



Duluth Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans SWS Site Visit Report



Date: June 12, 2018

Location: Duluth MAC-V

Dept. Rehab Committee Members: Wilson Spence, Darrel Redepenning, Bill Brockberg, Roy Bressler and Dan Tengwall. Dept. Service Officer, Jeremy Wolfsteller.

RE: The American Legion Dept. Rehabilitation Committee is tasked with staying engaged with agencies that aid Minnesota veterans. The committee does this by conducting System Worth Saving Site Visits throughout the year. These locations include Sioux Falls, Fargo, St. Cloud and Minneapolis VA Healthcare Systems, St. Paul and Fargo Regional Offices, Minneapolis, Hastings, Luverne, Fergus Falls and Silver Bay Veterans Homes. Additional Site Visits are conducted at VA CBOC's, Vets Centers, and Minnesota nonprofits that serve veterans when the budget allows.

Meeting Attendance: Chairman Wilson Spence, Dan Tangwall, Roy Bressler and Jeremy Wolfsteller. Administrator and Safety Officers.

Duluth MAC-V Overview:

Our Northern Regional office in Duluth opened in December 2010. The renovation project, which was a partnership between MACV and the Northern Communities Land Trust (NCLT), was completed in March 2011. Duluth Veterans' Place has eleven permanent housing units, four transitional housing units, and one transitional handicap accessible unit. Supportive services for veterans will be provided onsite and MACV Duluth's administrative offices will be housed in one of the buildings. All MACV Duluth's services will now be available in one convenient location.

Services:

Permanent Housing
Transitional Housing
Outreach Assistance
Emergency Assistance
Civil Legal Assistance

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MAC-V operates of two major funding sources, Supported Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) and Housing & Urban Development (HUD). SSVF is a Federal Department of Veterans Affairs Program which awards grants to selected private non-profit organizations that will assist very low-income veteran families that are homeless.

MAC-V staff coordinates with the local Continuums of Care. A CoC is a local community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the needs of all people who experience homelessness in a given community.

MAC-V works in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs which allows for SSVF funds. The opportunity also allows for HUD-VASH assistance for the veterans in their area. HUD-VASH is a partnership between the VA and HUD and it provides subsidized housing vouchers for veterans who are homeless and their families. These vouchers require case management services by the VA. There are two types of vouchers, housing Choice and Project Based. To be eligible for a voucher a veteran must be enrolled in the VA Healthcare System. The requirement of no more than 50% of the HUD-VASH vouchers can be project based has been amended to allow for more distribution to those structured facilities. Public Housing Authority can only use up to 20% of it's authorized voucher units to project-based units in a specific project.

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MAC-V offers Civil Legal Services to veterans through drop in legal clinics. This program has been a success and grow exponentially over the years.

Stand Down's are MAC-V's major outreach events that happen across Minnesota several times per year. Services offered are geared specifically to assisting homeless and low-income veterans. This is a partnership with agencies across the state that provide services to veterans.

Challenges MAC-V has is working with transitioning incarcerated veterans and veterans with bad rental histories.

Master leasing is something the Organization is looking at to provide veterans and their families with housing options. MAC-V will lease an apartment from landlord not SSVF funds and manage the occupant and pay for the space.

Guard and Reserve eligible for services through MAC-V and Veterans with other than honorable discharges.

Meeting Minutes:

Chairman: Wilson Spence

Secretary: Jeremy Wolfsteller