



# Veteran Directed Care Program Newsletter

Friday, November 11, 2022

## Veterans Day Spotlight

To honor this Veteran's Day, we connected with two Veterans and their caregivers to hear their firsthand experiences with the VDC program at Mat-Su Aging and Disability Resource Center in Alaska. Mat-Su Aging and Disability Resource Center serves Veterans from the Alaska VA Health Care System, and as the Veterans shared, the staff provide excellent care as some of the ***"kindest, sweetest people in the world."***

We spoke to close friends Dean and Duane, who were joined on the call by their respective wives/caregivers, and Jorilyn. Connected through their church, Dean and Duane quickly became close friends after learning of their shared experience serving in the Vietnam War. When Duane's health started to decline, Dean, who had been enrolled in the VDC program for some time, recommended that he ask about enrolling in VDC. In describing their experiences, Dean, Duane, and their wives emphasized the ability to choose their own caregiver as a critical benefit of the program. As Dean and Duane both employ their wives as their caregivers, Dean put this choice into clear perspective when he said, ***"she knows me best."*** According to him, this has optimized his ability to live comfortably and get the care he needs in a loving environment. From assisting him with activities of daily living to – as he put it – making sure he tells his primary care doctor the truth at all of his visits, Wilma has been an optimal caregiver in their case.

Duane and Jorilyn expressed similar gratitude, with Jorilyn noting that there can be ***"a gap between the caregiver and the employer you have if you don't have a connection."*** In the end, Dean, Duane, Wilma, and Jorilyn all expressed gratitude for VDC as a program that brought their families the care they need and brought them closer together as friends. Duane said it best when he said VDC was ***"like the country saying, 'we love you and we care.'"***

## Veterans Health Administration Email Updates

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) distributes regular email updates to subscribers. Sample topics of past email updates include the eCams Provider Portal training, Veteran Care Agreement (VCA) credentialing, expansion of VHA programs (including VDC). [Click here](#) to sign up for updates. Don't miss out on important information from the VHA!

## VDC Educational Webinars

Please note that the VDC Educational Webinar schedule has shifted from quarterly to biannual. The next VDC Educational Webinar will occur in early 2023, date to be determined. In the meantime, we encourage you to submit questions or proposed topics that you would like to be addressed using the [VDC Provider Suggestion Box](#).

## VDC Monthly Reporting Tool Reminder

This is a friendly reminder to please report Veteran census for your VDC program on a monthly basis using the [VDC Monthly Reporting Tool](#). The VDC Monthly Reporting Tool is a portal for VDC providers to enter their Veteran census data, ensuring an opportunity to accurately account for availability and growth of the program. If you have already reported Veteran census for your VDC program using the VDC Monthly Reporting Tool for **October 2022** and/or previous months, we would like to thank you for submitting your program's data. We look forward each month to continued program growth!

## Technical Assistance

Have a question? Need guidance? Want to share good news about your VDC program? Reach out to the VDC Federal Technical Assistance Team at [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov). We look forward to hearing from you!

## VDC Email Distribution List

If you or other VDC program staff are not already on the VDC email distribution list, please email [veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:veterandirected@acl.hhs.gov) to make sure you don't miss out on important news!