

# **Assisting the Military: State Level Collaborations that Work: The Massachusetts Experience**

**Statewide Head Injury Program  
(SHIP)**

**MA Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual State of the States in**

**Head Injury Conference**

**October 5, 2011**



# Initiatives to Create Partnerships

- **MA Veterans with TBI Consortium**
- **New England Collaborative for Veterans with TBI and their Families**



# MA Veterans with TBI Consortium

- **Development of Partnerships - Building working relationships across systems**
- **Cross Training: Breaking down silos**
- **Joint Pilots**
- **Cross referrals for services/supports**
- **New England Symposium**



# Collaborative Partnerships

- **MRC/Statewide Head Injury Program**
- **MRC/Public Voc Rehab**
- **BIA of MA**
- **Department of Veterans Services**
- **MA National Guard & Reserve**
- **VA Healthcare System**
- **MA Commission for the Blind**
- **Disability Law Center**



# Collaborative Partnerships, Cont'd

- **Veterans' Centers**
- **Department of Workforce Development**
- **Veterans Employment & Training Services/DOL**
- **US Army/Wounded Warriors Program**
- **Community-based TBI Providers**
- **Veterans' Service Organizations**
- **Veterans**



# Other Partners

- **Department of Mental Health**
- **Department of Veterans Affairs**
- **Department of Public Health**



# Joint Pilots

- **Veterans Employment Pilot**  
(Public VR, One Stop Career Centers  
& Veterans Employment & Training  
Services/DOL)
- **Outreach**
- **VSO Regional TBI Specialist Team**



# Outreach & Identification Activities

- Expanded DVS website on TBI
- Internet communications (MySpace.com)
- Flyers & Postcards
- Participation in Family Readiness Groups & Other Support Groups
- Billboards
- Cable TV Show



# Outreach & Identification, Cont'd

- Articles
- Joint letter with the Secretary of Department of Veterans' Services
- A toll free number (1-888-Vet-1-TBI)
- Presentations & Exhibit tables @ Veterans' Forums



# Systems Change Initiatives

- **MA Policy Academy Team on Vets and Behavioral Health Needs (Governor's Task Force)**
- **Dedicated staff at the Statewide Head Injury Program (SHIP)**
- **New eligibility procedures for SHIP for veterans**



# **Systems Change Initiatives, Cont'd**

- **Linkages between SHIP and :**
  - Polytrauma Social Workers**
  - VA Health Care System's Returning**
  - OIF/OEF Coordinator**
  - National Guard Reintegration**
  - Specialist**
- **New England Veterans with TBI Symposium**



# **New England Collaborative (NEC)**

**To maximize the knowledge, resources,  
and effective practices and  
partnerships across New England.**



# NEC Goals

- **Information sharing on best practices and systems change strategies being utilized that have been effective**
- **Addressing issues that veterans face when their State of residency is not the State they are deployed from or because of where they live they can access services more easily in another State**
- **Shared training opportunities**
- **Coordinated outreach and identification with special emphasis on common data collection tools**
- **Joint program development**
- **Maximization of state and federal resources**



# New England Partners

- **State Agency TBI Program Representatives**
- **BIA Affiliates**
- **National Guard Representatives including Directors of Psychological Health**
- **Military TBI Programs**



# **New England Partners, Cont'd**

- **Departments of Veterans' Services**
- **Veterans' Organizations**
- **VA Medical Centers**
- **HRSA TBI Program Grantees**
- **Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center Regional Care Coordinator**



# **New England Collaborative Joint Pilots**

- **Improving outcomes for veterans attending College**
- **New England Resource Directory for Veterans & Active Military**
- **Volunteer/Buddy Program**



# Specialized Outreach Materials/Efforts:

- **Stand downs**
- **Yellow ribbon events**
- **Pre and Post Mobilizations**
- **Women & Minority Veterans**
- **Military Sexual Trauma Materials**
- **Letters & Posters to Churches and Libraries**



# Data on Veterans Applying to SHIP

- Since 2006 SHIP has received 212 applications from veterans
- 67 applications came from OIF/OEF Veterans (32%)
- 7.5% are women, half of who did not complete the application process
- 37% identified as being minorities
- Almost 21% overall did not complete the application process (14)



# Veterans Receiving Services

- **35 veterans are receiving Service Coordination which is often in collaboration with the VA (all era veterans)**
- **36 veterans have received a paid service from SHIP**



# Overall Challenges

- **Identification of OIF/OEF Veterans**
- **Identification of women veterans**
- **Co-morbid diagnosis of PTSD and Substance Abuse**
- **Accessing resources for veterans who were less than honorably discharged**



# Overall Challenges, Cont'd

- **Veterans' Service Officer Pilot**
- **Integrated Case Management: SHIP  
Staff co-location with the Deployment  
Cycle Team**
- **Sustainability of activities**

