



# Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, August 9, 2024

## August Veteran Directed Care Office Hour

Please join the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) for the August Veteran Directed Care (VDC) Office Hour on Wednesday, August 14, from 12:00 – 1:00pm ET. This office hour will provide brief updates from ACL and VHA, followed by an open session for VDC programs to ask questions and engage with peers. Register for August's VDC Office Hour. We look forward to your participation!

## July VDC Educational Webinar – Post Event Summary

Thank you to those who attended the July VDC Educational Webinar held on Wednesday, July 17, from 12:00 – 1:00pm ET. The webinar shared updates from ACL and VHA, discussed best practices for expanding VDC programs in collaboration with Veterans Affairs Medical Centers (VAMC), and provided a peer learning opportunity with AIM Independent Living Center. A recording of the [July VDC Educational webinar](#) is available on YouTube.

## Veteran Success Stories – Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging

The Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) VDC program serves Veterans from the Fargo, ND; Minneapolis, MN; St. Cloud, MN; and Sioux Falls, SD VAMCs. Recently, their person-centered counselor shared a Veteran story, highlighting the Veteran and their family's success with the VDC program at the Minneapolis VAMC.

*The 92-year-old Navy Veteran served during the Korean war on a Minesweeper ship. The Veteran manages multiple medical conditions including heart disease, kidney failure, diabetes, and neuropathy to name a few. At one point, his doctors informed the family to consider his end-of-life needs.*

*However, the Veteran and his family had other plans for him. They moved him to his son's home, which is accommodated for accessibility and connected to a second home in which another family member lives. The family caregivers have been able to help him manage his medical conditions, especially his diabetes with close monitoring of blood sugars and dietary changes. As family members provide his daily care, a skilled nurse comes monthly to assist with catheter changes and general monitoring.*

*The Veteran is very active every day working in his home-based shop, putting together intricate 3D wooden puzzles. He also enjoys going to the casino occasionally and especially enjoys going out fishing. His son states his excitement "was like a kid in a candy store" as they set out to purchase him a new fishing pole. He is living his best life with the support of his family and home services through VDC.*

Congratulations to MNRAAA and their partners at the Minneapolis VAMC on a wonderful Veteran success!

Please use this [form to share any VDC success stories](#), including positive Veteran stories from their VDC enrollment experience, promising practices related to providing VDC as a VDC provider, or stories of success that you've heard from the Veterans you serve. We look forward to reviewing them and featuring them in our newsletters!

## VDC Monthly Reporting Tool Guidance

Thank you to those who have been reporting to ACL's [VDC Monthly Reporting Tool](#). The VDC Monthly Reporting Tool is a portal for VDC providers to enter their Veteran census data, ensuring an opportunity to accurately account for the availability and growth of the program. We ask that all VDC providers please continue to report your program's data to the VDC Monthly Reporting Tool at the end of each month to help us accurately capture the VDC program's reach. If you do not see your VDC provider or VAMC listed on the tool, please email [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov) with the correct listing information.

## **Technical Assistance**

Have a question? Need guidance? Want to share good news about your VDC program? Reach out to the VDC Federal Technical Assistance Team at [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov). We look forward to hearing from you!

## **VDC Email Distribution List**

If you or other VDC program staff are not already on the [VDC email distribution list](#), please enter your information to make sure you don't miss out on important news!