



# Get in Tune with Respite

16th Annual National Lifespan Respite Conference  
October 7-9, 2014 • Nashville, TN

## Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services:

The Veterans Administration and the Local Community Working  
Together to Help Veterans Live at Home



Funded through the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services  
Alamo Area Council of Governments



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# Veterans Directed Home and Community Based Services (VD-HCBS)

## The Veterans Administration and the Local Community Working Together to Help Veterans Live at Home

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# What is a Consumer-Directed/ Self-Directed Program?



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Truth in Advertising: Lucy Coffey, 108, is a San Antonio resident and the oldest surviving woman Veteran in the U.S. Lucy resides in the community. Our AAA has assisted her through its VetCorps Program. However, she is not a VD-HCBS client—we're just really proud of her.

# What is VD-HCBS?

- Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services (VD-HCBS) is a program of the VA for self-directed care.
- VD-HCBS empowers Veterans to choose and manage services and supports in their homes as an alternative to living in a long-term care facility.
- The Veteran or Veteran Representative hires, supervises, evaluates and pays the Employee to provide specific services and supports that the Veteran needs to live in his or her own home.

# Consumer or Self-Direction

## The Consumer decides:

- What services, supports and goods are needed
  - Buys supports and goods to achieve his or her goals
- When the services and supports are to be provided
- Who provides those services and supports
  - Hires and manages his/her own Employees to provide the services and supports
- Where the services and supports are provided
- How the services and supports are provided

# Consumer Direction or Self-Direction

Gives the consumer more:

- Choice
- Control
- Flexibility
- Freedom

# The Veterans Administration Provides Several Community-Based Programs

- Home Health Aide – Homemaker Program
- Respite Program
- Contract Adult Day Health Care
- Home Telehealth
- Home Based Primary Care

# What Makes VD-HCBS an Attractive Alternative to Traditional VA Care Models?



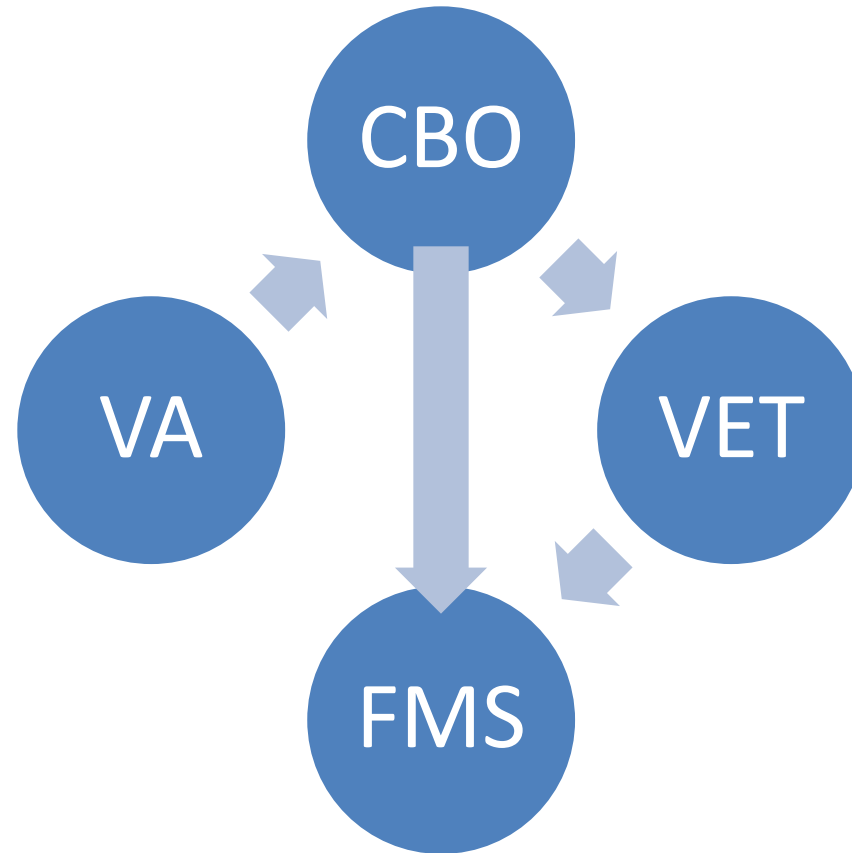
- Cost savings

- More efficient use of resources

- Consumer satisfaction



# VD-HCBS Partnership



# The VA-CBO Partnership

## VA Initiates Referral to Community-Based Organization(CBO):

- Referral from a VA Primary Care Social Worker to VD-HCBS Coordinator, who
  - Performs Case Mix Assessment to Determine Budget
  - Offers program to Veteran (Veteran must agree)
  - Refers to CBO:
    - Area Agency on Aging (AAA)
    - Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
    - State Unit Aging (SUA)

## CBO Contacts Veteran or Representative to Set Up Service:

- Explains VD-HCBS
- Conducts Client Needs Assessment
- Develops care/service plan
- **Trains Vet or Rep to be an Employer**
- Assists with recruiting and hiring for Veteran
  - Monthly phone calls
  - Quarterly home visits

