planning
4:00 pm	Opportunities and Next Steps
4:30 pm	Adjourn

Prior to attending the Summit, CSH, VISN, and VA staff encourage participants to reflect on the following questions and come to the Summit with ideas, recommendations, and responses to collectively develop strategic action items for FY 2013.

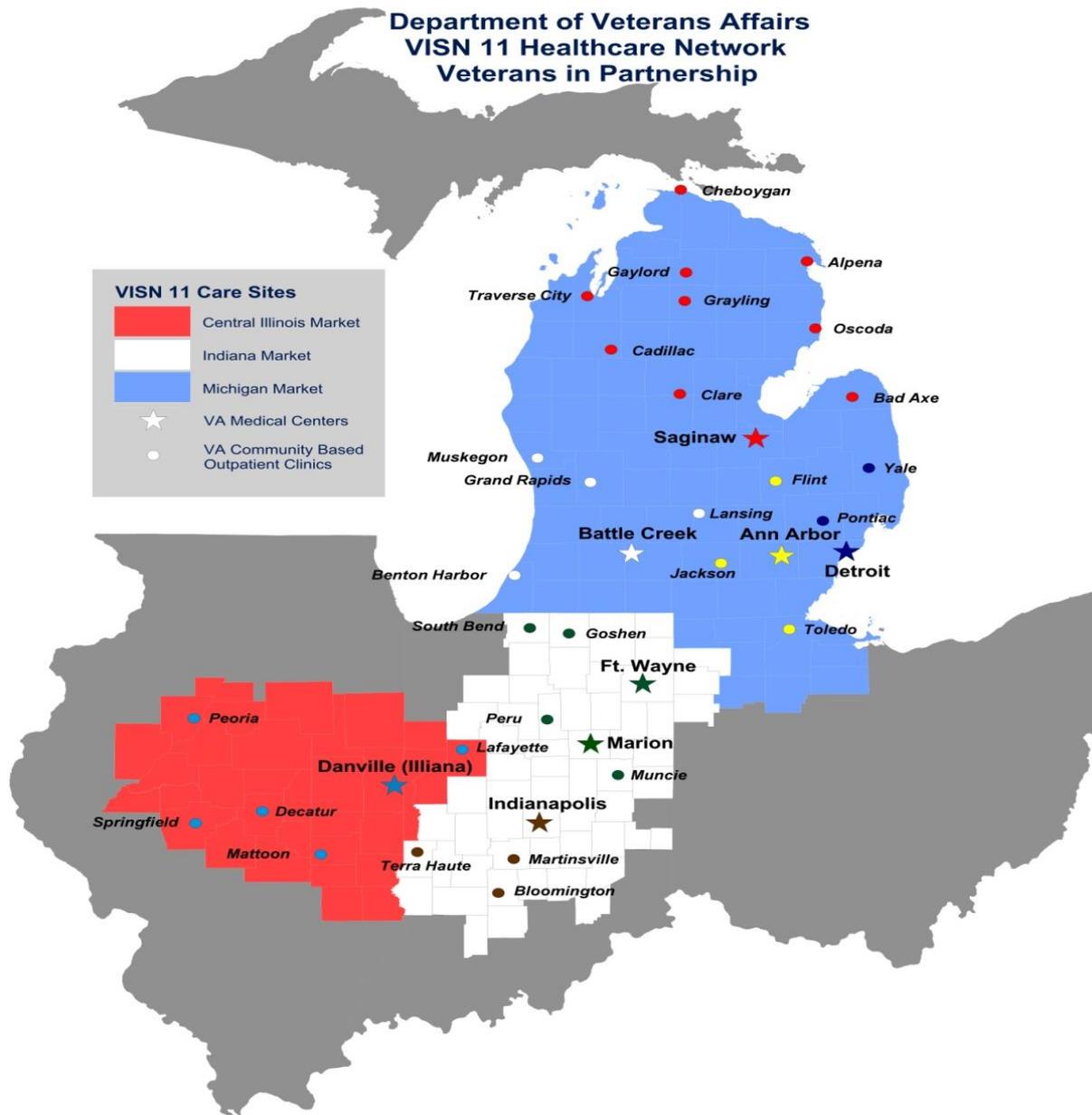
1. What successes have occurred that I or my organization can build upon?
2. What are specific tasks that I can do to prevent and end homelessness for Veterans?
3. What are specific tasks my organization and community can do to prevent and end homelessness for Veterans?

V. Conclusion

The After Summit Action items listed in Attachment B demonstrate, dialogue and work that grew out of the January 2012 Summit and progress has occurred over the last year. The April, 2013 Summit will provide stakeholders the opportunity to expand upon those successes, discuss new projects targeted to Veterans, review Veteran homelessness data, identify opportunities and strategic priorities to promote collaboration and partnership in FY 2013, and much more.

