**Status of the provision of Moral Reconation Therapy in VA**

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There has been an integration of Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) within VA during the recent years. Particularly relevant to the focus of the Network, there has been discussion of a model for the coordinated use of MRT across the continuum in communities (e.g. beginning while in jail and then continuing in the community/VA if treatment is not completed during one's jail time). Discussion has included identification of a small number of communities to serve as sites to test the implementation and impact of this model.

Of the 150 VA medical centers, over time 30 had arranged for the training of staff in MRT and as of June, 2016 fifteen of those had initiated and were continuing to conduct MRT groups in VA settings. At that time VA funds were identified for the purpose of training Veterans Justice Programs and other mental health staff at additional VA facilities in MRT, with an expectation that those medical centers then initiate (and sustain on an ongoing basis) MRT groups using the Veteran-specific workbook "Winning the Invisible War," to begin by November, 2016. That allowed for the training of two-person teams at an additional 65 medical centers. As of August, 2016 there are staff trained at nearly two-thirds (95) of those 150 VAs.  
  
Many of those sites with newly trained staff have initiated groups, though not all. Consultation is being initiated with those VAs who have not to identify strategies to address their local VA barriers to implementation. One barrier common to sites is identifying the funds for purchase of the needed workbooks for each Veteran. Though not a large expense, it does need to be accounted for on an ongoing basis in their annual budgets in addition to the costs of the initial purchase of books for group start up. This is based on the MRT model, by which it is critical that each Veteran have and be able to keep a workbook - it is essential to the treatment.

Concurrent with the above was the acceptance for funding of a centrally related project now being conducted by a dyad of VA researchers (primary investigator is at VA Palo Alto and his co-investigator is at VA Bedford). The project is funded by VA research $ and provides for a longitudinal testing of outcomes (as well as a look at associated process level implementation factors) with Veterans housed in VA Domiciliaries (Palo Alto, Bedford, and Little Rock) who are receiving MRT. The project is in its second of three years. This will ultimately allow (if positive findings) for the consideration of MRT utilizing the Veteran-tailored workbook as a sanctioned evidence-based treatment for recidivism risk within VA (and of course as well with potential generalizability to Veterans being treated in other VA, community, and corrections settings).