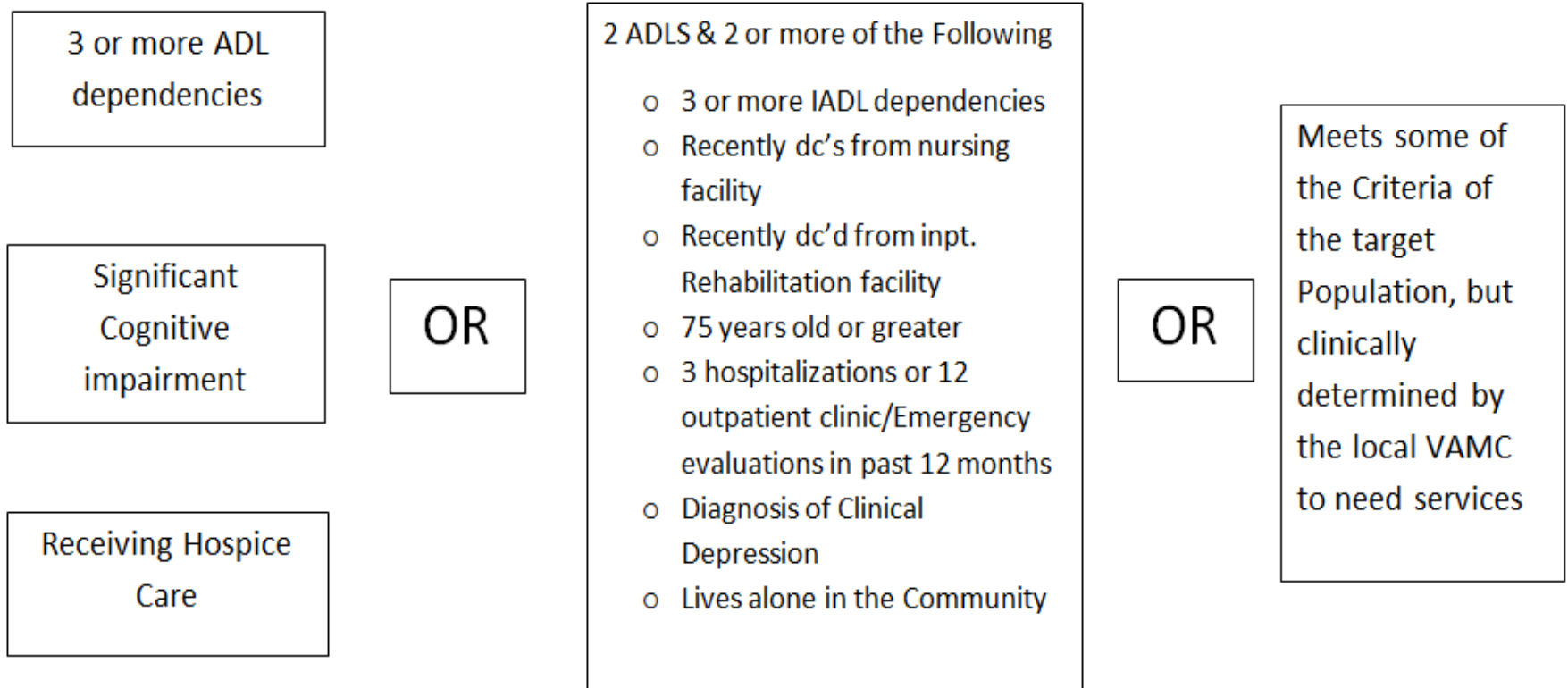


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# Basic Qualifications for VD-HCBS Program

Veteran qualifies for Program if 1 or more of the following conditions are met:



**\*\*All Veterans in VD-HCBS program must have a PCP through their local VA system**

Source: Julie Larsen LCSW, VD-HCBS Program Coordinator, SLC VAMC

# Once Consumer is Enrolled, VA and CBO have a Continuing Relationship

## CBO Roles and Responsibilities

- Veteran Advocate
- Inform VA Liaison of any status changes regarding Veteran
- Monthly case management meetings

## VA Roles and Responsibilities

- Administrative
- VA Liaison
- Oversight of Rainy Day Fund and Budget

# CBO's Role and Responsibilities

The CBO assigns a Care Coordinator who will:

- Assess the Veteran's needs
- Educate the Veteran about the program
- Help the Veteran create a Consumer-Directed Service Plan and Budget
- Provide information and referral to help the Veteran find the services and supports the Veteran needs, including employees
- Keep the local VA Medical Center informed about the Veteran's status



# CBO's Role and Responsibilities

- Contract with a Financial Management Service to set up the Veteran's account, through which the Veteran will
  - Submit bills for the purchase of services/supports
  - Assure employee(s) receive pay and benefits
- Monitor billing to be sure expenditures are within budget and to assure Employees are receiving their pay and benefits
- Help the Veteran evaluate how the VD-HCBS is working
- Help the Veteran learn how to be an effective employer
- Help the Veteran's employee(s)
  - Understand their role in relation to the Veteran
  - Complete the paperwork required by the VA and the state to be an employee of the VD-HCBS
- Help the employer and employee resolve problems



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# Veteran Roles and Responsibilities in VD-HCBS



# Veteran Roles & Responsibilities

The Veteran is responsible for

- Cooperating with the CBO Care Coordinator to plan and direct the Veteran's Service Plan and budget
- Functioning as the employer
  - Recruiting, hiring and firing employees
  - Planning employee work schedules, training and assignments
  - Keeping time sheets and other employee records
  - Submitting time sheets to Financial Management Service for employee payment
  - Performing annual evaluations
- Managing finances, to include
  - Submitting purchase requests to Financial Management Service
  - Managing a Rainy Day Fund



# What If a Veteran Is Unable to Manage an Employee?

- The Veteran's family or friends can help the Veteran as
  - Legally Authorized Representatives, who have Power of Attorney,
  - Court Appointed Guardians
  - A designated Representative to help with decisions or the management of the VD-HCBS program, or
  - An Employee of the Veteran
  - One person can't be both Representative/ Guardian and Provider

Veteran's Directed Home and Community Based Services

# CASE STUDIES



Veteran's Directed Home and Community Based Services

<http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/nrcpds/tools/videos.html#pstory>

## **VIDEO: CENTRAL TEXAS VD-HCBS**

**FEATURING THOMAS WILSON, LCSW, CENTRAL TEXAS AAA/ADRC**



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