



Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, November 10, 2023

Honoring Veterans Day

To honor this Veterans Day, we connected with AIM Independent Living Center (AIM ILC) to understand how their rapid expansion as a VDC provider based in New York has impacted Veterans in their community.

A partner of the Finger Lakes Health Care System, AIM ILC received their first Veteran referral in January 2023. Since then, they have quickly expanded their services with the goal of offering self-directed care options to as many Veterans as possible in the wider Finger Lakes region. Currently, AIM ILC serves 46 Veterans and is looking to expand further to serve additional Veterans in Pennsylvania who access the Finger Lakes Health Care System for their care.

Discussing their plans for further expansion, Veteran and VDC Program Manager Pat Krauss cited the impact of the program as a major motivating factor. As she explained, the **“power of this program”** can be seen in the individual Veterans who are participating in VDC. For example, she cited one Veteran, who had repeated strokes that prevented him and his wife from continuing their careers. For them, the VDC program was crucial in getting him the care he needed, while allowing his wife to earn a paycheck for his care. Seeing stories like this every day, Pat explained, **“this is one of the most valuable programs I’ve ever heard coming out of the VA.”**

Crucial to AIM ILC’s success as a VDC program, AIM ILC Chief Operating Officer John Zick expressed gratitude for the mentorship of other providers in the VDC community, including the Delta Center for Independent Living. To **“pay it forward,”** AIM ILC is now mentoring another New York provider to start their VDC program.

This Veterans Day, we would like to thank AIM ILC, the Finger Lakes Health Care System, and all of our VDC providers for the work they do to serve Veterans and ensure the success of VDC.

Applied Self-Direction Conference

Applied Self-Direction is conducting the 2024 Self-Direction Conference on Thursday, March 14th and Friday, March 15th at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. This innovative conference will take place over two days and include new tracks, and hundreds of attendees – all focused on self-direction. In addition to the always-popular Financial Management Services (FMS) sessions, the conference will offer sessions for state Medicaid and Veteran Directed Care (VDC) program participants, families, direct support professionals, person-centered options counselors/support brokers, aging and disability network agency (ADNA) staff, Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) staff, managed care providers, and other stakeholders. Sessions will explore innovative practices and highlight exemplary self-directed service (SDS) programs from around the country. Applied Self-Direction invites you to join them to “think big” and share your vision for self-direction in the future.

For more information on the *2024 Applied Self-Direction Conference* including a preliminary agenda, registration and hotel/travel information go to www.appliedselfdirection.com/self-direction-conference. Early registration will start mid-November 2023.

VDC Expansion and Monthly Reporting Tool Reminder

Congratulations to the 20 VDC programs who reported an increased Veteran census in September 2023! If your VDC program is not listed in the graphic below but has increased or otherwise had updates to its Veteran census, please let us know through the [VDC Monthly Reporting Tool](#). The VDC Monthly Reporting Tool is a portal for VDC providers to enter their Veteran census data, ensuring an opportunity to accurately account for availability and growth of the program. We ask that all VDC providers please continue to report your program's data to the VDC Monthly Reporting Tool to help us accurately capture the VDC program's reach.

Advantage Aging Solutions	AgeGuide	Aging and Independence Services	Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc.
Area II Agency on Aging	Belknap ServiceLink Resource Center	The Center for People with Disabilities	Delta Center for Independent Living
Denver Regional Council of Governments	Eastern Agency on Aging ADRC	Egyptian Area Agency on Aging	Empower.Abilities
LIV Health	Lower Arkansas Valley Area Agency on Aging	New Hampshire Care Collaborative	Ozark Independent Living
Senior Resources Eastern Connecticut Area Agency on Aging	Southwestern Connecticut Agency on Aging	Sullivan County ServiceLink	Washington County Disability, Aging & Veteran's Services

Technical Assistance

Have a question? Need guidance? Want to share good news about your VDC program? Reach out to the VDC Federal Technical Assistance Team at veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov. We look forward to hearing from you!

VDC Email Distribution List

If you or other VDC program staff are not already on the VDC email distribution list, [please enter your information using this link](#) to make sure you don't miss out on important news!