

MEETING MINUTES



**1. Call to order 2:00pm**

- a. Welcome/Introductions
- b. Attendance
- c. Review of Agenda
- d. No previous meeting minutes to review
- e. Next meeting: TBD

**2. Purpose of Committee – Lonnie Wangen**

- a. The purpose of this committee is to oversee the efforts and data provided by the ND VA homeless program with the goal of receiving support to move forward in the process of declaring functional zero for Veteran homelessness in the state of N.D. This would mean that the committee is in agreement that ND has established an effective housing crisis response system for Veterans.

**3. Goal date for declaring Functional Zero:**

Veteran's Day 2020 - 11/11/20

**4. Data Presentation to Committee - focal points**

- a. USICH is responsible for developing the National Strategic plan to end homelessness.
- b. ND COC is responsible for carrying out community wide commitment and goals for ending homelessness.
- c. The VA is a federal partner of the COC which manages many programs that address ending Veteran homelessness and stabilizing Veterans in our State, including homeless outreach, Veteran supported housing services with case management, Veteran's justice services, Veteran employment assistance, and transitional housing.
- d. **Ending Veteran homelessness (or declaring functional zero) does not mean there are no homeless Veterans in our state**, it means we have an effective housing crisis response system that can prevent homelessness, and assure that when homelessness does happen, it is brief, rare, and non-re-occurring.
- e. The VA homeless program manages a statewide By-Name-List of all homeless Veterans that are identified across the state of ND. Homeless assistance providers in all regions of the state are invited to participate in a weekly call and add homeless Veterans to the list. For questions on participation contact [samantha.navratil@va.gov](mailto:samantha.navratil@va.gov)
- f. The VA homeless program is working on achieving the goal of functional zero by tackling the specific criteria and benchmarks that USICH has outlined within their national plan. (see slides 18-24 for details)

## 5. Questions from the Committee:

### Q: Does the VA work with Beyond Shelter?

A: Yes. There is currently collaboration on an up and coming low income housing project for homeless individuals, and the VA support the program with VASH vouchers so that several units will be designated specifically for Veteran tenants. We also frequently refer Veterans to other housing projects managed by Beyond Shelter, and partner with them by providing case management to Veterans housed in these projects. (Cooper House in Fargo, Bright Sky in Moorhead, and LaGrave on First in Grand Forks).

### Q: Do Veterans have access to Family Health Care, and its Homeless Health clinic?

A: Some Veterans that prefer this option, or are not eligible for VA healthcare services, do choose to get healthcare at Homeless Health, however a majority of Veterans who are VA Health Care eligible choose to access their VA benefits and receive their health services at the VA Hospital or VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics that are located across the state. We will invite Pat Gulbranson, Chief Executive Director of Family Health Care, to join this committee, and discuss these services in Fargo as well as FHC clinic locations across the state.

### Q: Does the VA interact with other community partners in order to address homelessness?

A: Yes. The VA works intensively with all community partners who offer homeless services. The VA has written agreements with YWCA, shelters, and other community providers. We frequently communicate with and refer Veterans to other community partners such as homeless shelters, Gladys Ray Shelter, food pantries, Community Action and SSVF programs, Salvation Army, Presentation Partners in Housing, housing authorities, social services, and County Veteran Service Officers, just to name a few. The VA also has representatives that sit on a variety of community coalitions, and committees, whose purposes are ending homelessness.

### Q: What interaction does the VA have with the Lisbon Veteran's Home?

A: The VA has open and frequent communication with the Lisbon Veteran's Home, with the goal of getting Veterans placed in the appropriate level of care. We often refer Veterans to the Vets Home who are ineligible for our programs, or who are too medically vulnerable to live in independent housing. We will invite Mark Johnson, Administrator at the Lisbon Veteran's Home, to join this committee. We will have a discussion on the potential continuum of care possibilities for homeless Veterans who need more support services than outpatient facilities can provide.

### Q: Are those living in homeless shelters considered homeless?

A: Yes. Individuals who reside at homeless shelters are considered homeless and are counted in our states' homeless information data, as are Veterans who are in transitional or other temporary housing.

### Q: Should we look at building a "Habitat for Veterans" type housing project, an apartment complex that would specifically house homeless Veterans?

A: A project of this nature would likely be well received by our community and by our Veterans. Though we didn't have time to cover this in our presentation, the data from our Veteran's By-Name list shows that our community does currently have good capacity to house Veterans permanently in housing programs that already exist, and that they can be housed generally in 90 days or less of identifying that they would like to be housed. (Data reference on slides 22 - 23 from presentation.) Further discussion to be had on this topic.

