We Honor Veterans

Hospice Veteran Partnership

**Accountability**

NHPCO

National Hospice Palliative Care organization

State Hospice Organization HVP

Hospice Veteran Partnership

WHV PARTNERS

VA, Community & Healthcare Partners

**Accessibility**

1. All HVP’s report to NHPCO. State HVP Organization is an equal partner with HVP program.
2. All WHV partners in your geographical area, regardless of Level.
3. Community Partners – organizations or individuals that serve the needs of veterans and their families.
4. Veterans Association – All VA organizations and individuals that have an interest in networking to help veterans and families.
5. New VCP program – VA mandated person to work with community partnerships
6. Belonging to WHV is optional for board members and partners. All Level 5 partners should be considered for board members. Not mandatory.
7. Board meetings should be in person as much as possible. Virtual when needed

**MISSION, VISION & REGULATIONs**

The Mission of the HVP Board should focus on:

* Providing Education to the community about Veteran Affairs
* Building relationships between anyone that shares the vision for helping veterans.
* Improving access to benefits, services and healthcare needs for military, veterans and their families.
* Create a learning experience, provide guidance for WHV partners in their journey for serving veterans across their territory.
* All HVP’s are under the direct leadership and guidance of NHPCO, and the regulations set forth for the We Honor Veterans program. Membership in NHPCO is not mandatory but highly recommended. WHV partners can elevate to Level 4 without membership to NHPCO. To achieve Level 5, organizations must be members of NHPCO.
* TXNMHO is an active partner and equal as a statewide HVP.

**HVP OPERATIONAL GUIDE**

* HVP functions as a non-profit but does not apply for 501C3 status.
* Recommended that HVP create and maintain a WEBSITE & FACEBOOK for exposure and community events sharing.
* HVP board should meet monthly to provide quality & constant leadership.
* Report activities to NHPCO for accountability and function purposes
* Board members should sign and agree to at least a one-year term but may serve longer.
* Board members vote new members onto the board (except Level 5- auto invite)
* Board Positions (optional)
  + Board Chair/Executive Director, President,
  + Vice Chair, Second Chair
  + Scribe/Secretary
  + Media Coordinator/Director
* HVP recommended activities:
  + Community meetings
  + Monthly Board meetings
  + Webinars for education and training
  + Workshops for WHV partners
  + Veteran Recognition events
  + Memorial Day
  + Veterans Day
  + Vietnam Veterans Day
  + Independence Day
  + And any other day you wish to celebrate
    - * (These are not mandatory, just recommendations.)

Creating an HVP/What next

Now that you know and understand what your goal is, the most important task is to get the board organized and started. You as the Director need to be creative and get others to join your vision for the organization. Become familiar with WHV program, responsibilities of an HVP and start meeting with a small group to get organized. Don’t create positions yet until you have a larger group to choose from to help you lead the board. Don’t talk about positions yet just focus on direction, organization and mission.

When you feel ready to have your first Organizational meeting with the public, create an invitation that will encourage them to belong to the HVP. Invite Community, Healthcare, and VA people to round out the membership and board. First meeting is to introduce the program to the attendees and let them know your mission. Next is to recruit people who may be interested in joining the board. (have a form ready for them to fill out) For others, being a partner to HVP is essential. Let them know that it will take a few months to get organized and start meeting as a group.

After the first meeting, determine a date for the next Board meeting with those that have shown interest in joining. Always try to announce next meeting at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance. This gives attendees time to plan and to mark their calendars. Creating and organizing the board is your primary goal. Once you have met 2 or 3 times begin to plan your first Community Meeting which will be open to the public. During this time, you should be focusing on creating a REFERRAL LIST. This list will be essential to the board in helping veterans and other organizations meet their needs. Always have Board Meetings and Community meetings on separate days.

Suggestion for Board meetings is to rotate meeting site (if possible). Meeting date/time should be as consistent as possible so that planning ahead is easier. As an example, we meet the first Monday of every month at 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM. We have lunch during our meeting and have a guest speaker and then a brief meeting to discuss WHV issues. However, to begin with you probably don’t want to have speakers till you are completely organized and well established. Our board members rotate hosting and providing lunch. The way you meet and when is completely up to the members decision. Remind everyone that this program is not meant to increase referrals or census. It is to serve the needs of all veterans and their families. When honoring or helping veterans, it is important to understand that ALL means not just those who are your patients, but ALL veterans. Above all it needs to be fun and exciting for all.