

# Orange County Veterans Behavioral Health

**Mental Health Services Act  
Informational and Planning Meeting**

**Monday, July 18, 2022**

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

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## Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95720185359>

Meeting ID: 957 2018 5359

Pass code: 402453

Call in numbers:

(669) 900-6833

(253) 215-8782



# Agenda



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## 01. Welcome

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## 02. Veterans Services

James Richardson

Veterans Outreach Program  
Specialist, North Orange  
County Vet Center

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## 03. Orange County Mental Health and Recovery Services

Christina Weckerly

Administrative Manager II,  
Health Care Agency

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## 04. Prompt Discussion

1. Biggest Behavioral Health needs for Veterans
2. Biggest challenge in accessing services for Veterans .

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## 05. Closing

Survey link

# Introduction

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Thank you all for joining us today!

The MHSa office is starting the Community Planning Process for the three-year plan for FY 2023/24 – 2025/26. This will be the first of a series of monthly community meetings with various MHSa related topics.

The format of the meetings will be informational presentations by subject matter experts followed by questions, discussion, and community input.



# Introduction

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Services for the Veteran population have been an area of increased interest in recent community meetings.

All community members are welcome to the meeting, but we especially want to hear from Veterans themselves, military connected individuals and family members.

If you are a consumer, family member, or general community member (non-provider), you are eligible for a \$20 gift card for your participation today. A survey link will be provided at the end of the meeting.



# North Orange County

Garden Grove



# Who we are?

- Vet Centers fall under the Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - Readjustment Counseling Services (RCS)
- Provides counseling services to active-duty service members and veterans.
  - Individual/group counseling
  - Family counseling
    - Couples counseling
- Bereavement Counseling

# We get it!



- Conveniently located in the community.



- Safe and confidential.



- Guided by professionals who get it.

# Who is eligible to receive services?

- Veterans and active service members who serve during the following will be eligible to receive services:
  - Combat operations/area of hostility
  - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) operations
  - Military Sexual Trauma (MST)
  - Mortuary services/Direct medical or mental health care for casualties of war



- Response to national emergency or major disaster declared by the president
- National Guard under orders of the Chief Executive of the State response to a disaster or civil disorder
- United States Coast Guard drug interdiction operations
- Reserve component behavioral health condition or psychological trauma

171

Current active case load

Over 19,600 veterans served

Since 1980

## Notable Trends

- Longer wait list/times
- Increase need
- Lack of outside resources available







# Thank you

And a lot of users

# MHRS Veterans Services Update

# **MHRS Veterans Programs**

OC4VETS



## OC4Vets

- OC4Vets are veteran-focused early intervention programs that support targeted subpopulations within the Orange County veteran community and military connected families
- The OC4Vets serve Orange County veterans and families who currently or previously served in the United States Armed Forces, regardless of the branch, component, era, location(s) or characterization of discharge from service
- Referrals are received from veteran service providers, community members, family members, and self





# Community Impact

- Through June 30, 2021, OC4Vets has provided services to:
  - more than 1,400 veterans, military connected adults, and military connected youth in the community since 2012
  - more than 340 veterans in college since its inception in October 2011
  - more than 1,206 individual family participants since July 2015
- OC4Vets has developed strong collaborations with agencies that serve Orange County's veteran population



# Services

- OC4Vets has five distinct service delivery options and referral paths that offer a wide range of services and supports for veterans, military-connected individuals and their families.
- The array of services are tailored to meet the needs of the individuals and/or the families and can include:
  - Peer support
  - Community outreach
  - Housing navigation and assistance
  - Employment support
  - Behavioral health screening and assessment
  - Referral and linkages to resources
  - Clinical case management
  - Individual counseling, family counseling, group counseling
  - Domestic violence support and legal support
  - Workshops and educational support groups



# Referral Paths

- **Referral Path 1:** Adult veterans who would benefit from working with trained clinicians with experience and knowledge of military culture
- **Referral Path 2:** Veterans and military connected adults who would benefit from partnering with peer navigators
- **Referral Path 3:** Veterans and military connected adults engaged with the Orange County Courts (i.e., Veterans Treatment, Military Diversion, Family), many of whom exhibit mental health symptoms related to trauma exposure



