The Power of Veteran Directed Care (VDC) for Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMCs)

The Time for Change is Now

Long-Term services and supports (LTSS) are one of the fastest drivers of health care spending and accounts for 11.5% of all VA Spending in FY2017. Over 115K Veterans are projected to receive VA paid or provided nursing home care in FY2030, an increase of 36% over FY2016. VA LTSS costs are projected to grow to over $15B in FY2030.

By providing innovative services that address the whole health of Veterans, increasing access to home and community based services (HCBS), providing quality HCBS and partnering with community providers, VAMCs can keep Veterans at home and avoid costly nursing home care costs with the VDC Program.

Data provided by the Veterans Health Administration’s Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care.

"VDC has helped our VAMC with delaying nursing home placement, increasing Veteran satisfaction, providing Veteran centric care and reintegrating Veterans into the community."
– St. Louis VAMC VDC Coordinator

VAMCs with VDC Programs have had a positive impact improving Veteran experience with health care, reducing nursing home use and effectively delivering LTSS. VDC expansion and growth also helps VA achieve goals established in the VA Choose Home Initiative and VA MISSION Act legislation. By investing in VDC, VA is increasing their ability to provide the right care at the right time from the right provider.

An analysis of Veteran satisfaction found that 100% of Veterans are able to choose who provides their care, 99% feel that their caregiver does things the way they want and 91% feel that they control how their VDC budget is spent.

14 Veterans in Chillicothe were able to transition out of VA nursing homes back to their home with VDC. The West Haven VAMC found that VDC saved over $600K per year by enrolling Veterans in VDC and discharging them from a nursing home setting.

The San Diego VAMC found that Veterans receive 415% more hours in VDC compared to traditional VA Programs.

A study by VA found that Veterans enrolled in VDC experience a 37% decrease in nursing home use one year after enrollment, compared to 55% increase in nursing home use for Veterans enrolled in the Homemaker and Home Health Aid Care Program one year after enrollment.

"The VDC Program has provided an opportunity for all Veterans to have home care; especially where there are no agencies available to care for them. It has also provided an alternative to nursing home care and decreased wait lists for VA nursing homes."
– Salt Lake City VAMC VDC Coordinator

For more information please visit NWD.ACL.GOV

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Statistics reported can be found at med.ad.gov/vdc under “VDC Resources”