## 6. Identifying Community Gaps

In our next meeting the group has identified they would like to talk more about identifying gaps in resources for Veterans, or any concerns with the existing housing crisis response system that is currently in place.

## **Committee Member Roll Call for 5/21/20 Meeting**

### **ND Department of Veterans Affairs (NDDVA):**

**X**     **Lonnie Wangen**-Commissioner  
ND Planning Committee to End Veteran Homelessness Chairman  
701-239-7165  
[lwangen@nd.gov](mailto:lwangen@nd.gov)

### **Fargo Veterans Affairs Health Care Services (VAHCS):**

**X**     **Diana Hall**- Homeless Programs Supervisor  
ND Planning Committee to End Veteran Homelessness Co-Chair  
701-239-3700 ext. 3472  
701-610-9230 (mobile)  
[Diana.Hall2@va.gov](mailto:Diana.Hall2@va.gov)

**X**     **Samantha Navratil**- Coordinated Entry Specialist  
ND Planning Committee to End Veteran Homelessness Co-Chair/Secretary  
701-239-3700 ext. 3483 Office  
701-200-1013 (mobile)  
[Samantha.navratil@va.gov](mailto:Samantha.navratil@va.gov)

### **ND Community Action Partnership (CAP) Directors**

**X**     **Andrea Olson**- Executive Director, Fargo  
701-232-2452 Ext 119  
[andrea@capnd.org](mailto:andrea@capnd.org)  
[www.capnd.org](http://www.capnd.org)

—     **Pam Palmer**- Statewide Program director SSVF  
3233 University Drive South  
Fargo, ND 58104  
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### **ND Community Shelter Directors**

**X**     **Jan Eliassen**- Director, Gladys Ray Shelter, Fargo  
701-476-4117  
[JEliassen@FargoND.gov](mailto:JEliassen@FargoND.gov)

### **Continuum of Care (COC)**

**X**     **Shawnel Willer**- ND COC Coordinator  
701-328-8043  
701-471-9926 (mobile)  
[smwiller@nd.gov](mailto:smwiller@nd.gov)

### **ND Association of County and Tribal Veteran Service Officers (NDACTVSO)**

**X**     **Mary Vetter**- President  
Richland County  
(701) 642-7807  
[maryvetter@co.richland.nd.us](mailto:maryvetter@co.richland.nd.us)

**ND Coalition for Homeless Persons (NDCHP)**

**X**     **Andrea Olson**- Executive Director, Community Action Fargo (represents CAP also)  
701-232-2452 Ext 119  
[andrea@capnd.org](mailto:andrea@capnd.org)  
[www.capnd.org](http://www.capnd.org)

**ND Human Services-ND Homeless**

**X**     **Nicole Berman**-Behavior Health Division  
701-328-8949  
[nberman@nd.gov](mailto:nberman@nd.gov)

**ND Housing Authority Directors**

**X**     **Jill Elliot**- Deputy Director, Fargo Housing Authority  
701-478-2551  
[jille@fargohousing.org](mailto:jille@fargohousing.org)

**X**     **Mark Austin**, Minot Housing Authority Director  
[markaustin@minothousing.com](mailto:markaustin@minothousing.com)

**ND Legislators**

**ND Senate:**

**X**     **Kyle Davison**-Senator, Government and Veterans Affairs Chair  
701-261-8703 (Mobile)  
[kdavison@nd.gov](mailto:kdavison@nd.gov)

**X**     **Judy Lee**- Senator, Human Services Committee Chair  
(701) 282-6512  
[jlee@nd.gov](mailto:jlee@nd.gov)  
<https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/committees/senate/human-services>

**X**     **Dick Dever**- Senator, Appropriations Committee- Lead for Human Services, NDDVA and Veterans Affairs Budget. Chair of legislative veterans' caucus. Past GVA chair and Human Services member  
(701) 222-2604  
[ddever@nd.gov](mailto:ddever@nd.gov)

**ND House:**

**X**     **Jim Kasper**-Representative, Government and Veterans Affairs Chair  
701-799-9000  
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<https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/committees/house/government-and-veterans-affairs>

—     **Robin Weisz**- Representative, Human Services Committee Chair  
(701) 962-3799  
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<https://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/66-2019/committees/house/human-services>