# Referral Paths Cont.

- **Referral Path 4:** Military connected students in local community colleges who would benefit from a military connected behavioral health clinician located on campus
- **Referral Path 5:** Military connected families who would benefit from working with trained clinicians and peer navigators with experience and knowledge of military culture



# Outcomes

- Participants completed the age-appropriate OQ at intake, every one to three months of program participation, and at discharge (YOQ<sup>®</sup> 30.2 for youth, OQ<sup>®</sup> 30.2 or OQ<sup>®</sup> 45.2 for adults).
- Scores were compared to the measure's clinical benchmarks to determine program effectiveness at reducing prolonged suffering.
- In FY 2018-19 programs began to administer the OQ<sup>®</sup> to participants enrolled in individual counseling.



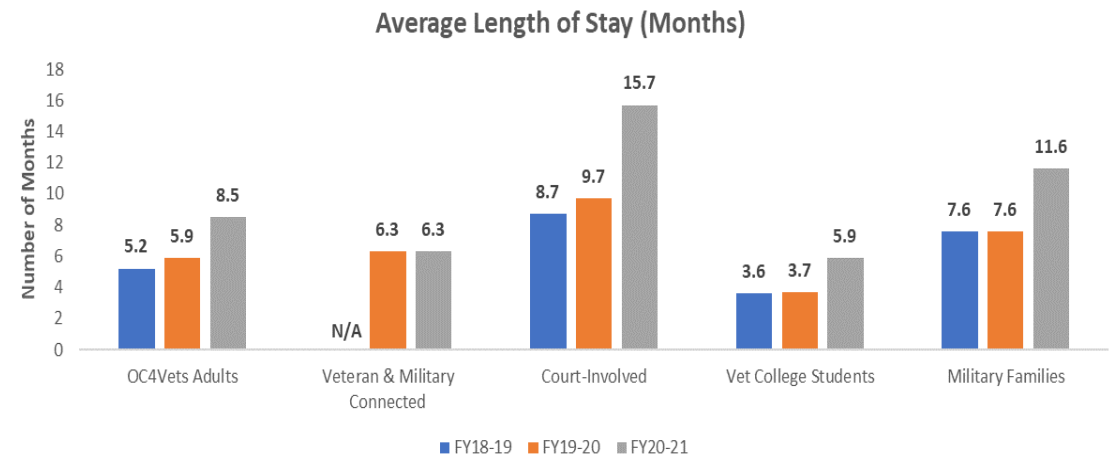
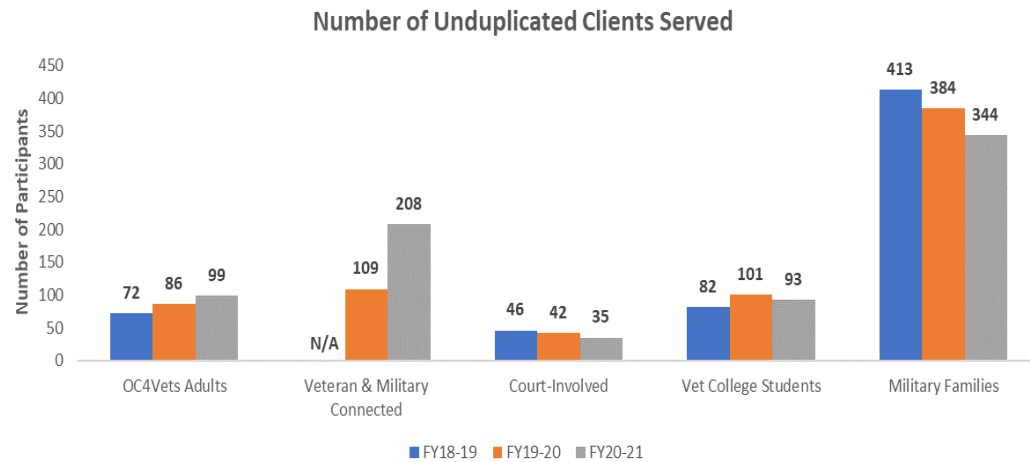
## Outcomes Cont.

