



“We Are Virginia Veterans”

***Virginia Wounded Warrior Program
Virginia Department of Veterans
Services***





Virginia Department of Veterans Services

Benefits: Personalized assistance with filing federal and state veterans claims

Education and Training: Certifies educational institutions re: GI Bill funding and eligibility requirements. Manages Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education and the Veterans Honorary Degree Programs

Long-Term Care: Two veterans care centers

Burial: Three veterans cemeteries

Virginia Wounded Warrior Program: Legislatively mandated program that monitors and coordinates mental health and rehabilitative services support for Virginia veterans and their families not in active federal service.





EARLY NEEDS IDENTIFICATION IN 2007

- Recognize the impact of deployment on military service personnel and their families
- Eliminate stigma associated with combat/operational stress injuries
- Reach and connect with veterans and their families
- Build a service delivery infrastructure
- Make healthcare accessible
- House veterans; prevent homelessness
- Hire veterans

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COMMONWEALTH'S RESPONSE

- **Legislation passed in July 2008 establishing funded Program**
- **Fit gap analysis conducted; 5 collaborative models**
- **Funding into Community by April 2009**
- **Regional Consortia staffed and fully operational by late 2009**
- **Interagency agreement between State Departments, VA, NG and Reserves**
- **Statewide needs assessment reinforced program focus**
- **Federal and State grants obtained**
- **Statewide conferences and Regional trainings ongoing**
- **Executive Order 29**

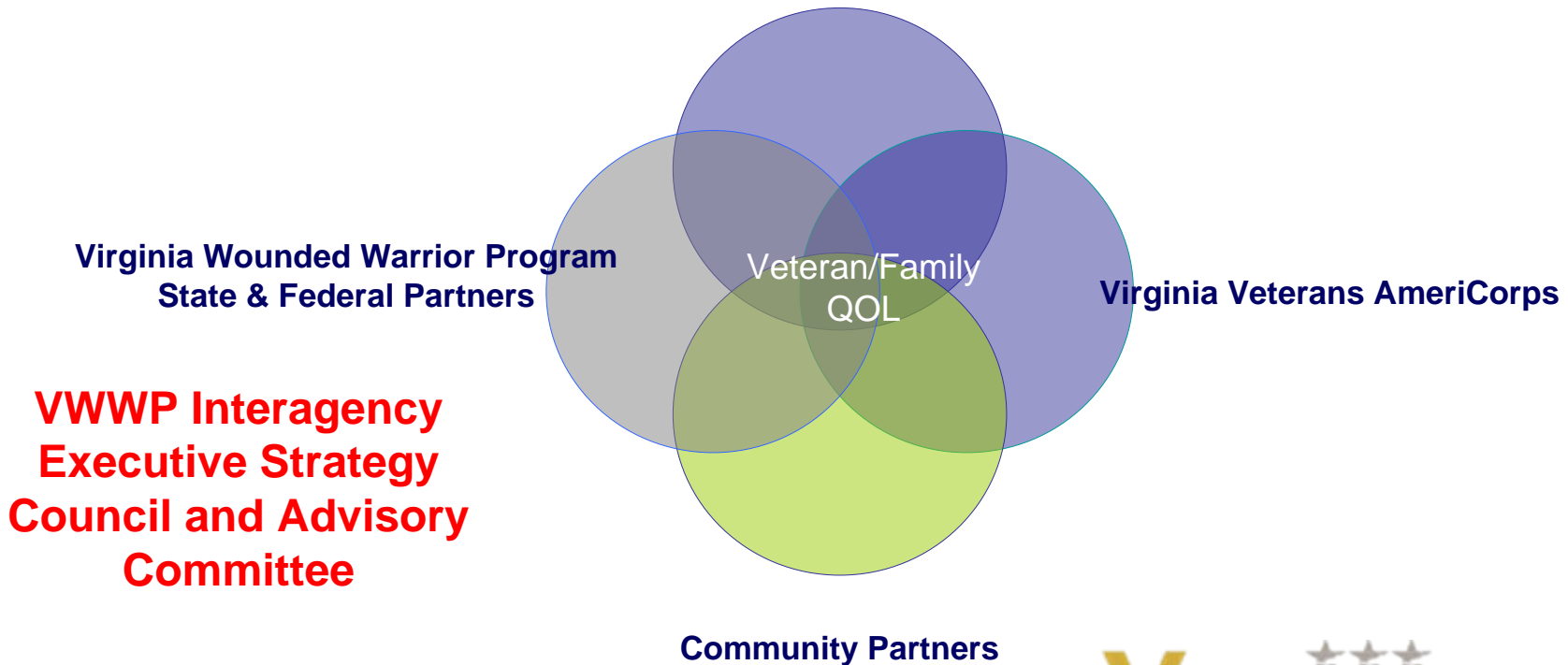
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INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIONS A SYSTEMS APPROACH

Ensure adequate and timely assessment, treatment, and support are available to veterans, members of the Guard and Reserves, and affected family members....for stress-related injuries and traumatic brain injuries resulting from military service. §2.2-2001.1 Code of Va. (as amended 2010)

Virginia Department of Veterans Services



**VWWP Interagency
Executive Strategy
Council and Advisory
Committee**





PROGRESS & THE WAY AHEAD

- Collaborative approach has been working
- New and emerging partnerships have been embraced and continue to expand
- Grant acquisition successful in partnerships
- Continued need to navigate complex federal systems that support our veterans
- Service and benefits are only good if they are accessible and understood
- Dedicated effort to reach silent majority that are not connected to services
- The Commonwealth is privileged to have committed leaders that support our service members, veterans and families

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ONGOING REALITY

Our service members, veterans and families will continue to need support.



“No Wrong Door”



www.WeAreVirginiaVeterans.org



**Our community,
our strength!**