

TCCVS
Mental Health Workgroup

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<http://www.tvc.texas.gov/TCCVS.aspx>

1. Veterans need local mental health resources to assess and treat behavioral health issues prior to the onset of a crisis.
 - a. VA is currently partnering with mental health community centers provided that they are trained and certified by VHA in Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)
 - b. There is a scarcity of licensed mental health providers who are military competent, CPT trained and enrolled in TriWest (enrollment is necessary to participate in the VA Choice program). The governor has provided money in the past for CPT training, UT hosts an annual training. DSHS to certify and provide continuing education: Grand Rounds; Train Texas
 - c. TriWest does not have adequate system in place to identify military competent, CPT trained providers.

Possible Recommendations:

- State to provide training and certification in CPT and military competency
- State to catalogue and index providers who meet VHA requirements to provide behavioral health treatment
 - DSHS currently has this list? Are they military competent? Are they in a position to provide services to Veterans in a timely manner?
- State to encourage providers to enroll in TriWest

2. Veterans need communities in which they live to provide and promote opportunities for peer engagement to prevent the onset of a crisis or to prevent crisis escalation.

Possible Recommendations:

- Continued legislative support of the mental health program for veterans including the Military Veteran Peer Network

3. Address gaps in mental health services to rural veterans through further development and improvement in state telemedicine (TM) programs.
 - a. Our discussions revealed the preexisting relationship between Texas LMHA's and the VA in terms of TM. The task of the workgroup now is to identify what locations are currently able to handle TM appointments and what the barriers are to expanding to other locations (internet capacity, cost of technology hardware, administrative/contractual issues, etc.)
 - b. Proof of concept in Amarillo
 - c. Department of Agriculture has looked into addressing technology issues in rural and frontier areas.

TCCVS - Issues That Cross All Workgroups

- Expanded state support for Veteran County Service Officers
- Transitioning Servicemembers
 - The state should coordinate with military installations in Texas to provide awareness of opportunities for veterans in Texas to personnel prior leaving the service.
- Communication and Outreach
 - Veterans need greater awareness of the state services available to them (TexVet, MVPN, College Credit for Heroes, Employment opportunities, Certification and Licensure opportunities, etc.)
 - State agencies should have knowledge of state services for veterans