- FY 20-21 OQ<sup>®</sup> results suggest that OC4Vets services help prevent some participant's symptoms from becoming severe and disabling, with the proportion of participants reporting a healthy or reliably improved level of distress at follow up.

	OQ Version	Reliably Worsened	Stable Distress Level	Reliably Improved	Non-Distressed
(1) OC4Vets Adults (n = 62)	OQ 30.2	13%	23%	19%	45%
(3) Court-Involved (n = 29)	OQ 30.2	0%	7%	3%	90%
(4) Vet College Students (n = 36)	OQ 45	0%	45%	8%	47%
(5) Military Families(n = 16)	OQ 30.2	0%	13%	12%	75%
(5) Military Families (n = 25)	YOQ 30.2 Youth Self Report	20%	16%	8%	56%
(5) Military Families (n = 20)	YOQ 30.2 Parent Report	5%	45%	0%	50%

# Outcomes Cont.

- Average Length of Stay (LOS) was calculated based on participant *enrollment* and *discharge* dates.
  - If a participant was still enrolled in services and carried over to the new FY, their LOS was calculated based off their *enrollment* date and the *last date in the fiscal year* (June 30).



**Most Common Linkages Made**

Recovery & Support Services      Outpatient Behavioral Health      Housing Assistance



# OC Veterans Resources

Build your healthiest self by connecting with health and support resources



Funded by:



## Links <sup>24/7</sup>

(855) 625-4657  
Mental health and wellness resources from the OC Health Care Agency

## Veterans Crisis Line

(800) 698-2411  
Crisis hotline to support Veterans and their families

### Benefits Assistance

**Veterans Service Office**  
(714) 480-6555  
Benefits claims counseling and referral assistance

### Employment Assistance

**Goodwill Tierney Center**  
(855) 998-3837  
**Working Wardrobes VetNet**  
(714) 480-6476

### Legal Assistance

**Veterans Legal Institute**  
(714) 852-3492  
Legal assistance for housing, health care, education, and employment

### Housing Assistance

**Community Resource & Referral Center**  
(844) 838-8300

Scan for more Veterans resources!



OCNavigator.org



# Veterans Outreach Event with Angels Baseball

- On May 21<sup>st</sup> (Armed Forces Day), OC HCA's OC4Vets presented the Josh Turner Post-Game Concert at Angel Stadium as part of a Veteran's Outreach event.
- Over 100 US Veterans and active service members received a pair of free tickets to the game, as well as on-field passes to view the post-game concert.
- OC Navigator Veterans Resources postcards, wristbands with a link to the OC Navigator online Veterans Resources Guide, and green ribbons to show support for Veteran mental health were handed out to thousands of fans in attendance.



# Future Programming

- The OC Health Care Agency (HCA), Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP) has released a Request for Proposals on April 22, 2022, for Mental Health and Well-Being Promotion Services that includes “priority populations” including veterans.
  - These communities have typically been underserved and disproportionately impacted by risk factors for mental illness and have been identified as a “priority population” in the County’s 2021/2022 Mental Health Services Act
- Services will promote:
  - Mental health and wellness
  - Stigma reduction
  - Raising awareness regarding preventing behavioral health conditions (recognizing signs and symptoms)
  - Increasing resilience and recovery by building on protective factors
  - Addressing the risk factors and providing peer support
- Services will be based on strategies that will have maximum impact on reaching the identified communities and emphasize active collaborations and integration of existing efforts among community and county agencies.

# Discussion Questions

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1. What do you identify as important Behavioral Health needs for Veterans/military connected individuals in Orange County?
2. What are some challenges you have identified in accessing Behavioral Health Services for Veterans/military connected individuals in Orange County?





# Thank you

Thank you to everyone who participated today! We sincerely appreciate you taking time out of your day to hear about and talk about Veterans needs in Orange County.

\*Consumers/Family Members/Community members (non-provider staff) may register for a \$20 gift card for their participation today.

**Mental Health Services Act Office**

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