



WE HONOR VETERANS

Partner Networking Call 6/24/2015 Call Summary

Spirit of '45: WWII 70th Anniversary Commemorative Weekend

- The celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII will be from August 14-16, 2015.
- If you are hosting a Spirit of '45 event, register at www.spiritof45.org.
- When creating a Spirit of '45 event you may want to work with your Hospice Veteran Partnership (HVP). Make sure to invite community organizations such as: the VA, the Rosie's (women of WWII), Boy Scouts, the media, and other various children groups.
- We encourage you to reach out to your state and national cemetery directors to plan tribute ceremonies and wreath laying ceremonies. To invite a bugle player to the ceremony please visit: <http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/>.
- Reach out to the activities directors at your senior living communities to see if they are interested in planning a Spirit of '45 event.
- In Rhode Island, they want ALL end-of-life facilities to register and plan an event on Friday August 14th.
- For additional ideas and best practices on event planning visit: <http://www.wehonorveterans.org/share-your-stories/stories-whv-partners>.
- There will be a Kiss-In event at Times Square on August 14, 2015.

Dr. Shreve: VA Questions and Answers

- There is a new Under Secretary for Health, for the Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Health Administration.
- Budgets are tight, for example, the Hepatitis C Drug costs \$50,000-\$100,000 per year, per person; they underestimated the number of people who would need these VA covered drugs.
- If you have any additional questions for Scott Shreve, please e-mail veterans@nhpco.org.

Q & A

- **(Q):** What are some topics that the CBOCs and the VA hospitals would be interested in learning?
(A): CBOCs don't usually have a Palliative Care team; they would be interested in building connections, and understanding the ground rules for hospice care in general.
- **(Q):** Is there a way for patients to enroll with the VA to receive benefits without a face-to-face meeting?
(A): Currently, there isn't a policy or legislation that requires a Veteran to be seen by a VA provider to receive care. Under VA policy a VA doctor or physician has to determine that a patient is eligible for hospice care. The reason a VA pushes the face-to-face visit is that the VA receives workplace credit which is what determines their facility budgets. If the patient cannot do the face-to-face meeting, ask the director to review the case and approve them without the face-to-face and without the workplace credit.
- **(Q):** When a patient goes on hospice care and wants VA benefits, how long will it take before they receive them?

(A): Enrollments require the DD214 (discharge papers). When you have the DD214, contact the business office. In most facilities there is a 24-48 hour turn around for hospice patients. Many Veterans have never accessed VA benefits and they don't need them until hospice care, the VA calls them high-income Veterans.

There is an exemption called catastrophic disability, this form can be completed for those who have a higher income level and wouldn't be eligible for VA benefits normally.

- **(Q):** If you live two hours or longer from a VA Facility can you choose to visit your own primary doctor for care?

(A): There is new legislation called the Veteran Choice Act. The VA will pay for Veterans to visit their primary care doctor; the Veteran Choice Act doesn't cover hospice and palliative care. The patient must live more than 45 miles from a VA facility.

Special Discounts for Hospice Foundation of America Programs Provided to WHV Partners

- Improving Care for Veterans facing Illness and Death is a 2 hour and 45 minute DVD that offers continuing education credits. The program also provides self-study that includes the DVD and the book.
- If you already owned the old DVD and registered before, you can renew your license through Hospice Foundation of America. If you use the code, **Vet10**, you can receive a \$10 discount for the program.
- To register for the program, go to www.Hospicefoundation.org. The program comes with a book, and you can purchase the book separately, don't forget to use the **Vet10** discount code when purchasing the book.
- The learning objectives discussed by the panel and in the book are based on military culture, PTSD, the different Veteran cohorts, military families' bereavement experiences, and also Veteran burial benefits.
- The approval for continuing education will to be open until June 1, 2016; the discount for We Honor Veterans will end June 30, 2015.
- Three sections of book: military experience at the end-of-life (EOL); special issues for Veterans at EOL; grief and loss at EOL for Veterans and families. There is a small section called Voices, these are personal stories from Veterans and hospice clinicians that work with Veterans.

Updates from WHV

- Hospice Veteran Partnerships
 - WHV has a newly updated [Hospice-Veteran Partnership Guide](#) to replace the toolkit.
 - The webinar, Building VA Community Partnerships is available on the We Honor Veterans website: <http://www.wehonorveterans.org/webinars>
 - [VCP Training Update](#): the training date has been postponed due to the VA travel ban, when the ban is lifted we will set a new date and send the application out again.
- 5th Anniversary Celebration:
 - We Honor Veterans launched in October 2010.
 - The night before the Clinical Team Conference from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., WHV will celebrate the 5th anniversary of the program by hosting a special event for all WHV partners in attendance.
 - Genesis Healthcare is a sponsor; please contact veterans@nhpco.org if your hospice is interested in sponsoring this event.
 - Also at the celebration, WHV will be giving an Award of Excellence to one our Level Four partners. Level Four partners, look for the call for applications which will be sent out shortly.

- ASAE Summit Award
 - We Honor Veterans, is being recognized by the American Society of Association Executives with a 2015 Summit Award. The Summit Awards are ASAE's highest honor for associations. WHV is one of only six award winners this year. Part of ASAE's Power of A program, the Summit Awards recognize the association community's valuable contributions on the local, national and global level. The awards reward outstanding efforts of associations to enrich lives, create a competitive workforce, prepare society for the future, drive innovation and make a better world.

Q&A/Networking

- Our hospice hosted a Memorial Day program for Veterans that have passed, and also included the community. We rented a large hall, and decorated it with photos and descriptions that were sent in. After the program was over, families stayed and formed great connections
- Our hospice helped to found the Honor Flight Southern Indiana program. Currently they have flown two flights and 140 Veterans were able to participate.
- Our hospice participated in the UVA School of Medicine and Nursing Conference; we presented on We Honor Veterans and Veterans at the end of life.
- For Memorial Day we were invited to skilled nursing facilities to honor their Veterans. We also created a wreath to put into the river to honor the deceased Veterans. The VA nursing home celebrated and honored a hospice couple that has been married for 70 years; the VA also did a service for the Tuskegee Airman.
- The Times Square Kiss Project, Spirit of '45 is gathering wedding photos of couples that were in love in the 1940s. These photos will become a permanent part of the Walgreens jumbo-tron in Times Square.
- Our hospice recently cared for a 24 year old patient who was a fireman and in ROTC. When he went to enlist in Navy they found cancer. We edited the certificates on the WHV website to say, thank you for your willingness to serve.
 - Keep in mind that the certificates are editable; feel free to honor our other servicemen and women such as firefighters and policemen).

Wrap Up and Next Meeting

- Remember to send in pictures and stories to We Honor Veterans through veterans@nhpco.org or through the Share your Story portal on the We Honor Veterans website.
- The next call will be in September and will be announced in August.