



VA's Assistance and Support Services for Family Caregivers

VA Voluntary Service National Advisory Committee
65th Annual Meeting
April 28, 2011

Caregivers of Veterans



The Birmingham News

Comprehensive Caregiver Support Services



- Allow Veterans to remain at home in the community
- Address specific needs of family caregivers with a menu of programs and services
- Promote Veteran & caregiver health and well-being
- Provide one location to obtain needed information
- Provide training & information on common conditions
- Reduce isolation with professional & peer support
- Provide options to give caregivers respite
- Sensitize health care providers to the caregivers' role



Menu of Services

In-Home Care

- Skilled Nursing
- Home Health Aide
- Home Based Primary Care
- Veteran Directed Home & Community Based Care

Respite Care

Services to Address Mobility Issues

- Equipment
- Home Modification
- Automobile Modification

Education and Training

Financial Support

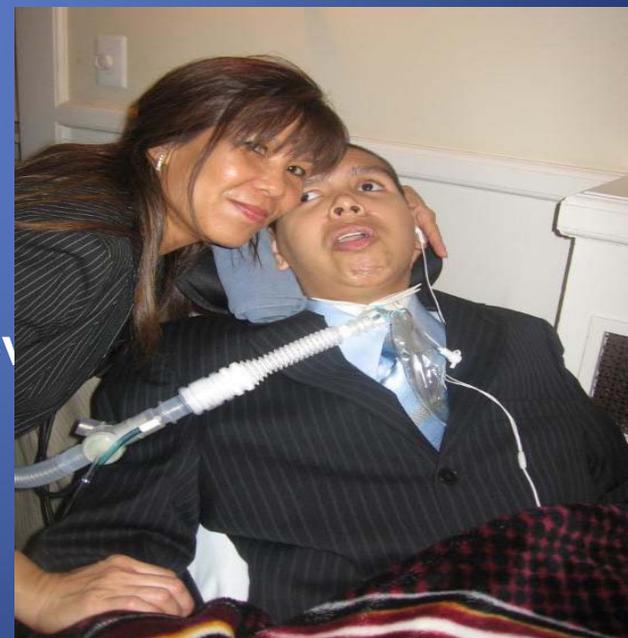
- Aid and Attendance
- Caregiver Stipend (Post 9-11)

Information and Referral

- Caregiver Web site: www.caregiver.va.gov
- Caregiver Support Line

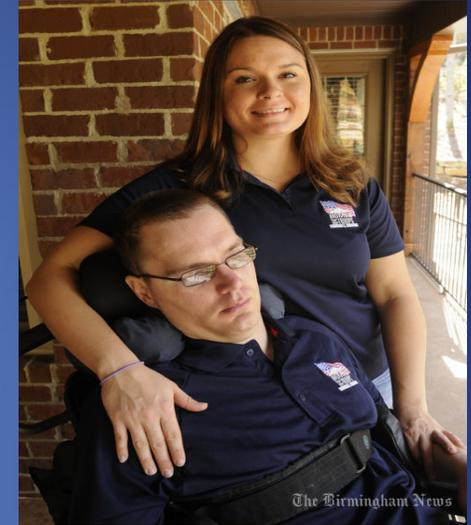
Caregiver Support

- Caregiver Support Coordinators
- Support Groups
- Interactive Web site
- Peer Mentoring Program



Caregiver Support Coordinators

- At all VA medical centers
- Clinical experts on caregiver issues including VA and non-VA resources
- Assist with application for new benefits
- Organize caregiver focused activities and services
- Ensure caregiver sensitivity is integrated into all programs



Eligibility for P.L. 111-163 Sections 101-104



P.L. 111-163 Section 101 Veteran Eligibility Criteria:

- Veteran who suffered a serious injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty on or after 9/11/01 including traumatic brain injury and psychological trauma or other mental disorder
and
- Is in need of personal care services because of
 - an inability to perform one or more activities of daily living;
 - a need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury; or
 - such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate
- General Caregiver benefits include all era Veterans

Eligibility Criteria

Administrative:

- Post 9-11/Line of Duty Injury

Clinical:

- Need clear clinical criteria consistently applied
- Based on functional limitations - need for assistance
- Focus on safety and need for supervision as well as assistance with personal care services



Current vs. New Caregiver Benefits

Current Benefits

Available to Veterans of All Eras

World War II
Korean
Vietnam
Gulf War

Post-9/11-----

- Education and Training
- Family Support Services
- In-Home Care
- 30 Days of Respite Care
- Aid and Attendance
- Additional Benefits

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Additional Benefits under P.L. 111-163

Available to subset of post-9/11 Veterans and Servicemembers

Primary Caregivers Receive:

- Stipend
- Health care (if not otherwise available)
- Mental health services
- Family Caregiver Benefits

Family Caregivers Receive:

- Travel, lodging and per diem for training
- Respite care during training
- Lodging and subsistence for Veteran's VA appointments
- Appropriate instruction and training
- Counseling



Application and Assessment

- Joint application for Veteran – family caregiver
- Options for application – on-line/in-person/phone
- Assessment of Veteran and proposed caregiver
- Eligibility transfers from one facility to another



Caregiver Education and Training

Standardized Core Curriculum

- In-person or web-based
- Convenient and easily accessible
- National contract for core training

Specific Training to individual Veteran needs

- In-home return demonstration
- Additional training to ensure success



On-going Support to Veteran and Caregiver

- In-Home initial visit by VA Clinicians
- Well-being checks every 90 days
- Home visits are supportive and instructive
- Evaluation of Veteran and caregiver's physical and emotional state
- Recommendations for additional training, support, equipment, etc

Primary Family Caregiver Benefits



Stipend

- Direct payment to primary family caregiver
- Centrally funded and managed
- Based on wages of a home health aide in the geographic area where the Veteran resides
- Tiered based on amount and degree of personal care services provided

Health Insurance

- CHAMPVA

Travel and Lodging

- Integrate into existing programs

Mental Health Services

- Individual/Group psychotherapy and counseling
- VA or by contract

Moving Forward

- Interim Final Regulations submitted February 28, 2011
- Caregiver Training Curriculum under development
- Business practices being established
- Outreach to notify stakeholders
- Begin taking applications – early summer 2011
- Program operational summer 2011



Development in Progress

Caregiver Support Line

- February 1, 2011

Caregiver Support Coordinators at each Medical Center

- April 1, 2011

Contract Awarded to *Easter Seals* for Caregiver Training

- April 5, 2011

Caregiver Website with Social Media Capabilities

- May 15, 2011

Additional Evidence-Based Support Programs

- Roll out over next 12 months

How Can You Help?

- Help educate: Servicemembers, Veterans, Caregivers
- Spread the word when VA starts taking applications
- Share the Caregiver Support Line Number
- Share the Web site Link
- Refer appropriate Veterans/caregivers
- Connect to the local caregiver support coordinator



Caring for a Veteran?

Call VA's Caregiver Support Line for help toll-free:

1-855-260-3274

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 11:00 pm ET
Saturday, 10:30 am - 6:00 pm ET

VA Caregiver Support PROGRAM

 Department of Veterans Affairs



Questions?

www.caregiver.va.gov



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