**ND National Guard**

- X**     **Warren Pauling (COL)**  
COL, EN, NDARNG  
NGND G1  
W: 701-333-3013  
C: 701-390-6608  
[warren.l.pauling.mil@mail.mil](mailto:warren.l.pauling.mil@mail.mil)
- X**     **Al Palmer (General-Retired)**- ND Air National Guard. Grand Forks area homeless  
701-317-2284  
[apalmer310@outlook.com](mailto:apalmer310@outlook.com)
- X**     **United States Interagency Counsel on Homelessness**  
Katy Miller  
[katy.miller@usich.gov](mailto:katy.miller@usich.gov)

**Veterans Home**

- \_\_\_     Mark Johnson-Administrator (Invited and accepted 6/2/20)  
701-683-6501  
[mjohn@nd.gov](mailto:mjohn@nd.gov)

**Family Health Care**

- \_\_\_     Pat Gulbranson – Chief Executive Director (Invited 6/2/20 – awaiting response)  
[Pgulbranson@famhealthcare.org](mailto:Pgulbranson@famhealthcare.org)

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION! WE LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING MORE OF YOUR  
FEEDBACK AS WE WORK TOWARDS THE GOAL OF DECLARING FUNCTIONAL ZERO!

# Welcome!

## ND Planning Committee to End Veteran Homelessness

### Presenters:

**Lonnie Wangen**, ND Veteran's Commissioner

**Diana Hall**, VA Homeless Programs Supervisor, Fargo VA

**Samantha Navratil**, Coordinated Entry Specialist, Fargo VA

### Planning committee members :

**Andrea Olson**, Executive Director, CAP ND \* **Pam Palmer**, Programs Coordinator, CAP ND \* **Jan Eliassen**, Director, Gladys Ray Shelter, Fargo \* **Shawnel Willer**, Coordinator, ND COC \* **Mary Vetter**, President, ND Association of County and Tribal Veteran Services \* **Nicole Berman**, ND Human Services, Behavior Health Division \* **Jill Elliot**, Director, Fargo Housing Authority \* **Mark Austin**, Director, Minot Housing Authority \* **Kyle Davison**, Senator, Government and Veterans Affairs Chair \* **Judy Lee**, Senator, Human Services Committee Chair \* **Dick Dever**, Senator, Appropriations Committee - Lead for Human Services, Veterans Home and Veteran Affairs Budgets. Chair of legislative Veterans' Caucus \* **Jim Kasper**, Representative, Government and Veterans Affairs Chair \* **Robin Weisz**, Representative, Human Services Committee Chair \* **Colonel Warren Pauling**, ND National Guard \* **General Al Palmer**, ND Air National Guard-Retired \* **Katy Miller**, United States Interagency Counsel on Homelessness \*

# Agenda

2:00 PM

**Lonnie Wangen** - Commissioner ND  
Department of Veterans Affairs

- Call to order
- Introductions
- Purpose of committee
- Review Agenda

2:10 PM

**Diana Hall** - Homeless Programs Manager,  
Fargo VA Health Care System

- N.D. Veteran Homelessness Statistics
- Functional Zero

2:20 PM

**Samantha Navratil** - Coordinated Entry  
Specialist, Fargo VA Health Care System

- What is Coordinated Entry
- Criteria and Benchmarks for declaring  
Functional Zero

2:35 PM Questions and planning

2:55PM

**Lonnie Wangen** - Commissioner ND  
Department of Veterans Affairs

Closing statement

Goal date Veterans Day 2020

3:00 PM Adjourn

# Home, Together

The United States has a federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness - U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

**Home.** Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

**Together.** Because the causes of homelessness are complex, and the solutions are going to take all of us working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.

## **Together, We Are Making Progress**

The problem of homelessness can seem daunting—it is estimated that on any given night more than 550,000 people are experiencing homelessness in America. The good news is that states and communities, with the support of the federal government and the private sector, are making progress using best practices and building the coordinated responses that are necessary to reduce and ultimately end homelessness in America.





# About the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

- ▶ USICH is charged with developing and regularly updating a national strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness. *Home, Together* is the name of the strategic plan adopted by the Council for Fiscal Years 2018-2022
- ▶ The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) leads national efforts to prevent and end homelessness in America. They drive a 19 member council of federal agencies that foster the efficient use of resources in support of best practices at every level of government and with the private sector.

