

Statement before the Subcommittee on
Economic Opportunity of the
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Field Hearing on

“Best Practices in Veterans Education and Transition to Civilian Life”

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Introduction

Thank you Chairman Arrington and Ranking Member O'Rourke for the opportunity to testify at this hearing.

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Therapies to get them started. This non-traditional approach is highly effective in our service area.

Reassess – Coming out of the “treat” phase, or directly from earlier steps if treatment is not required, VetStar uses a unique 16-point veteran success plan to identify vulnerabilities and capitalize on veteran strengths in order to make them successful. We look at a variety of issues such as Health, Mental Health, Transportation, Employment, Family Support etc. to develop a tailored plan to maximize the probability of success for the veteran and their family.

Reintegrate – Arguably the most critical component of our model after FIND, our goal is to change the environment and alter the veteran’s perception of where they belong in our community. Programs such as VetLife and Team Red White and Blue give the veteran a chance to be with other veterans in a peer-based model. Without this critical step, the temptation is too great for the veteran to return to the same behaviors and locations that created the challenges. I strongly believe that reintegration can resolve many of the issues faced by the veteran, especially if it is delivered in a peer-based setting. One technique we use is a program called Task Force Lubbock, where we bring veterans together to do community service projects. The outcome is less about the service project itself, but rather focused on bringing veterans together for informal peer support (group therapy). Bluntly stated, our military was trained to break things and kill people; using those skills to create and repair is very therapeutic.

Understanding the concept of Stalled Transition - Stalled transition is a phrase I use to communicate the concept (c)t-14 uti (tr)5 (a)6 (n)2(b)-1314 Tw -1hkboenncn ae cir oa o2 (s)1 (itio)2 (n)2 (is

relationships and family resource awareness. VetStar's close working relationship with the Texas Tech University MVP office allows for near seamless awareness and coordination to

IED blasts, an eye exam⁷ to identify and correct any vision problems that may preclude their success in the classroom.

Community Awareness (Communities of Courage): We are an all-

Veterans Studies program here at Texas Tech to help develop the cultural competencies needed to help our workforce understand the “lifecycle” of our military, including recruitment, boot camp, military life, deployment and redeployment and all the associated traumas that may be

Conclusion

Our veterans have earned the very best possible education opportunities that we can provide for them. A smooth transition from