California Initiatives and Services for Returning Service Members, Veterans, and their Families

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California Facts

• Largest number of Veterans
  – 2.1 million
    • Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans: 600,000 since 2001
    • 30,000 per year
    • Most female veterans

Mental Health Services Act/Prop 63
  – Funding state and local county programs

• Operation Welcome Home
  – Multi-disciplinary and multi-faceted
Operation Welcome Home

Operation Welcome Home: connecting with each and every returning veteran to determine their needs and connect them with the services to help them successfully reintegrate into the community and civilian life.

• The objective is to provide coordinated information to Veterans, to help them find:
  – Assistance with employment, job training and employment benefits
  – Education Opportunities
  – Housing
  – Health Care (mental and physical)
  – Benefits provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits
  – Support for families
Operation Welcome Home Tools

• **Reintegration Form** – Intake form to identify needs and match services

• **Nine Regional Outreach Teams** in California to enable direct contact with veterans throughout the state

• **CalVet Corps** – AmeriCorps and community volunteers reaching out to vets

• **Employment Development Department (EDD)** – 300 veterans hired to contact and support veterans through Operation Welcome Home Regional collaboratives.
Operation Welcome Home Process

• **First contact is outreach events for returning active duty military**
  – Transition Assistance Program (TAP)
  – Wounded Warrior Program
  – Yellow Ribbon Events

• **Second contact**
  – Within 14 days if reintegration form is submitted at first contact
    – Contact made by Employment Development Dept and CalVolunteers and AmeriCorps
  – Within 30 days if no reintegration form is submitted
    – Welcome home letter that includes veterans services information contact and reintegration form

• **Third contact**
  – County veteran services officer and continuous contact over 30, 60, and 90 days
  – Veteran is connected with service providers based on needs

• **Confirmation contact**
  – After 180 days, California Veterans Affairs conducts individual surveys to ensure service delivery
SAMHSA 2010 Returning Service Members, Veterans and their Family Members Policy Academy

- **Leadership Team:** Veterans, Guard, Employment, Behavioral Health, Local Providers, Advocates, Women’s Health, Research.

- **California Strategic and Action Plan**
  - Infrastructure
  - Access
  - Data
  - Workforce
  - Sustainability
Additional Veteran Resources

• Network of Care
  – The California Network of Care Web site for Veterans & Service Members is a one-stop shop for virtually all services, information, support, and advocacy
  – A click-and-go directory of all services by county

• County Collaboratives
  – Each county is developing coordinated veterans services for social services, mental health, employment, substance abuse treatment, etc.
  – Point of coordination is through County Veterans Services Officers
How is it working?

• 17,000 reintegration forms collected
  – Employment and education are most requested support services
  – Data collection – interviews, referrals
  – 15% of interviews request TBI/PTSD services
• 13,700 soldiers interviewed and referred for services as of August 2010
• Strong State/Local Partnerships
Contact

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Thank You!