

Department of
Mental Health
Veteran Peer
Access Network
(VPAN)
Veteran Services



Goodwill Southern California



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH
hope. recovery. wellbeing.



▶▶ Our Goals



- Clear road map and “no wrong door”:
 - Access: phone/chat, online platform, or Peers
 - Assist: navigation and follow-up
- Increase awareness:
 - Community – where to direct vets/MilFam
 - #YouMatter campaign
- Increase Veterans Connection to Mental Health Treatment
- Decrease Veteran Suicide
- Decrease Veteran Homelessness
- Decrease Veteran Under/Unemployment

▶▶ What VPAN Offers

- Create No Barrier Non-Traditional Mental Health Treatment Access Points For Veteran & Military Families Using A Peer-to-Peer Model
- Link Veterans to Mental Health Treatment and Substance Abuse Treatment (including intensive field-based services) regardless of VA Healthcare Eligibility
- Provide VPAN clinician for co-response with the LA County Sheriff's Veteran Mental Health Evaluation Team (VMET)
- Clinical case management and linkage to services (e.g. Housing and Employment)
- Linkage to Benefits (e.g. Veterans Administration, Social Security Disability)



▶▶ What is Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN)?

- Network of Veteran and Military-connected Veteran Family (MilFam) Peers across systems who work as “access agents” to ensure connection to resources and support in their community.
- Public-private partnership with Southern California Grantmakers (SCG)
- Technology platform (Unite Us) used to manage database of resources
- A support line staffed by Veterans and MilFam 7 days a week, including holidays.
- Virtual online learning community through UCLA Veteran Family Wellness Center (VFWC)
- Backbone support for the Los Angeles Veteran Collaborative (LAVC)



▶▶ Who We Serve

- All Veterans and MilFam members of every age countywide
- No specific criteria for time in service, service era or discharge status
- All Veterans can receive VPAN service regardless of VA disability rating
- No specific or exclusionary criteria for level of need/care (ex: income)



▶▶ Geographic Team Breakdown

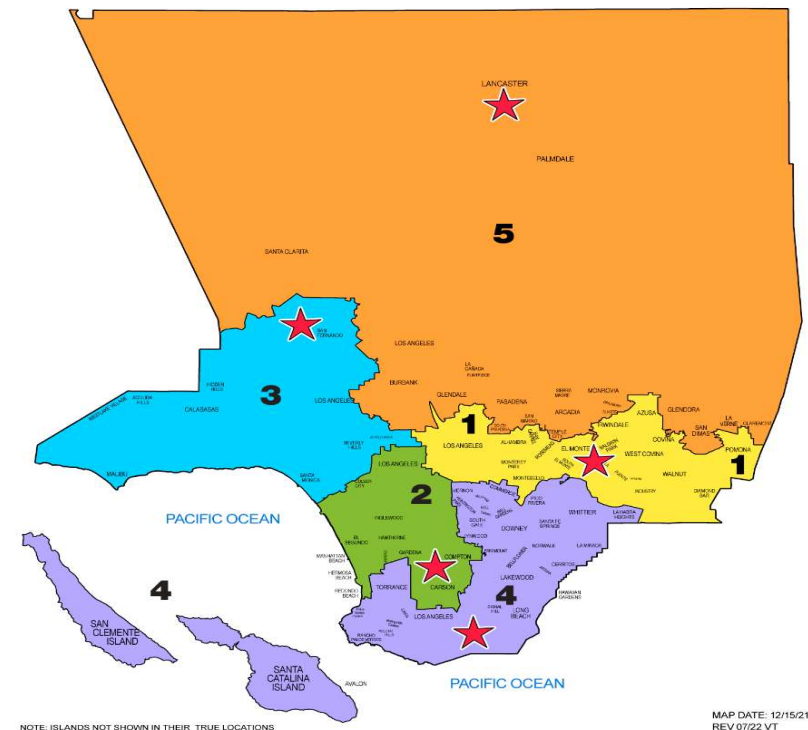
★ Rally Point Locations ★

SD	Agency	Location
1	JVS SoCal	1180 Durfee Ave Suite 100 South El Monte, CA 91733
2	Veterans West	5155 Rosecrans Ave #101 Hawthorne, CA 90250
3	Goodwill SoCal	13400 Riverside Dr #100 Sherman Oaks, CA 91423
4	Battleship IOWA	250 S. Harbor Blvd San Pedro, CA 90807
5	JVS SoCal	38345 30 th St E #A-1 Palmdale, CA 93550

VPAN Headquarters: Bob Hope Patriotic Hall
1816 S. Figueroa St., 6th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Click [here](#) for a more detailed view and to see which district your zip code falls under.

