Ending Veteran homelessness in the Portland Area is a reality and the VAPORHCS Community Reintegration Services (CRS) team has and continues to be a key player in making it happen.

This month, the Portland community was formally recognized by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the VA for building coordinated access for Homeless Veterans and having a robust plan to effectively end Veteran Homelessness. Each month the Portland community has been housing more homeless Veterans than there have been Veterans entering into homelessness. Our work continues every day to meet the needs of our most vulnerable population of Veterans and to get them into permanent housing and access to the care they need.

What it does mean is that the City of Portland, VAPORHCS, and multiple other partner agencies met the First Lady’s call to action through the Mayors Challenge that we accepted just two years ago. It means, based on multiple measurements, that these agencies are confident that the infrastructure and systems established locally ensures that any Veteran experiencing homelessness in Portland or Multnomah County can get the support they need to put the Veteran on a path to permanent housing.

CRS’ programs are designed to address the needs of Veterans who are currently, or have been, chronically homeless, or at high risk of becoming chronically homeless in the near future. Many of these Veterans have barriers to community living due to psychiatric illness, substance abuse, complex medical needs and economic concerns related to income and affordable housing.

The HUD-VASH program is designed to provide supportive housing to Veterans who have been chronically homeless Veterans. VAPORHCS is currently working with ten housing authorities across Oregon and SW Washington to implement this program. To date, VAPORHCS, in collaboration with our many partners, has housed more than 1,060 Veterans through this program. Through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program, VAPORHCS coordinates transitional housing with area homeless shelters— in FY16 alone, 49,520 total nights of Veteran homelessness were prevented through this program and the CRS team discharged 260 formerly homeless Veterans into permanent housing arrangements during this same time. The CRS team also serves thousands of Veterans through our Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) in the center of downtown Portland to provide accessible and coordinated services to Homeless Veterans.

I am extremely proud of our CRS Team for these accomplishments and the differences they are making in the lives of Veterans every day. Thank you for your service and for letting us serve you.

Michael Fisher
When weather hits—get updates on VAPORHCS clinical operations

Where can Veterans get information on VAPORHCS operations when weather hits our area?

1. Call the VAPORHCS Alert Line at (503) 721-1458

2. Connect with us on...

Facebook is fast and easy for us to update and Veterans can ask questions too. We at VAPORHCS share all kinds of helpful information as do other Veterans.

3. On the web...

The VAPORHCS “Current Operating Status” web page takes a little longer to get updated after hours, but it will have all the information you need. Anyone can sign up to get ‘Alerts,’ Just go to the main web page and “Connect with the VA Portland Health Care System.” You can get alerts about all kinds of information to include when we post this newsletter, press releases, and more.

- VAPORHCS -
**Veteran Service Officers and Service Organizations — join the conversation...**

An invitation to VSOs to join the “VA Portland VSO Committee”

Meet monthly with the VAPORHCS Director & Portland Regional Office VBA Director

**Who?**
Veteran Service Officers or representatives of government, non-government, non-profit organizations who support Veterans in SW Washington and Oregon. This “VSO Committee” is very inclusive.

**Why?**
For VA leaders to hear from the people we serve; to have a conversation about ideas, issues, concerns to better serve veterans; to provide a platform for VA leadership to share information about VA programs and services; for VSOs to network and learn about other non-VA services and resources in the area.

**How do organizations join this conversation?**
Contact the VAPORHCS Public Affairs Office at [VHAPOR-PublicAffairs@med.va.gov](mailto:VHAPOR-PublicAffairs@med.va.gov) or 503-402-2975 - VAPORHCS -
New drug disposal receptacle at the Portland VA Police Office
Veterans can now drop off unwanted medications 24/7

Do you have any of the following you need to dispose of?
- Over-the-counter medications
- Prescription drugs
- Controlled prescription drugs (Schedule II through Schedule V)

Stop by any time 24/7 at the VA Police Office, Bldg. 101, 2nd floor, outside Rm 202A

NOT ACCEPTED are…
- Flammable liquids
- Illegal drugs (e.g., heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana)
- Medical waste
- Medical equipment
- Mercury thermometers
- Inhalers
- Sharps (e.g., needles, syringes, scalpels, lancets)

Please have all medications in their original containers when you drop them off.
Veterans: Get Your Flu Shot Now!

You have lots of ways to get a flu shot

1. Ask for a flu shot during your visit at the VA today or any day.

2. Visit the VA clinic in the community where you get your care.

3. Visit your local Walgreens Pharmacy

   No-cost flu shots for Veterans until March 31, 2017.

   Show your Veteran’s ID card and second photo ID

   Use Group Code: 5933XBAYV

Flu shots for VA patients

We’ve joined forces

• No cost to you*
  • Records updated with VA
  • Just walk into your local Walgreens
**Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Medication Copayments**

VA charges a copayment for each 30 day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis for the treatment of a non-service connected condition.

Effective early 2017, copay amounts are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority Group</th>
<th>Outpatient Medication Tier</th>
<th>Copayment amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1–30 day supply</td>
<td>31–60 day supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2–8</td>
<td>Tier 1 (Preferred Generics)</td>
<td>$5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tier 2 (Non-Preferred Generics and some OTCs)</td>
<td>$8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tier 3 (Brand Name)</td>
<td>$11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$700 Medication Copayment Cap</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copayments stop each calendar year for Priority Groups 2–8 once a $700 cap is reached.

These changes apply to:
- Veterans without a service-connected condition, or
- Veterans with a disability rated less than 50% who are receiving outpatient treatment for a non-service connected condition, and whose annual income exceeds the limit set by law.

**Note:** Medication copayments do not apply to former Prisoners of War, catastrophically disabled Veterans, or those covered by other exceptions as set by law.

For more information call us at: 1-877-222-VETS (8387), or visit our website at: [http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits)
Are you caring for someone with Dementia?

VA Portland Health Care System is pleased to offer
The Savvy Caregiver Program

Savvy Caregiver Program is a six-week series designed especially for unpaid caregivers caring for a loved one with a dementia diagnosis.

- Dementia 101 including types of dementia and how dementia is diagnosed
- Understanding how dementia impacts your loved one
- Tips on how to provide the best care
- Overview of the stages of dementia
- Behavioral management strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Location</th>
<th>Class Dates &amp; Times - 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| West Linn CBOC           | Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
                           | January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28                 |
| Portland VA               | Fridays 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
                           | March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, April 7                       |
| Center for 50+            | Tuesdays 11:00-1:00 p.m.                                |
| 2615 Portland RD NE Salem | April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30                          |
| Salem, OR                 |                                                         |

Reserve your spot for a workshop today!

To register and for more information:
Call: Kristi Ketchum at
(503) 220-8262 ext. 58594 or (800) 949-1004 ext. 58594
VA is Curing Hepatitis C

“
My advice for other Veterans about taking the new hep C treatments?
DON’T BE AFRAID, GO FOR IT. YOU WON’T BE SORRY.
”

David, Army Veteran
Cured of hepatitis C.

Interested in hepatitis C treatment?
Please contact:
(503) 220-3471 or
(800) 949-1004 ext. 53471

hepatitis.va.gov