

Veteran and Family Support

Description

It is well documented that, compared to their non-disabled peers, veterans with a disability have a higher incidence of mental health issues including depression, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), isolation, and 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-military life. Providing support to the family's infrastructure yields positive outcomes for both the veteran and their family.

Personnel

One (1) Full-Time licensed Clinician

Caseload

As of June 30, 2026, Veteran and Family Support had a caseload of 30 cases. During FY2026, referrals for Veteran and Family Support were made through self-referral, the Morris County Prosecutors Office, and the Morris County website.

Demographics

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

Performance Outcomes

Performance outcomes were measured and monitored through MHAEM's Quality Assurance Committee. During FY2026, 119.75 of mental health counseling were provided, 70 units of case management provided, 13 education groups were facilitated, and 31 support groups were also facilitated.

Consumer Satisfaction Surveys

Within the program, 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 on how to return the surveys:

Approximately 11 surveys were delivered to consumers (hand delivered, mailed and/or left at their residence). Out of the 11 surveys delivered, 11 individuals responded, resulting in 100% percent response rate.

Results

Our commitment to client-centered care is a core strength, reflected in our recent satisfaction survey. One hundred percent of client reported being satisfied overall and felt they were treated with dignity and respect. Furthermore, consumers reported feeling understood by staff, being able to freely voice concerns, and being actively involved in their service plans, confirming our success in creating a respectful and empowering environment.

Program Highlights

Veteran and Family Support provides a range of services aimed at addressing the unique needs of veterans and their families. During this year, some highlighted services and activities included:

- In November 2025, staff hosted the 4th annual Coffee with a Veteran event at the Morris Campus.
- In January 2026, the Veteran and Family Support Program was honored during the Seton Hall Men's Basketball game against Xavier University. Prior to tipoff, veterans participating in the program were recognized at half court and presented with the official game ball as part of the pregame ceremony. During halftime, the Program Director participated in an on-court interview, highlighting the mission, impact, and services of the Veteran and Family Support Program to those in attendance.
- In May 2026, the program offered its 2nd annual Equine Therapy Session to group participants in collaboration with Sisu Psychotherapy and Wellness.
- The program met with a representative from the New Jersey Department of Veterans Affairs, along with Morris County leadership to having meaningful conversations centered on advocacy and collaboration for veterans.
- Veteran and Family Support staff provided multiple trainings in FY26 on veteran services throughout Morris County.
- The Program Director provided education regarding veteran services during the Crisis Intervention Team training to approximately 104 law enforcement officers and 36 mental health professionals.

Advocacy Activities

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).

FY 2027 Goals

Veteran and Family Support staff are committed to increasing the total number of contacts with consumers, their families, and service providers to ensure comprehensive outreach and support. Staff will continue to collect and analyze data meticulously, closely monitoring all performance indicators to evaluate program effectiveness and identify areas for improvement. They will persist in working with veterans and their families to empower them to achieve their personal goals, fostering independence and self-advocacy.

To enhance their skills and remain current with best practices, staff members will attend relevant training sessions and professional development opportunities. Additionally, they will continue to conduct trainings and presentations as needed, sharing information about the program's role and services with community partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties to promote awareness, collaboration, and access to available resources.