MN Department of Veterans Affairs

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Current policies and programs that highlight Age-Friendly

• MN Veterans Homes
  • Currently there are five MN Veterans Homes serving approximately 800 Veterans around the state
  • Three additional Veterans Homes have been designed and waiting for approval and funding through the Federal VA Grant Program
  • Homes provide a residential space for Veterans and their spouses, but also a community engagement space for those to support Veteran’s related issues

• MN Department of Veterans Affairs – Programs and Services – CORE Program
  • CORE Program provides mental health and caregiver support to Veterans and their families throughout the state of MN through a contract with Lutheran Social Services – MN
  • Expanded services to include caregiver support resources which are designed to assist Older Minnesotans
State agency or other government partners

- Federal Veterans Administration
  - Veterans Healthcare Systems – Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Fargo and Sioux Falls VA
  - Caregiver Support Program
  - Suicide Prevention Program
- Department of Human Services
  - Direct Care and Treatment
  - Office of Ombudsman for Long-term Care
- MN Department of Health – Regulatory Division
- Commanders Task Force – Veteran Service Organization Commanders
Gaps/Opportunities in programs

• Veteran Education regarding benefits, services and supports is complex and requires knowledge regarding federal, state and community resources
  • Frequent and accurate communication and education strategy

• Current Pandemic – social isolation is a critical factor affecting older adults; long-term affects of social isolation in this type of circumstance are unknown
Highlight a data/report that would inform an Age-Friendly Council

• Domain: Social Participation
  • MN Veterans Home Activity Program
    • All five MN Veterans Homes have a well rounded activity program
  • Lutheran Social Services – CORE Program and Caregiver Support Contract
    • Provide mental health support, financial counseling, access to technology, respite and meals

• Domain: Civic Participation and Employment
  • Volunteer Program
    • All five MN Veterans Homes have a robust Volunteer program to include multi-generational individuals that commit to providing thousands of volunteer hours to each home in support of Veterans
    • Volunteer Hours Annual Report
    • Community Engagement Activities Annual Report – Current Agency Strategic Goal
  • MN Veterans Home – Domiciliary Program Work Therapy Program
    • Required to provide a work therapy program per Federal VA regulations. The goal is to provide meaningful work activity so Veterans feel they contribute to the operations of the home
Age-Friendly Matrix

Outdoor Spaces and Buildings

Communication and Information

Community and Health Services

Also Include:
Civic Participation and Employment
Social Participation
Respect and Social Inclusion
Thank You!

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