Mesilla Valley Community of Hope-- Ending Veteran Homelessness—Functional Zero

**1) Mesilla Valley Community of Hope has identified all veterans experiencing homelessness**

The Mesilla Valley Community of Hope (MVCH) took steps needed to identify all veterans experiencing homelessness, including Veterans who were unsheltered, as well as Veterans in shelter, in other transitional housing programs, and in other temporary institutional settings. This identification of Veterans included both Veterans that meet the definition of chronic homelessness and Veterans that are experiencing homelessness but do not meet the definition of chronic homelessness. The definition of Veteran used includes all persons who served in the armed forces, regardless of how long they served or the type of discharge they received. MVCH used the Point in Time Count, Gap Analysis, and agency records to create a Master List of homeless Veterans in Dona Ana County.

**2) Mesilla Valley Community of Hope no longer has any veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness**

There are no longer any veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the community. Some Veterans may not yet be in permanent housing, but all are now in some form of shelter (emergency shelter, treatment programs, transitional programs, other temporary institutional settings, etc...). Each of the Veterans on the Master List has a Housing Plan and receives shelter assistance.

**3) Mesilla Valley Community of Hope has resources and a plan and timeline for providing permanent housing**

MVCH has the resources and a plan and timeline for providing permanent housing opportunities to all Veterans who are currently sheltered but are still experiencing homelessness. The community has identified the programs and resources that will be used to provide those housing opportunities and can provide those housing opportunities quickly and without barriers to entry, using Housing First principles and practices. Veterans are screened and enrolled for permanent housing within 30 days, obtaining appropriate documentation to facilitate faster housing placement. MVCH has several housing programs and a Veteran preference for housing. While Veterans wait for housing, they are sheltered at the tent city, Camp Hope or at the Gospel Rescue Mission. The MVCH housing programs include Department of Housing and Urban Development: Shelter Plus Care, Rapid ReHousing, Sue’s House Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Abode, Inc. PSH; New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority: Rental Assistance Program, Homeless Prevention Funds, Linkages PSH; Department of Veterans’ Affairs: Supportive Services for Veteran Families; housing funding from the Mayor of Las Cruces; and NM Department of Veterans’ Services. MVCH also partners with HUD VASH on a weekly basis to enroll Veterans.

**4) Mesilla Valley Community of Hope has resources, plans and systems in place for continued efforts**

MVCH has resources, plans, and systems in place for identifying (1) Veterans that may have been missed in initial efforts to identify Veterans, (2) at-risk Veterans and (3) Veterans newly experiencing homelessness in the future.

a. MVCH has adequate outreach and engagement strategies in place to be confident that they can identify such Veterans. MVCH is a homeless shelter and Veterans throughout the County are referred to MVCH on a daily basis. MVCH also has fliers in place throughout local Veteran agencies, the Gospel Rescue Mission, Soup Kitchen and Walmarts. MVCH continues to give local presentations to make the community aware of the Veteran services available to end Veteran homelessness and communicates with the local media regularly.

b. MVCH has an adequate level of resources and the capacity to provide appropriate services to prevent homelessness for at-risk Veterans in the future. MVCH has Veteran staff that provides services to Veterans who are near homelessness; including onsite mental health therapy, SOAR services, a job bank, and food services.

c. MVCH can provide options for shelter and has identified the programs and resources that will be used to provide quick access to permanent housing opportunities for these Veterans not addressed in the initial work. MVCH utilizes Camp Hope for Veteran shelter. MVCH will continue to keep a master list of Veterans that are homeless.

**5) Mesilla Valley Community of Hope has adequate level of resources and appropriate plans to ensure housing stability**

MVCH has an adequate level of resources and appropriate plans and services in place to ensure the housing stability of formerly-homeless Veterans currently in permanent housing or who enter permanent housing in the future. MVCH has several housing programs and Supportive Services for Veteran Families. Veterans will receive services from their case workers. MVCH also has wrap-around services, including an onsite Veteran case manager, at a 22-unit complex that houses homeless Veterans, including assistance with job applications. MVCH also will continue to provide SOAR services, mental health counseling, employment assistance, self-sufficiency trainings and food services to the Veterans who are homeless or near-homeless in the community.