



King County

Department of Community and Human Services

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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2012 – 2017 Veterans and Human Services Levy: Activity 1.5 A Veterans Incarcerated Program

1. Goal

Reduce unnecessary criminal justice and emergency medical system involvement.

2. Strategy

The Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan (SIP) set a goal of Supporting Veterans and their families to build stable lives and strong relationships.

3. Activity 1.5 Veterans Justice

Activity 1.5.A Veterans Incarcerated Program is one of three activities funded under Veterans Justice.

4. Service Needs, Populations to be Served, and Promotion of Equity and Social Justice

a) Service Needs

According to the Service Improvement Plan (SIP) for the 2012-2017 Levy, veterans' incarceration may be related to mental health issues or substance use disorders. Veterans, especially those returning from combat, may experience a number of issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) that complicate readjustment to civilian life. Employment may be difficult for to obtain or retain which can result in a number of issues including homelessness. National statistics show that about 15% of people who are incarcerated are veterans. While King County statistics only recognize that about 2% of people who are incarcerated have served in the military, this number will rise with more consistent screening data for veterans who have been booked into a jail in King County.

b) Populations to be Served

Veterans who have been incarcerated in King County may have a number of service needs including mental health or substance abuse issues. The combination of mental health

problems and substance abuse among veterans can be strong and can trigger behaviors that draw veterans into the criminal justice system. PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) can cause violent outbursts often targeted at family members, leading to charges of domestic violence. Self-medicating with alcohol and drugs can lead to impaired driving and driving under the influence (DUI) charges. As a result, domestic violence and DUI charges are common charges for veterans suffering from mental health and substance abuse issues.

c) Promotion of Equity and Social Justice

The Equity and Social Justice Ordinance requires King County to consider the impacts of its policies and activities on its efforts to achieve fairness and opportunity for all people, particularly for people of color, low-income communities and people with limited English proficiency. The King County Equity Impact Review Tool available online at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/equity/toolsandresources.aspx> provides a list of the determinants of equity that may be affected by your activity. Evaluate your activity’s impact by responding to the following questions:

i) Will your activity have an impact on equity?

This activity will have a positive impact on equity. Of the determinants listed in the King County Equity Impact Review Tool, the determinant most likely to be affected by this activity is, “**A law and justice system** that provides equitable access and fair treatment for all”. “**Health and human services** that are high quality, affordable and culturally appropriate and support the optimal well-being of all people” is another determinant that may also be affected by this activity.

ii) What population groups are likely to be affected by the proposal? How will communities of color, low-income communities or limited English proficiency communities be impacted?

The following data from King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD) provides the breakdown by race of those incarcerated in a King County jail during December 2011.

| Race | Secure ¹ | | EHD ² | | WER ³ | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| White | 904 | 51.4% | 36 | 55.4% | 77 | 53.1% |
| Black | 695 | 39.5% | 21 | 32.9% | 56 | 38.5% |
| Asian | 104 | 5.9% | 6 | 9.3% | 10 | 6.7% |
| Native American | 46 | 2.6% | 0 | - | 2 | 1.6% |
| Other | 8 | 0.4% | 2 | 2.3% | 0 | - |

¹ Secure detention is in a King County jail (King County Correctional Facility or Regional Justice Center)

² Electronic Home Detention

³ Work and Education Release

Based on United States census information for 2010, the race break down of King County is (from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53/53033.html>):

| Race and Ethnicity, 2010 | King County | Washington State |
|--|-------------|------------------|
| White persons | 68.7% | 77.3% |
| Black persons | 6.2% | 3.6% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native persons | 0.8% | 1.5% |
| Asian persons | 14.6% | 7.2% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0.8% | 0.6% |
| Persons reporting two or more races | 5.0% | 4.7% |
| Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin | 8.9% | 11.2% |
| White persons not Hispanic | 64.8% | 72.5% |

Comparing the above census data and the DAJD data, people of color are over-represented in the justice system. It is likely veterans of color are overrepresented in the justice system. By providing services to incarcerated veterans, veterans of color will likely be positively impacted by this program.

iii) What actions will be taken to enhance likely positive impacts on these communities and mitigate possible negative impacts?

Actions that will be taken to enhance positive impacts on these communities include the following:

- Ask individuals involved in their first contact with the Criminal Justice (CJ) system if they are a veteran or if they have ever served in the military.
- Provide veteran defendants with needed services to increased likelihood of successful re-entry and avoid recidivism,
- Provide a veteran-focused environment encouraging adherence to involvement in treatment and other services.

