

Veteran and Family Support

It is well documented that, compared to their non-disabled peers, veterans with a disability have a higher incidence of mental health issues which includes depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), isolation, social withdrawal, and are less likely to participate in treatment in the community. In addition, most veterans struggle with family reunification and community integration post civilian life. Providing support to the family's infrastructure yields positive outcomes for both the veteran and their family.

Personnel:

One (1) Full-Time Clinician (LCSW, LPC)

Caseload

As of June 30, 2023, Veteran and Family Support had a caseload of 35 cases. During FY2023, referrals for Veteran and Family Support were made from self-referral, Morris County Prosecutor's Office, and from the Morris County website.

Demographics

The program accepts service veterans and their family members who are 18 years of age or older regardless of their discharge status.

Performance Outcomes

Performance outcomes were measured, as well as monitored, through MHA's Quality Assurance Committee (QA). Mental health counseling hours, case management units, educational groups for family members, and support groups were monitored. The threshold indicates that 400 hours of mental health counseling, 72 units of case management, 12 educational groups, and 35 support groups were monitored monthly. During FY2023, two hundred twenty-seven and a half (227.5) hours of mental health counseling was provided, one hundred twenty-five (125) units of case management was provided, three (3) education groups were facilitated, and forty-six (46) support groups were also facilitated.

Consumer Satisfaction Survey

Within the program, there were surveys distributed and tallied to measure satisfaction. All consumers were informed that answers would remain confidential. Consumers were provided with a sealed envelope to protect anonymity and informed of several ways to return the surveys.

Approximately thirty-three (33) surveys were delivered to consumers (hand delivered, mailed and/or left at residence).

Gender

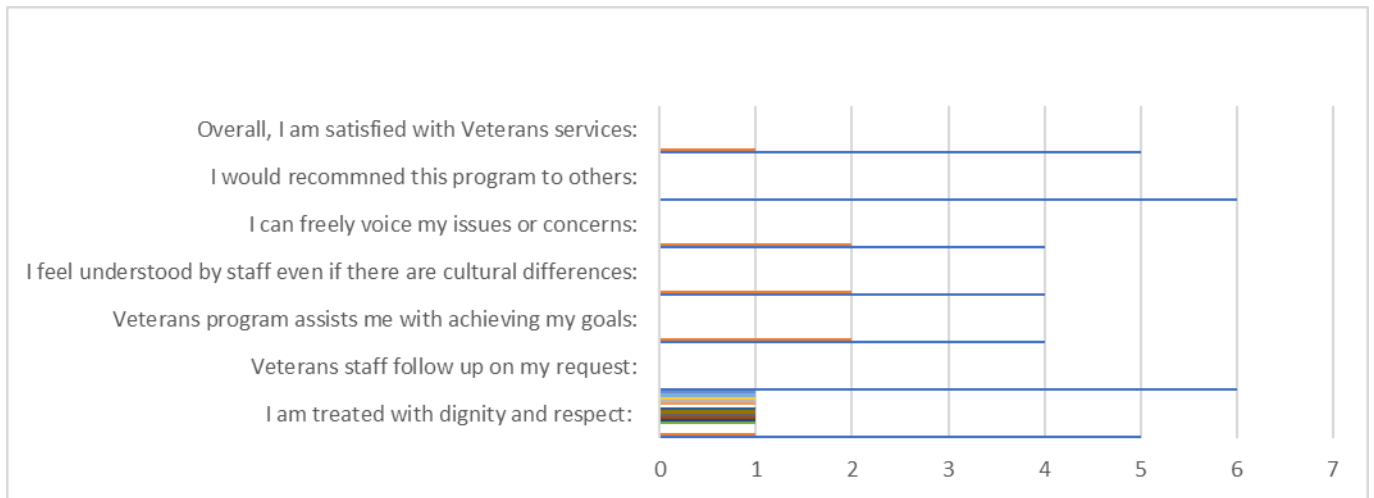
Of the six (6) consumers that responded to the survey; six (6) were male (100%).

Ethnicity

Of these six (6) consumers, three (3) consumers identified as Caucasian (50%), one (1) identified as African-American (16.67%), one (1) preferred not say (16.67%), and one (1) specified as Other (16.67%).

Age

The exact age of the consumers was collected. Of the six (6) consumers, one (1) identified as being between 35-44 years of age (17%), and five (5) as 65 years of age and older (83%).



Highlights

During FY 2023, Veteran and Family Support staff attended the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall held at the County College of Morris.

In November 2022, staff hosted the first annual Coffee with a Veteran event at the Morris campus.

During FY2023, staff assisted Gi-Go Fund with assembling essential event necessities for the annual NYC Seal Swim. The NYC Seal Swim supports over 30 essential Navy Seal Foundation programs for the Seal community, active duty, veterans and their families.

During FY2023, the Veteran and Family Support Program hosted Guitar for Vets, which is a program designed to help veterans cope with PTSD through music.

In October 2022, Veteran and Family Support staff participated in the annual Stand Down.

Foothold Technology AWARDS system continues to assist staff with maintaining accurate and organized record keeping as well as assist the Program Director with generating reports and monitoring Veteran and Family Support service delivery and outcomes.

Trainings

Veteran and Family Support staff have attended several trainings throughout the year through Relias Learning and the DOL Grant. Training topics included, but were not limited to, HIPAA for Healthcare Professionals, Corporate Compliance and Ethics, Cultural Diversity, Crisis Management, Defensive Driving, Safety in the Community, and Suicide Prevention.

Advocacy

Veteran and Family Support staff participate on the Stand Down Committee to assist in the annual Stand Down event that provides food, clothing and health screenings to homeless and at-risk Veterans. In addition, Veterans also receive referrals for health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment, mental health counseling and other essential services.

Veteran and Family Support staff work closely with consumers to assist them in developing self-advocacy skills by keeping an open dialogue on various ways they can become involved in different levels of advocacy (i.e., Self-help centers, NAMI-NJ).

Upcoming Year Recommendations:

- Veteran and Family Support staff will work on increasing the total number of contacts with consumers, their families and service providers.
- Veteran and Family Support staff will continue to collect data and will closely monitor all performance indicators.
- Veteran and Family Support staff will continue to work with consumers to empower them to reach their goals.
- Veteran and Family Support staff will attend any relevant trainings to increase their knowledge in best practice measures.
- Veteran and Family Support staff will continue to conduct trainings and presentations as needed to those wanting to learn the role of the program.