FEDERAL PARTNER AGENCIES - Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Education, Department of Energy, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, Department of Veterans Affairs, Corporation for National and Community Service, General Services Administration, Office of Management and Budget, Social Security Administration, US Postal Service, White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

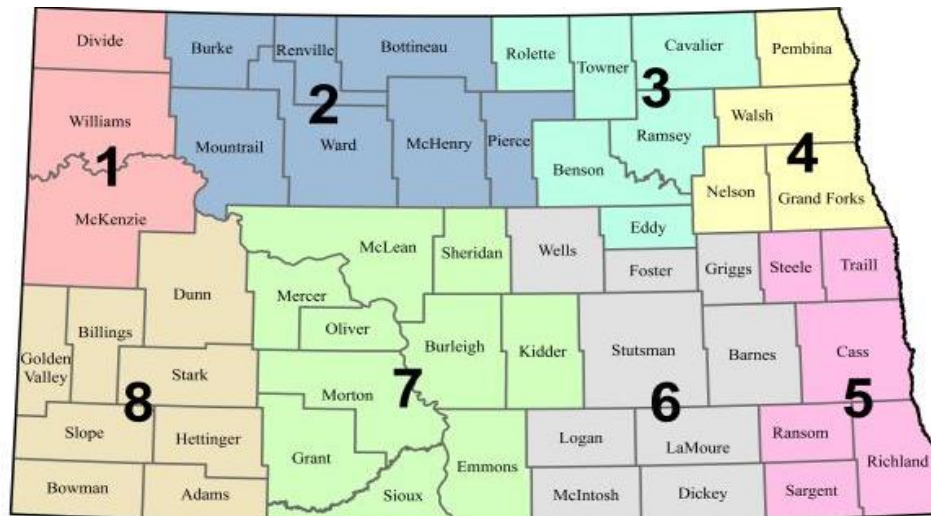
- ▶ USICH, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have also developed specific criteria and benchmarks for ending Veteran homelessness which we will review later.
- ▶ Our regional USICH representative is Katy Miller [katy.miller@usich.gov](mailto:katy.miller@usich.gov)

# *Who is charged community wide with carrying out the National plan? THE COC!*

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments that work together to quickly rehouse homeless populations while minimizing trauma caused to them by homelessness; promote access and effective utilization of mainstream programs; and optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness

ND is one COC. Some states are comprised of several COCs as they are more densely populated. The Fargo VA participates in the ND COC, and also 2 COCs of Minnesota which are in our catchment area, including North West MN COC and West Central COC.

ND COC Coordinator:  
Shawnel Willer  
[smwiller@nd.gov](mailto:smwiller@nd.gov)



# Department of Veteran Affairs Homeless Program

As a federal partner of the COC, what are some of the things VA has already been doing in efforts to provide assistance to homeless Veterans?

Diana Hall, MSW, LICSW - Homeless Programs Manager Fargo VA Health Care

## Health Care for Homeless Veterans Outreach (HCHV)

The HCHV program serves as the hub for a myriad of housing and other services that provide VA with a way to reach and assist homeless Veterans by offering them entry to VA care.

Outreach is the core of the HCHV program. The central goal is to reduce homelessness among Veterans by conducting outreach to those who are the most vulnerable and not currently receiving services and engaging them in treatment and rehabilitative programs. There are outreach workers based across the state in Minot, Williston, Dickinson, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Fargo, and the White Earth and Red Lake Falls Tribal Reservations.

## Coordinated Entry

The VA homeless program has a coordinated entry specialist who focuses on improving the processes that aid Veterans in resolving their housing crisis. This includes working with community partners across the continuum of care to identify areas of need, collect and evaluate data on Veteran homelessness, and provide education to systems and individual providers.

## **HUD-VASH**

HUD-VASH (Housing and Urban Development - VA Supportive Housing) is a collaborative program between HUD and VA that combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services to help Veterans who are homeless and their families find and sustain permanent housing.

Through public housing authorities, HUD provides rental assistance vouchers for privately owned housing to Veterans who are eligible for VA health care services and are experiencing homelessness. VA case managers connect these Veterans with support services such as health care, mental health treatment and substance use counseling to help them in their recovery process and with their ability to maintain housing in the community.

There are HUD VASH workers based across the state in Minot, Williston, Dickinson, Bismarck, Grand Forks, Fargo, and the White Earth and Red Lake Falls Tribal Reservations.

## **Community Employment Specialist**

The homeless employment program is designed to assist homeless Veterans with gaining access to meaningful competitive employment. The Community Employment Specialist will work with Veterans to secure competitive employment suitable for their disabilities. The Employment Specialist will also act as a liaison for the Veteran in requesting reasonable accommodations and will provide on-the-job support as needed.