5. Activity Description

This contracted service has helped support incarcerated veterans by connecting veterans to services to assist them in stabilizing in their community and avoid potential re-incarceration. VIP staff identify, conduct intake and assessments, advocate for, and case manage eligible veterans who are incarcerated or at risk of incarceration within the King County Corrections and Judicial systems. The VIP staff provides linkages for referrals to substance use disorders treatment services, mental health services, housing, and/or ancillary support services that may assist clients to be sustained in the community.

King County has subcontracted for several years with the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) to provide these services. The VIP staff identifies incarcerated veterans, and if eligible, enrolls them in the VIP. Often veterans are incarcerated because of chronic addictions. Judges have come to understand that treatment is less expensive than incarceration, and more appropriate in some cases. Frequently judges release veterans to VIP staff pending entry into treatment and connection to services. VIP project staff coordinates with KCVP to access services offered by KCVP for the client. Services include, but are not limited to housing, financial assistance, employment and others.

Originally funded by Veterans millage (RCW), VIP services were available only to veterans incarcerated in the King County Correctional Facility and the Kent Regional Justice Center. With the approval of the King County Veterans and Human Services Levy for the period

2006-2011 additional funding was available that expanded the VIP into the following district and municipal jails: Issaquah, Kent, Renton, Auburn, Enumclaw, and Kirkland.

The VIP services are being continued in the 2012-2017 Levy. The Service Improvement Plan, 2012-2017 provided the following description of the Activity 1.5. A: Veterans Incarcerated Program (VIP).

“Veterans coming into contact with the criminal justice system have a number of unmet service needs across multiple domains, including behavioral health, housing and employment. This joint project between KCVP and the WDVA has successfully worked with veterans from County and municipal jails and linked veterans into treatment and connection to appropriate services via the KCVP.”

6. Funds Available

The 2012 Service Improvement Plan originally allocated a total of \$100,000 annually for this activity. However, in 2012 a total of \$50,000 of the original Service Improvement Plan allocation for this activity was transferred to the Levy Activity 1.5.C Emerging programs for justice involved veterans for the years 2012 through 2017. The remaining annual allocation of \$50,000 will be available annually through 2017 based on the activity’s performance.

| | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Veterans Levy | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |
| Human Services Levy | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| Total | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |

During 2012, a total of \$130,564 in Veterans Relief funding (RCW) is also available to help support the Veterans Incarcerated Program. Based on the activity’s performance, an additional \$223,824 annually in RCW funding may be available to support the Veterans Incarcerated Program.

7. Evidence-based or Promising Practices

The VIP program provides reentry services according to *The APIC Model*¹ (a set of critical elements that, if implemented are likely to improve outcomes for persons with co-occurring disorders who are released from jail) contained in a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration publication published by The National Global Association for Interpersonal Neurobiology Studies (GAINS) Center. The APIC Model consists of:

- a. Assessing of each participant’s needs and public safety risks;
- b. Planning for the treatment and services required to address participant needs;
- c. Identifying the required community and correctional programs responsible for post-release services; and
- d. Coordinating the transition plan to ensure implementation and avoid gaps in care with community-based services;

¹ Osher, F., Steadman, H.J., Barr, H. (2002) A Best Practice Approach to Community Re-entry from Jails for Inmates with Co-occurring Disorders: The APIC Model: Delmar, NY: The National GAINS Center.

8. Service Partnerships

The VIP program works with a number of justice system partners including King County Correction's system, municipal jails, and King County courts including specialty courts. Service partners include a variety of local, state and federal services including the KCVP, WDVA, and the Puget Sound Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System.

9. Performance Measures

The following performance measures were identified by the Levy's Evaluation Team.

| Service Outputs/ Measures | 2013 Target(s) | Data Source |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Number of veterans screened | 201 | Report Card – Services |
| Number of veterans enrolled in program | 155 | Report Card – Services |
| Number of referrals to treatment, mental health or substance abuse services | 120 | Report Card – Services |
| Number of successful referrals where clients engage in treatment, mental health or substance abuse services | 90%/108 | Report Card – Services |
| Number of referrals to education, employment or training resources | 90 | Report Card – Services |
| Number of successful referrals where clients engage in education, employment or training resources services | 95%/85 | Report Card – Services |

Additional performance measures are required for the portion of VIP services made possible by RCW funding.