



OREGON
HEALTH
AUTHORITY

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Behavioral Health Support for Veterans

Presented to:

House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Presented by:

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Background

In 2017 Oregon Legislature charged OHA and ODVA to identify a process to fund programs and services which improve behavioral health outcomes for Oregon's veterans, leading to the [2019 Veterans Behavioral Health Improvement Study](#).

- OHA's Veteran and Military Behavioral Health (VMBH) program first staffed in 2018
- Funding allocated each biennium, beginning 2017-2019
- Funding source changed from tobacco tax to lottery dollars in the 2019-2021 biennium

Recommendations Driving Funding Use

- Recommendation #2: fund innovative, cross-sector, community-level projects that are designed to bridge gaps in services found in this report
- Recommendation #7: collaborate to develop education and outreach effort to destigmatize behavioral health issues and treatment
- Recommendation #8: develop and fund quality peer support for specific populations (e.g., rural, Tribal, combat, aged 34-and-under)
- Recommendation #11: increase the number of non-VHA providers with training in military or veterans' behavioral health issues

Recommendations Driving Funding Use (cntd)

- Recommendation #14: establish data systems to routinely gather veteran data to include social determinants of health/barriers to accessing services
- Recommendation #16: improve and coordinate suicide prevention programs specific to the veteran population
- Recommendation #17: encouraged to seek out and embrace promising innovative practices
- Recommendation #18: improve access to treatment for military sexual trauma, providers who are specially trained

2019-2021 VMBH Impacts

- Increased cultural competency of workforce
- Military connected (civilian) community better equipped to help veterans in crisis
- More opportunities for veterans to engage in Peer Delivered Services (through services and/or training)
- Increase in providers able to offer wider variety of outpatient services specific to the veteran and military population
- Increased capacity/ability and service delivery to Tribal Veterans
- Ability for OHA to be better positioned to respond to community needs (as informed by community members and partners)

2021-2023 VMBH Impacts

- Increased cultural competency
- Better educated and equipped civilian community
- More Peer Delivered Services opportunities
- Wider variety of services for the Service Members, Veterans, and their Families community
- Increased capacity and services to Tribal Veterans
- Increased opportunities specific to rural and remote communities

2023-2025 VMBH Impacts

- Continued increase in cultural competency among civilian providers and community
- Continued increase in Peer Delivered Services for Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF)
- Increased variety, capacity, and ability to provide military-specific services through community providers
- Continued increase in access to care in rural and remote areas
- Outreach to populations within the SMVF community who are at higher risk for suicide

2023-2025 VMBH Numbers Served

Focus/Impact Area(s)	Service Area/Provider	Number to be Served	Number Served to-date
Provider Training/Community Training/Direct Services	Tribal Behavioral Health Plans	N/A	1,805
Provider Training/Community Training/Direct Services	Community Based Organization Grants	567	490
Community Training/Direct Services	Brain Injury Screening and Education	N/A	58
Provider Training/Community Training/Direct Services	Suicide Prevention Trainings/Lethal Means & Secure Storage Education	280	247
Community Training/Direct Services	Veteran Villages at PRIDE	N/A	947
Direct Services	Skills Training Groups	30	28
Direct Services	VBHPSS and PDS	345	1,404
Direct Services	Clinical Services	63	25
Direct Services	Peerpocalypse	60	24
Direct Services	ADSS Screenings	333	333

2023-2025 Biennium Funding

- Veteran Service Fund allocation to OHA = \$2,209,344.00
- Service Members, Veterans, and their Families community members served to date = 5,361
- Current estimate per individual = \$412.11

Thank you

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