## **Veteran's Justice Outreach Program (VJO)**

The purpose of the Veterans Justice Outreach program is to avoid unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible Veterans in contact with the criminal justice system have access to Veterans Health Association (VHA) mental health and substance services. The centerpiece of the Veterans Justice Outreach Program is the community partnership and development of the Veterans Treatment Court model that offers Veterans charged with a felony an alternative to incarceration.

## **Grant Per Diem (GPD)**

VA funded transitional housing beds for eligible Veterans. Grantee facilities work closely with an assigned GPD liaison from the local VAMC. The VA GPD liaison monitors the services the grantees offer to Veterans and provides direct assistance to them. Grantees also collaborate with community-based organizations to connect Veterans with employment, housing, and additional social services to promote housing stability. The maximum stay in this housing is up to 24 months, with the goal of moving Veterans into permanent housing as rapidly as possible.





# How will we know if we've ended Veteran homelessness?

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and its member agencies have adopted a vision through the federal strategic plan of what it means to end all homelessness, ensuring that it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience.

USICH, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have also developed specific criteria and benchmarks for ending Veteran homelessness in order to help guide communities as they take action to achieve the goal.

Communities that believe they have met the criteria and benchmarks can seek confirmation of their achievement through a formal interagency process, that includes submitting all of the necessary information and data. Once the achievement is reached, the state can do what is called :

“DECLARING FUNCTIONAL ZERO”



# FUNCTIONAL ZERO

Functional Zero DOES NOT MEAN: there are no homeless Veterans in ND!

There will always be Veterans who experience a housing crisis or become homeless. But, as long as we have a good crisis response system(Coordinated Entry) in place that can rapidly identify those in need and re-house them quickly, the homeless rate will (functionally) be at zero.

- ✓ Rare: Prevent Homelessness when possible
- ✓ Brief: Rapidly Rehouse Persons if they become homeless
- ✓ One Time: Help people . . .
  - Have housing that best fits peoples desires and needs
  - Stabilize to prevent another housing crisis





*In order for a continuum of care to declare functional zero, the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates that we have an efficient crisis response system OR what is now commonly referred to as a Coordinated Entry System.*

## ***So what is Coordinated Entry?***

- HUD's primary goal for the coordinated entry process is that assistance be allocated as effectively as possible and that it be easily accessible no matter where or how people present to the system.
- The coordinated entry process helps communities prioritize assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that people who need assistance the most can receive it in a timely manner.
- The coordinated entry process does not screen people out for assistance because of perceived barriers to housing or services, including, but not limited to, lack of employment or income, drug or alcohol use, or having a criminal record.
- Coordinated entry processes also provide information about service needs and gaps to help communities plan their assistance and identify needed resources.

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Coordinated-Entry-Policy-Brief.pdf>

# HUD's Core components for implementing an effective coordinated entry system

## Access

Access sites are trained on coordinated entry processes and could be places like local Community Actions, Shelters, Mental Health Facilities, VA etc. Sites offer consistent, fair, and simplified access to the homeless response system. During this stage providers will conduct homeless diversion assessments, provide homeless prevention options, shelter referrals, and scheduling of a housing assessment if it is found to be appropriate.

## Assessment

Assessment sites use a uniform tool designed to assess for the most appropriate linkage to housing and services. All ND COC partners, including the VA, use one standard assessment tool for measuring vulnerability and needs for prioritization into housing options. The tool informs as whether to refer the individual to self resolution options, rapid rehousing, or permanent supportive housing options. In order to be an assessment site, providers need to be trained on how to use the assessment tool.

## Assignment/Prioritization

- ▶ Veterans who enter the system go through the same access and assessment procedures as any non-Veteran but the VA prioritization process differs slightly than the communities process, as we have a smaller and more specific population to work with.
- ▶ Individuals in the community who are screened as homeless go on to the COC's coordinated entry list. These individuals are screened based on highest vulnerability and greatest need and are pulled off of the list every 2 weeks for entrance into community housing programs. This list assures that getting into housing is as easy as it can be for individuals, it eliminates having to apply for all of the different housing programs, and minimizes times on wait lists.
- ▶ Veterans that are screened and assessed as being homeless can also be placed on the COC's prioritization list if appropriate, however a large majority of Veterans who enter the system are almost immediately matched with Veteran specific housing options and would not need to be placed on the COC's list. Also, the COC's list is currently only functioning in Fargo and Grand Forks, whereas the Veteran list is functioning statewide.
- ▶ All homeless Veterans are placed on this prioritization list we call the statewide Veteran's By-Name List. It is referred to as a By-Name List as it tracks all homeless Veterans in the state by name, and allows all relevant providers to staff each individual's case on a weekly basis. The By-Name list is tool recommended for use by USICH, HUD, The VA, and SSVF (supportive services for Veterans and families) to aid in the tracking and data collection of homeless Veterans.

