What are the most effective ways for VA staff and veteran service providers to identify veterans with child support issues?

This session will include a 20 minute presentation of the various VA programs with whom child support may want to partner and a 15 minute presentation by one veteran service provider regarding the child support legal clinics it offers. Following the presentations, participants will discuss the framing question for the session.

What is federal VA?

- United States Department of Veterans Affairs
  - Veterans Health Administration
    - 150 hospitals, 985 outpatient clinics, 370 Vet Centers
  - Veterans Benefits Administration
    - 57 Regional Offices
    - Life Insurance, Home Loan, Disability Compensation, Pension, Education, Vocational Rehabilitation
  - National Cemetry Administration
    - 131 National Cemeteries

- Veteran Population
  - 2013: estimated 21,973,000, median age 64 (male) 49 (female), 10% women (9/30/13)
  - 2013: VHA had 8.96 million enrollees
What are Federal VA Homeless Programs?

• Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV)*
• Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC)
• Grant and Per Diem Program (GPD)**
• Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)**
• Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV)
• Housing and Urban Development-VA Supported Housing (HUD-VASH)
• Homeless-Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACT)
• Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)
• Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)
• Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG)

*At some sites HCHV includes contract residential treatment services with contracts funding community providers
**VA provides grants to eligible community providers; community providers offer services

Internal VA Data – HOMES (Homeless Operation, Management and Evaluation System)

• All Assessments, FY 2014, n=95,720
  – Do you have any significant outstanding debts: 55%
    • 12% yes to child support

• HCRV Intakes, 2011 April – 2013 February, n=11,443
  – Child support debt due to be paid upon release = 14%
  – Average total arrearage amount = $16,000

• VJO Intakes, 2011 April – 2013 February, n=11,619
  – Arrearage or delinquency problems with current child support orders= 8%
  – Average total arrearage or delinquency amount = $16,400
Other Potential VA Program Partners

- **Compensated Work Therapy (CWT)**
  - VHA, located at VA medical centers
  - 2005 Dear Colleague letter to all State IV-D Directors promoting partnership with CWT
- **Social Work**
  - VHA, located at all VA medical centers
  - Social Workers are present in all VHA programs
- **VA Regional Offices (VARO)**
  - VBA
  - 20 have full time Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinators (HVOCs)
  - All offices have a designated HVOC or a Homeless Veteran Claims Coordinator
- **Vet Centers**

What Isn’t federal VA?

- **State Departments of Veterans Affairs**
  - State Veterans Homes, Benefits, Outreach and Advocacy
- **County Departments of Veterans Affairs**
  - Benefits counseling, Outreach and Advocacy
- **Veterans Service Organizations**
  - Community organizations, Benefits, Benefits counseling, Outreach and Advocacy
- **Non Profit Agencies**
  - Some with VA grants or contracts, many other funding streams
- **Other federal, state and county programs**
  - Numerous grant funding streams serving Veterans
- **Other community agencies serving Veterans**
  - Private agencies, business efforts, church/faith programs
Partnership ideas and opportunities

- Stand Downs
- State, County, City Veterans Task Forces
- Local Continuum of Care meetings
- "Asking the Question"
  - Including have you served in the United States Military as part of all child support intake, outreach efforts
- Welcome Home events
- Any community “no wrong door” collaboration
- 25 Cities partnership events