**OUTLINE OF PROTOCOL FOR SECURING RE-ENTRY SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR NON VA ELIGIBLE VETERANS LEAVING THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM –PROPOSED PILOT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS - SEPTEMBER 2016**

1. The VA will receive the list of incarcerated Veterans from the DOC verified through VRSS. The VA will then confirm eligibility and inform the DOC as to which Veterans are VA-eligible and which are not. DOC will then provide DVS with a list of those veterans who are ineligible for VA care. This pilot will focus initially on Department of Correction facilities.

2. DOC will forward the list to DVS with a contact list of re-entry liaisons for each facility. DVS staff will review the list and notify SSVF providers and local VSO’s of pending discharge or parole. The notification in the SSVF providers will include the list of veterans in the catchment area of the SSVF provider along with the contact information of the DOC re-entry liaison.

3. The veteran will be notified via mail or telephone by the SSVF provider of housing and benefits options which may be available to the veteran upon discharge. The veteran will be invited to call or will be contacted by the SSVF provider while incarcerated and if invited, will meet the veteran in person whenever feasible to better understand the needs of the veteran upon discharge – emergency housing, cash benefits, transportation, employment , treatment and services.

4. The SSVF provider and DVS will convene a roundtable of providers in each region surrounding the correctional facility and will include DTA, DMH, VSO’s, DOC, DPH, parole, probation, other veterans services and SSVF providers and DHCD mainstream housing providers – specifically the Housing Consumer Education Centers who can support a housing search plan for the veteran in the community. Each veteran who seeks support from this program will be reviewed and a discharge plan will be developed for the veterans review.

6. SSVF provider consults with DMH, DTA, DPH and others to begin application process and submit enrollment for benefits to which the veteran is entitled as soon as feasible and requested by the veterans. DOC will facilitate face to face meetings with SSVF providers and veteran while incarcerated to support application process.

7. SSVF provider will consult with veteran regarding discharge plan and get input and approval for the plan. SSVF provider will also be responsible for arranging transportation to permanent or interim housing as guided by the plan.

7. Prior to implementation, DVS will host trainings for SSVF providers and VSO’s to regarding mainstream services and benefits available to the non-VA eligible veterans. The training will include DTA, DMH, MRC, DPH, DHCD and will be mandatory for participation in the program. Local contact lists of agency leads from each EOHHS agency will be provided. EOHHS agencies will alert local offices of the re-entry program and ensure full participation with the expectation that each local office will identify a veteran’s liaison.

8. Key to proposal is the hand off to a committed provider in the area to which the veteran is connected and assisting them with the navigation of the systems to access benefits. Application for EAEDC and SSI are complex and need the support of a peer or other provider of veterans’ services. The SSVF provider is well positioned to play this role as navigator of the complex systems.