

Dane County Veterans Service Office



Briefing to HHN Committee
July 8, 2021



Dane CVS0 Team

- Dan Connery, Veterans Service Director (CVSO)
- VACANT, Deputy Veterans Service Director (Deputy CVSO)
- Janelle Gallatin, Assist Veterans Service Officer
- Tom Hay, Assistant Veterans Service Officer (0.5FTE)
- Bridgette Nelson, Assistant Veterans Service Officer
- Angela Sears, Assistant Veterans Service Officer (0.5FTE)
- Pam Lange, Veterans Support Specialist

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County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)

- Trained and accredited veterans advocates
- County/Tribal Veterans Service Offices located in each WI county and within our state's 11 tribes
- Provides services & advocacy for veterans, their dependents & survivors
- Screens for eligibility and connects veterans to federal, state and local benefits
- Locate your WI CVSO/TVSO Here:
<http://wicvso.org/locate-your-cvso/>



Social Determinants of Health with Veterans

1. **Economic Stability** – steady income through employment, disability compensation, etc.
2. **Education Access and Quality** – use of Federal GI Bill benefits, tuition waivers, education grants, etc.
3. **Health Care Access and Quality** – Access to VA Health Care, Vet Centers, etc.
4. **Neighborhood and Built Environment** – reducing veteran homelessness through HUD-VASH vouchers, veterans transitional housing, affordable housing, etc.
5. **Social and Community Context** – increasing social and community support.





Eligibility for Benefits

- Factors affecting eligibility for various programs include:
 - Active Duty vs. National Guard/Reserve Service
 - Wartime or Peacetime Service
 - Type of Benefit for which Veteran is Applying
- Based on DD 214
(Statement of Separation or Discharge)
- Each client encounter is unique – Not a one-size fits all approach!



VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation

- Monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service
- A successful claim has three elements:
 - Clinically diagnosed condition
 - Condition is chronically disabling
 - Connection between condition and military service (AKA Nexus)
- It's never too late to file a claim, but sooner is better than later!



Common Claims

- Hearing loss
- Tinnitus
- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder
- Back or cervical strains
- Knee issues (ROM, pain, etc.)
- Sciatic nerve pain
- Limited motion of ankle
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Migraines
- Traumatic Brain Injury & residuals
- Other “Presumptive” claims



Presumptive Conditions

VA presumes specific disabilities diagnosed in certain veterans were caused by their military service.

- [Certain “chronic diseases”](#) – If condition presented itself within one year of release from active duty
- [Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis \(ALS\)](#) – Requires 90 days AD or more
- [Former POWs](#)
- [Agent Orange Exposure Veterans](#) – Now includes certain Blue Water Navy/Coast Guard VN veterans
- [Atomic Veterans](#)
- [Gulf War Veterans](#)
- [Camp Lejeune Water Contamination Veterans](#)
- VA Fact Sheet available here: <http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/serviceconnected/presumption.pdf>



VA Disability Compensation/Pension

- 90% of claims initiated through CVSO/TVSO offices
- \$84.2 million into the pockets of Dane County veterans and survivors in FY20
- Perpetual boost to local economy
- Essential to providing *Economic Stability*, one of the SDOH domains, to local veterans and survivors



Veterans and Suicide

- 17.6 veterans/day commit suicide (2018)
- Suicide rate for veterans 1.5 times higher than general population
- 11 of 17 not engaged in VA Health Care with only 3 engaged in mental health treatment

Compounding challenges – PTSD/MST, TBI, homelessness, addiction, spotty job history, lack of support network, etc.



Community Partners

- Veterans Health Administration (VA Medical Centers, VA Clinics) – Health Care for eligible veterans
- Veterans Benefits Administration – Disability benefits, education benefits, etc.
- Vet Centers – free counseling to combat veterans, MST victims, bereavement needs
- WI Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA)
- Local Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)
- ADRC, WI DWD, and many others



Local Benefits

- ***Vets Ride with Pride*** – Bus passes for VA-disabled veterans and VA needs-based Pension recipients
- Veterans Service Commission – *Emergency Assistance* for rent and utilities
- *Donated Aid* – gas, grocery, and misc. assistance for veterans in need

Questions?



Contact us!

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