VI. Attachments

Attachment A: VA VISN 11 Foot Print



VISN 11 Information:

- Square Miles: 90,100
- Veteran Enrollees: 373,668
- States: 4
- Senators: 8
- Congressional Districts: 31
- VAMCs: 8 (1 dual campus)
- CBOCs: 30 by EOY
- Vet Centers: 12
- State Veterans Homes: 2
- VBA Regional Offices: 2
- National Cemeteries: 6
- State Veteran Cemeteries: 2

Attachment B: FY 2012 Action Items under the 6 Pillars of the VA’s Plan

Pillar: Community Partnerships	Suggested Partners	Progress To-Date
<p>1. Build off the 2012 summit by creating a Northwestern Ohio Homeless Veterans Council to coordinate VA and community efforts in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage resources • Avoid duplication of efforts • Create cross-system referrals • Operationalize “no wrong door” approach <p>The group should meet quarterly and rotate meeting sites to lessen travel burden for partners. The Council will be a venue where other action items in this report can be worked through.</p>	<p>Conveners: CSH and VISN 11</p> <p>Partners: Public Housing Authorities (PHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), VSO, Vet Centers, HUD, DOL, CoC, Homeless Vets, Ohio Dept. of Veterans Services (ODVS), other service providers, Ohio Dept of Jobs and Family Services (ODJFS), faith based organizations, others</p>	<p>While this was a significant priority that grew out the 2012 Summit, little progress has been made on this action item. The April, 2013 Summit will explore and discussion opportunities to further progress on this action item, specifically addressing staffing issues, travel and distance concerns.</p>
<p>2. Invite VA & public housing authorities from NW Ohio to hold a quarterly brainstorming session by second quarter 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be subgroup of the Northwestern Ohio Homeless Veterans Council • Utilize technology – such as web meetings, SharePoint, etc., to bring best practices to partners without travel burden 	<p>VA, PHAs, CSH</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
<p>3. Coordinate efforts between the Ohio Department of Veteran’s Services (ODVS), VSOs and the VA to ensure that efforts are streamlined in the Veterans’ service system in the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include trainings on what’s available in each system • Create protocols for cross-system referrals 	<p>ODVS, VISN 11, VAAAHS, NICHHS, VJO</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
Pillar: Outreach/Education	Suggested Partners	Progress To-Date
<p>4. Improve knowledge around services and housing options available to Veterans re-entering from Ohio jails and prisons.</p>	<p>Engage the Ohio Reentry Coalition (administered by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and</p>	<p>Primarily a function of VISN 10</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly update Ohio re-entry guide provided to every Veteran meeting with an HCRV (Health Care for Re-entry Veterans) specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involve CoC in guide updates to provide input for local resources ○ Involve local county reentry task forces and/or citizen circles to provide input for local resources • Distribute the guides widely – share them with VSOs and Vet Centers, probation/parole officers, etc. 	Correction) VJO, HCHV, CoC	
5. Create an on-line anonymous assessment tool to help identify state-wide resources by 2014. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use technology to meet Veterans “where they are at” • Streamline information from 211 or systems that currently exist 	United Way 211 System, Ohio Dept. of Development (ODOD), COHHIO, CSH, VA, HUD-HMIS	Unknown
Pillar: Prevention Services	Suggested Partners	Progress To-Date
6. Through the Council, identify best practices in local communities using HUD’s Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing funds and the Ohio Department of Development’s family homeless prevention pilot. Identify methods to integrate these best practices into local services for Veterans, starting with VSOs	VISN 11, VSOs, COHHIO, ODOD, local CoC Coordinators	Unknown
Pillar: Housing/Supportive Services	Suggested Partners	Progress To-Date
7. Engage community providers to apply for the new Grant and Per Diem Program NOFA with a “transition in place” program component:	VAAAHS, NIHCS, CSH, Housing Providers	FY 2013 Proposals in review process
8. Expand housing partnerships with PHAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage smaller housing authorities to get involved with HUD-VASH • Explore solutions to barriers to accessing vouchers • Link outreach and services for Veterans with 	VA, PHAs, CoCs, CSH, HUD	Unknown

housing authorities that have a preference for Veterans in their public housing		
<p>9. Reach out to existing CoCs to determine where local expertise and resources can be leveraged and built upon to develop PSH where needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the setting of CSH’s 2012 Supportive Housing Institute to form partnerships and plans for new housing developments • Estimate the actual need for PSH units; draft a financial model to meet the unit need 	VA,CSH, CoCs, COHHIO, VSOs, Local government, Charitable foundations, ODOD, Housing authorities, Service providers, Housing providers, Local service organizations, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, ODOD, Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati	Unknown
Pillar: Treatment Services	Suggested Partners	Progress To-Date
<p>10. Reduce homelessness among Veteran’s residing in VISN 11 who are sex offenders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to Grant per Diem funding announcements • Engage Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) and the local Recovery Boards to identify successful treatment models for this population • Identify the actual number of potential Veterans in this category that need housing and services and explore with ODRC possible partnerships with their Independent Housing program 	VA, CSH, ODRC, local Recovery Boards	Unknown, however there will not be any new GPD NOFAs for FY 2013
Pillar: Income/Employment/Benefits	Suggested Partners	Progress To-Date
<p>11. Participate in VISN 10’s forum on employment for veterans scheduled for May 1, 2012</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage and grow relationships with local Workforce Boards, Ohio’s Rehabilitation Service Commission (RSC), and Goodwill sites to determine employment assistance opportunities for Veterans. Integrate resources into VA and VSO training and resource guides. Acquire at a minimum one partnership with a workforce, employment agency that will prioritize veterans. 	VISN 10 & 11 personnel VISN 11, VOS, Workforce Boards, RSC, Goodwill of NW Ohio	Unknown