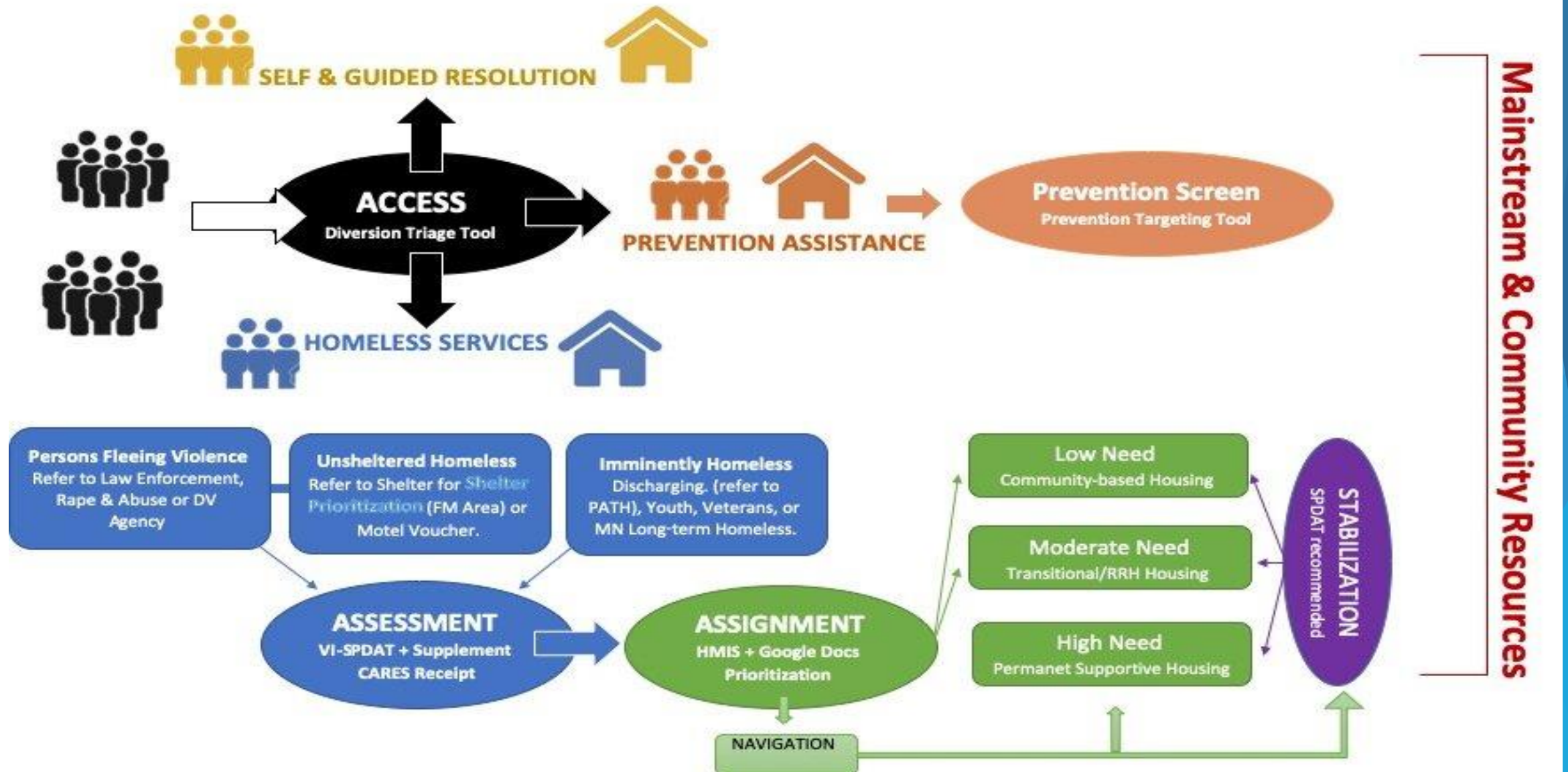
# The Veterans By-Name List

Having a separate list specific to Veterans, that is managed by VA staff allows us to:

