

WA ADSA Enhanced ADRC Options Counseling

Attachment: Narrative - Special Opportunity to Expand the VDHCBS Program

Washington State VHA: Special Opportunity to Expand the VDHCBS Program

Plan Narrative

Using our relationships with the Veterans Administration Puget Sound Health Care System (VA PSHCS), our Financial Management Services provider, and the AAA ADRC's we will work towards expansion of our current Veteran's Directed Home Services (VDHS) Options Counseling Program. We will continue to build upon the VDHS Options Counseling Program to increase enrollment to better support Veteran's to remain as independent as possible in the living environment of their choice. Our commitment is to increase participants; and over time, add additional counties that are not currently participating in the program within VA PSHCS service area. ADSA has a strong collaborative relationship with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) in other ADRC efforts. We are in discussion about how the VA PSHCS can provide training to the DVA in the VDHS to add an avenue for well-screened and appropriate referrals.

In addition we will work with the Spokane VA Medical Center (VAMC) to develop a formal agreement for an additional VDHS Options Counseling program on the East side of the state. The Area Agency on Aging, Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern WA (ALTC) that supports Spokane County has expressed interest in working with the VA to provide Options Counseling to Veterans in this service area. The Spokane VAMC has also expressed interest in exploring implementation of a VDHS Options Counseling Program. Lastly, we will work collaboratively with the VA PSHCS, the Spokane VAMC, and the Washington State DVA to learn more of the services and supports available to Veterans. In addition ADSA will educate VA staffs' of the ADRC's role and ability to inform Veterans' of additional services/supports that are available so they can choose how to best meet their needs.

On principle, the VAMCs are very supportive of the VHA's Veterans Directed Home & Community-based Services (VDHCBS), but are concerned about having adequate resources to continue its administration, once established. We see opportunities for streamlining the administrative tasks while maintaining outcome data, but understand VA billing procedures and reporting protocols may be difficult to change.

Because the VDHS program is already established within the Northwest Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 20) with the VA PSHCS; we anticipate potential new establishment of the program with the Spokane VAMC could benefit from lessons learned. In addition, Washington State is already submitting project management data to ACL, CMS, and VHA via the ADRC-TAE Semi Annual Report Tool (SART) and will continue this practice ongoing.

Objectives:

- a. Increase the current VDHS enrollment to 15 over the upcoming Federal fiscal year
- b. Work towards expansion of the Puget Sound VDHS catchment area to include additional counties within VA Puget Sound catchment area
- c. Work with the VAMCs and the VA to help simplify reporting to improve cost efficiencies
- d. Explore the possibility of implementing a VDHS Options Counseling Program on the east side of WA state