Veterans Programming in the Federal Bureau of Prisons

KARL LEUKEFELD, WOMEN & SPECIAL POPULATIONS BRANCH, REENTRY SERVICES DIVISION

DR. TAMARA KLEIN, PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES BRANCH, REENTRY SERVICES DIVISION
Objectives:

- To gain an understanding of the Bureau of Prisons’ veteran population.
- To explore the programming opportunities available to veterans in Bureau of Prisons custody.
Overview of the Bureau of Prisons

- 122 institutions
  - 5 security levels

- Inmate Population = 177,326 inmates
  - 150,046 in Bureau of Prisons facilities
  - 16,634 in privately managed facilities
  - 10,646 in other types of facilities

- 35,923 employees
  - Male: 25,914 (72.6%)
  - Female: 10,009 (27.4%)
The Bureau of Prisons Veterans Population

- Overarching programming and management of Veterans incarcerated in the Bureau of Prisons falls under the Women & Special Populations Branch, Reentry Services Division.

- How does the Bureau define a veteran:
  - Uniformed Service personnel are considered veterans
  - An inmate is considered a veteran REGARDLESS of discharge status
The Bureau of Prisons Veterans Population: Stats & Facts

- The Bureau of Prisons routinely houses approximately 10,500 veteran inmates.
- Of that population there are approximately 220 who are female veterans and the balance are males.
- The majority of the Bureau’s inmate veterans are low security level inmates.
- White inmates make up the largest percentage of inmate veterans (approximately 73%). African Americans veterans make up 27% of the veteran population and Asian Pacific Islanders less than 1%.
The Bureau of Prisons Veterans Program Model

The Bureau of Prisons uses a Three Tier model for delivering services to inmate veterans.

Three Tiers:

- **Tier One**: General services that are available at all Bureau of Prisons facilities.
- **Tier Two**: Widely available outpatient services.
- **Tier Three**: A residential unit based program.
Tier One

- All institutions hosting informational visits from Veterans Administration officials at least quarterly.
- Veterans Administration officials do not provide treatment to inmate veterans during their incarceration in the Bureau.
- Inmates have access to tools and materials developed for them. It also involves the informational and self-help resources available to all veteran inmates at all facilities.
Tier Two services are widely available outpatient services – they include:

- Groups that meet no more than once per week and provide educational and peer support components for inmates who are veterans of uniformed service.
- Groups and workshops are led by staff and focus on:
  - Veterans structured peer support
  - Uniformed service based wellness
  - PTSD
  - TBI
  - Women Veteran's specific workshop
Tier Three

- Tier Three services are the most intensive. Services at this level will be offered via a residential, unit-based, Central Office approved program.
- Veterans Education Transitional Skills (VETS) Unit Pilot.
- Pilot to include:
  - Veterans will live on the unit and all will be part of the VETS community
  - Participating in daily community muster/meetings, veteran specific team building activities, intensive veteran specific programming based on individual need, and veteran focused wellness and educational components.
Psychology Services
Initial Intake

- Inform inmates about psychological services and limits of confidentiality
- Identify historical and current indices of inmate’s emotional, intellectual, or behavioral problems
- Assign an appropriate mental health care level
- Identify inmates who require additional psychological assessment
- Identify inmates who require psychological treatment to address mental health needs and generate referrals
- Identify inmates who could benefit from psychology programming
Psychological intervention for inmates

- Outpatient (nonresidential) Mental Health Treatment
  Identified need for treatment, current diagnosis, and treatment plan supporting group or individual treatment

- Reentry Programming
  Offered to address risk factors associated with criminal conduct

- Restrictive Housing Interventions
  Prevention, diversion, mitigation, intervention, transition, oversight

- Crisis Intervention
  Work to actively prevent inmate suicides, as well as other issues

- Management of Disruptive Behaviors
  Expanding our understanding of de-escalation techniques, communication skills, antisocial attitudes and behaviors, and principles of behavior therapy contribute in our ability to assist in the management of disruptive behaviors
SPECIALTY PSYCHOLOGY  
TREATMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  

- Mental Health Treatment Services  
  STAGES, Step-down, SKILLS, Resolve, FIT,  
- Drug Treatment Services  
  Drug Education, Non-Residential, and Residential Drug Treatment  
- Sex Offender Treatment Services  
  Non-residential and Residential Treatment
THANK YOU!