- Always have current and up to date data about our homeless Veterans
- Maintain data on Veterans across the entire state of ND, with provider participants in all 8 regions (Minot, Dickinson, Jamestown, Williston, Fargo, Grand Forks, Bismarck, Devils Lake)
- Staff each individuals' case WEEKLY with other relevant community partners
- Update progress on goals needed to be achieved for Veterans to obtain permanent housing
- Identify any barriers to Veterans accepting a housing offer, or moving into housing swiftly after having accepted a housing plan
- Assure that if a Veteran has not accepted a housing offer, that we track continued efforts to offer housing every 14 days
- Track data on Veterans living in transitional housing who have entered due to not being ready for permanent housing
- Assure that community partners know if Veterans are ineligible for VA services and therefor need to be assisted by other community providers for access to housing

**Referrals for Veteran specific housing such as HUD VASH (VA Supportive Housing) and SSVF (Supportive services for Veterans and families) are accepted from any internal or external source and are staffed immediately within the week. Like the rest of the COC homeless population, Veterans will admit to VA housing programs in order of highest need and vulnerability, not in a first come first serve basis. Any non-healthcare eligible Veterans, or those that cannot be served by the homeless program in a timely fashion are referred to the COC's prioritization list.**

# Coordinated Entry Response System Diagram





# **How do we know that we have a Coordinated Entry Response System that is effective specifically for ending Veteran homelessness?**

**Using the data collected in the Veterans By-Name List, USICH, HUD, and the VA have created a set of criteria and benchmarks for ending Veteran homelessness in order to help guide communities as they take action to achieve this goal.**

**There are 5 criteria, or qualitative measures, and 4 benchmarks, or quantitative measures.**

# USICH Criteria and Benchmarks

There are 5 Criteria (qualitative measures) :

## 1. Identifying all Veteran's experiencing homelessness

- BNL
- Homeless Management information system (HMIS) cross check
- Homeless Outreach

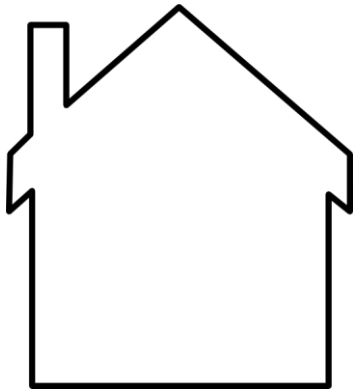
## 2. Provide Shelter immediately to any unsheltered homeless Veteran who wants it

- Community emergency shelters
- VA Contract beds at Micah's Mission (Churches United)
- Grant Per Diem transitional housing
- Emergency hotel vouchers

Access to shelter should not be contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, criminal record, or other unnecessary conditions



### 3. Focus on using transitional housing for a short term option while working on permanent housing solutions



-For our grant per diem transitional housing, we are working on evolving admission screenings to assure Veterans are entering longer-term service-intensive transitional housing only after they have declined a permanent housing option (HUD-VASH, SSVF, or similar assistance).

-Those homeless Veterans that use our contract beds at Micah's Mission, must have a housing plan in place upon admission. These beds are only used as bridge housing.

-Weekly BNL case conferencing tracks progress towards housing and encourages providers to work on aiding Veterans with swift exit from GPD to permanent housing

-Provide on-going education and support to Veterans to aid in readying them for permanent housing.



### 4. Capacity to move Veterans swiftly into permanent housing

-HCHV follows housing first principles and practices to reduce barriers to Veterans pursuing permanent housing.

-ND has multiple resources to offer all homeless Veterans, including HUD VASH vouchers, SSVF assistance, and other community subsidized housing programs.

-VA CE specialist recruits new landlords, builds relationships, and provides landlord tenant mitigation to reduce barriers to housing access.



**5. The community has resources, plans, partnerships, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.**

A.)COC and VA CE together provide outreach and engagement efforts to identify and assist homeless and at-risk Veterans.

B.)COC and VA CE work together to expand knowledge and information to all parts of the state to constantly improve processes (access, assessment, prioritization/assignment)

C.) COC and VA CE engage in stabilization efforts to promote the long-term housing of all Veterans who have entered permanent housing (education, skill teaching, landlord recruitment, employment/benefits assistance, treatment referrals etc.)



# Benchmarks (quantitative measures)

We calculate these measures with data we collect about each Veteran on our statewide prioritization list (BY NAME LIST).

## Benchmark A. Specification to whether Chronic homelessness among Veterans has been ended

**Calculation:** Number of Veterans experiencing chronic homelessness on the BNL MINUS those Veterans that have declined permanent housing offers, or those that have accepted a housing offer, but are still homeless due to waiting on housing to open.