▶▶ L.A. County Supervisorial District Map



▶▶ Skilled Peer Supportive Services

VPAN Peer staff are intentionally trained to provide clinically and culturally responsive services to address the unique needs of veterans and military families. DMH VPAN Managers meet regularly with DMH Training Coordinator and SCG to develop training curriculum for VPAN staff.

Required trainings:

- Suicide prevention screening such as Psychological First Aid / QPR
- Substance Use/Abuse Recognition and Safety in Engagement.
- Peer Navigation and Veteran Family Navigation Training
- Boundaries and Ethics
- 4 Point Training (Trauma Informed Care for the Military)
- Risk Management and Mitigation
- Dealing with difficult clients/callers

Optional trainings include but not limited to:

- Military Sexual Trauma
- Housing Navigation
- Motivational Interviewing
- Homeless outreach - Office to Street
- Moral Injury
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

▶▶ VPAN Community Suicide Prevention

The 2023 VA National Suicide Prevention Annual Report showed that over 50% of the 6,392 Veterans who died by suicide in 2021 had not received VHA nor VBA services.

DMH VPAN Suicide Prevention Efforts

- Enhance VPAN visibility and ease of access for veteran self-referrals
- Continue to build relationships with local law enforcement/hospitals to increase awareness of VPAN services for veterans in community
- Partnership with VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System Suicide Prevention Program
- Provide consultation to community providers
- Coordinate regular suicide prevention trainings for DMH and CBO VPAN peers
- Implement Peer-Based Suicide Prevention Protocol for at risk veterans
- Enhanced and immediate clinical care including safety assessments, safety plans, lethal means counseling and f/u, especially for the veterans at high risk for suicide.



▶▶ Veteran Suicide Review Team (VSRT)

OVERVIEW

The VSRT is a multidisciplinary team of county and community veteran and suicide prevention professionals who will meet to evaluate the circumstances leading to and surrounding suicide deaths among veterans. Suicide fatality reviews are a structured process aimed at improving system-level responses to populations at risk for suicide. VSRT meetings are designed to examine prevention, intervention, postvention and system approaches, not the performance of individuals. The focus is to improve upstream suicide prevention, as well as county and community treatment and support services.

MISSION

The mission of the VSRT is to utilize data and information gathered in the review process, and to identify themes or patterns, which can impact and inform policy change and programming throughout the Los Angeles County to reduce suicide rates of veterans.

▶▶ Integration and Collaboration

- Veteran Suicide Review Team (VSRT)
- Access Centers at Rally Points - VA
- Mobile Medical Units - VA
- Veteran Service Officer- 5 DMVA VSO at Rally Points
- WEST LA VA Drop-In Center - VA
- By Name List - LAHSA, VA and Veteran serving organizations
- Housing Screening Triage Pilot - VA and LAHSA
- Skid Row All Populations Care Coordination - LAHSA
- VMET- LASD
- ONE TEAM leadership - VA



▶▶ VPAN Housing Coordinator

- According to LAHSA 2023 Homeless Count, 2,808 Unsheltered homeless veterans (3% increase from 2022). However, positive trend of 1,070 vets staying in temporary shelter reported (an increase of 12% from 2022)
- Collaboration between DMH VPAN and CHEERD, and partnership with VA Housing Services
- Provide consultation & coordinate training
- Collaborate with multiple veterans' system: LAHSA, VA, DMVA, PATH, LACDA, HACLA etc.
- Keep teams up-to-date with housing information
- VPAN Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) team exclusively works to help homeless veterans in obtaining permanent housing.



▶▶ Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) Support Line

Call (800) 854-7771, Press Option 3

VPAN Support Line hours:

Monday – Sunday

9AM – 8PM

(Open 7 days a week, including holidays)



- The support line is staffed by LA County staff and volunteers who are veterans or military family members.
- Connect with a veteran or military-related family member for peer support
- Provides free and confidential emotional support and resources
- Transfers calls to ACCESS (warm handoff) for immediate crisis intervention by the Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT)
- Provides referrals directly to VPAN field team supporting callers requiring more individualized need(s)

▶▶ Contact and Referral Information



VPAN Support Line: 1-800-854-7771, Press Option 3



Website: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/veterans/>



Email: veterans@dmh.lacounty.gov



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Any Questions?
Ask **VPAN!**

