



ARIZONA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE

VETERANS WORKING GROUP MEETING

1110 WEST WASHINGTON, PHOENIX, Suite 280

6/20/2024—9:00 am – 10:30 am

TOPIC	TOPICS/OUTCOME	
Call to Order Introductions/Ice Breaker	211Arizona- <i>absent</i> ADOH- Cristina Benitez, David Bridge AHC- George Campbell AHCCCS AZDVS- Nisha Dorsey Catholic Charities- Autumn Patton Community Bridges- <i>absent</i> Fishermen for Veterans- Marty Jarvey Gila County- Hannah Lynch HOHP- Kim Vandenberg JAVC- Pat Farrell	Kingman VA- <i>absent</i> Nation’s Finest- Mike O’Donnell NAVAHCS- Joe Acevedo NCHP- Miguel Villalpando Phoenix VA- Dan Morgan Primavera Foundation- Jacob McQuaid RCFBH- <i>absent</i> SAVAHCS- Jocelyn Muzzin Solari- <i>absent</i> US Vets- Bryan Campbell
Review Workgroup Purpose	Jocelyn read the Workgroup purpose	
Action Items from Last meeting	Jocelyn explained that since the group hasn’t met in a year, rather than reviewing outdated action items the group would discuss goals for the year, such as conducting outreach and making sure that we’re capturing all the veterans who are homeless in our communities, but also making sure we’re connecting them with shelter or transitional housing that they may be eligible for and then definitely connecting them with a permanent housing opportunity if we can.	
Minutes approval	Bryan made a motion to approve the notes from the last meeting, Jacob seconded the motion; motion passed.	
Tableau Dashboard Review	Jocelyn demonstrated the Tableau Dashboard and how you can pick out date relevant to your area. In the BOS, there are currently 280 veterans who are homeless, of which 92 are considered chronic, which is defined as they’ve been homeless 12 months or more. On the dashboard you can also select gender, race ethnicity, or age. The Tableau tells us what shelter or transitional housing programs these veterans are actually in. So we see which of the transitional housing programs have the most veterans. Please review the data for your region and make sure it’s accurate; if data is inaccurate, let Solari know so they can correct things.	

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41k Initiative	Last fiscal year the VA's goal was housing 38,000 homeless veterans- this year it's 41,000, and switching it to correspond with the federal fiscal year of October 1st through September 30th. Jocelyn showed how the southern Arizona VA is doing with the goal, being a little behind at 64.1% instead of being at 67%. Another goal is to have less than 5% of veterans returning to homelessness.
SSVF updates	<p>AZDVS has a program, the Military Family Relief Fund (https://dvs.az.gov/services/financial-assistance/military-family-relief-fund), which can help people who are behind on their mortgages. Also see https://www.va.gov/housing-assistance/home-loans/trouble-making-payments/ for federal information.</p> <p>The VA in Pima County received \$400,000 from the Garcia family foundation for prevention and rapid resolution situations, not just for veterans, and the money was spent in less than 6 weeks, which shows how much need there is.</p>
ADOH Updates	It has been announced that ADOH will receive \$15 million, a significant decrease from last year. It's unclear how this will impact various housing programs under ADOH. Additionally, a substantial amount has been allocated for the Homeless Shelter and Services Fund (HSSF) program and other flexible funding, with contracts hopefully being issued soon to provide assistance. Various communities have received funding, and the Legislature is examining different State departments to reclaim unspent money, likely to address the State budget deficit. Despite this, there is hope that housing assistance through other Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFOs) will remain intact.
Agency Updates	US Vets: Hopefully in December will be breaking ground on 103 PSH units on the VA campus in Prescott, with 82 HUD VASH vouchers designated for the program.
Important Links	<p>Tableau Dashboard BOS Veteran Dashboard Tableau Public Meeting Minutes and Agendas: https://housing.az.gov/documents-links/forms/special-needs-continuum</p>

The mission of the BOS Veteran's Workgroup is to provide guidance and leadership in ending veteran homelessness in the Arizona Balance of State. We encourage participation and collaboration of individuals and groups across the Balance of state that are working to end Veteran homelessness.

The purpose of our workgroup is to focus community planning, data analysis, strengthening stakeholder partnerships, and policy/project development. The BOS Veteran's Workgroup is dedicated to coordinating statewide efforts to enhance veteran housing resources and to assist veteran provider agencies in networking all available veteran programs and Services.