A. Have you ended chronic and long-term homelessness among Veterans in your community? Dec 2019-March 2020

*Target: Zero chronic and long-term homeless Veterans as of date of review, with exceptions indicated below.*

		Data Point	
Total number of chronic and long-term homeless Veterans who are not in permanent housing as of end date above:		11	A1
Exempted Group One	Total number of chronic and long-term homeless Veterans who have been offered, but not yet accepted a PH intervention offer and where the last PH intervention offer was within 14 days of the end of the 90 day look-back period:	1	A2
Exempted Group Two	Total number of chronic and long-term homeless Veterans who have been offered a PH intervention, but have chosen to enter service-intensive transitional housing in order to appropriately address a clinical need, prior to entering a permanent housing destination:	4	A3
Exempted Group Three	Total number of chronic and long-term homeless Veterans who have accepted a PH intervention offer, but not yet entered permanent housing and where the first acceptance of a PH intervention offer occurred during the 90 day look-back period:	6	A4
Total Chronic and Long-Term Homeless Veterans - Total Number of Veterans in Exempted Groups 1, 2 and 3 =		0	

Benchmark A achieved? Yes

**Benchmark B. Specification to whether Veterans have quick access to permanent housing (quick meaning - in an average of 90 days or less)**

**Calculation :** Total number of days for all non-exempted Veterans from identification to move-in to permanent housing **DIVIDED BY** total number of non-exempted Veterans **EQUALS** less than or equal to 90 days. (Exempted from this data, are those who have declined housing offers and instead chose to go into transitional housing)

**We are very close to meeting this measure!**

*Target: For homeless Veterans placed in PH in last 90 days, excluding exceptions indicated below, the average time from date of identification to date of PH move-in is less than or equal to 90 days.*

*B. Do Veterans have quick access to housing? Dec 2019- March 2020*

Total number of Veterans who moved into permanent housing	21	B1
- Exemption Group 2: Do NOT include people who were offered a permanent housing intervention but chose to enter a service-intensive transitional housing project prior to entering a permanent housing destination. Number of Veterans offered PH intervention, but declined the offer and chose TH prior to PH destination:	6	B2
Total net number of Veterans who moved into permanent housing (B1 - B2):	15	B3
Total number of days it takes for all Veterans who become homeless to enter permanent housing	1453	B4
Total Number of Days , by Total Net Number of Veterans =		97

Benchmark B achieved?  
No

Benchmark C. Specification to measure the community has sufficient permanent housing capacity.

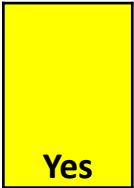
Calculation: Total number of Veterans moving into permanent housing over the 90 day period is **GREATER THAN OR EQUAL** to the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans within the 90 day look back period

C.Does the community have sufficient permanent housing capacity?

*Target: In the last 90 days, the total number of homeless Veterans moving in to permanent housing is greater than or equal to the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans.*

The total number of Veterans exiting homelessness to permanent housing:	24	C1
The total number of newly Identified homeless Veterans:	22	C2

Benchma  
rk C  
achieved?



Benchmark D. The Community is committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances.

Calculations : Total number of Veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing within the 90 day period is SIGNIFICANTLY LESS THAN the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans within the 90 day period.

D. Is the community committed to Housing First and provides service-intensive transitional housing to Veterans experiencing homelessness only in limited instances? <i>Target: In the last 90 days, the total number of homeless Veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing is less than the total number of newly identified homeless Veterans.</i>		
The total number of Veterans entering service-intensive transitional housing:	16	D1
The total number of newly Identified homeless Veterans:	22	D2
Benchmark D achieved?		No D1 must be significantly below D2

Communities that believe they have met these criteria and benchmarks and would like to declare functional zero for their COC, need to get confirmation of their achievement through a formal interagency process that goes through their local and federal representatives at HUD, USICH, and VA.

That's where we are!  
And we need your feedback and support!

# Questions?



Information  
Dissemination -  
How?



Areas for  
improvement?



What other  
information can we  
provide?

**THANK YOU! WE APPRECIATE  
YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SIT  
ON THIS COMMITTEE!**



Next Meeting : Thursday,  
August 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00-3:00pm  
Central Time



# Sources

- ▶ [https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Criteria\\_and\\_Benchmarks\\_for\\_Ending\\_Veteran\\_Homelessness\\_June\\_2019\\_Update.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Criteria_and_Benchmarks_for_Ending_Veteran_Homelessness_June_2019_Update.pdf)
- ▶ [https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/Home-Together-Federal-Strategic-Plan-to-Prevent-and-End-Homelessness.pdf](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Home-Together-Federal-Strategic-Plan-to-Prevent-and-End-Homelessness.pdf)
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