FOR YOUR INFORMATION

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REFERRING INDIVIDUALS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS (MVA)

The purpose of this FYI is to inform staff of the availability of services available to qualifying individuals through the Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA). Over 230,000 veterans live in Los Angeles County and the MVA can provide veterans (regardless of discharge status), service members, and their families with seamless access to the benefits and support they deserve.

The MVA'S Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN), which is the first-ever community-driven support network serving veterans and their families in the U.S., connects county departments, non-profits, the VA and L.A. City Programs. Resources available include:

- **Mental Health** – Treatment for trauma from combat exposure, military sexual trauma, relationship and intimacy issues
- **Substance Misuse Support** – Treatment for substance use disorders, including misuse of alcohol, prescription medication and other drugs
- **Housing** – Help locating temporary and permanent housing for veterans and their families
- **Workforce Development and Employment** – Help with developing interview skills, resume creation, job coaching, plus volunteer and job opportunities
- **Healthcare** – Enrollment into VA healthcare, transportation to appointments, ensuring access to prescription medications
- **Education** – Support with school enrollment, vocational training, tuition assistance
- **Miscellaneous** – Food, childcare, transportation, financial assistance and more
- **Legal Services** – Help with eviction prevention, discharge upgrade, applying for VA benefits, etc.
- **Social Connection/Recreation** – Opportunities to connect with other veterans in a variety of settings

DCFS seeks to provide families with supportive services available to them within the community. With that goal in mind, staff at the Hotline, ER CSWs, DI CSWS, and CS CSWs are encouraged to inquire with parents if they have performed duties for the military for any amount of time (DO NOT ask if they are veterans, as not all military members consider themselves Veterans). If a parent indicates that they have performed duties for the military, those individuals can be encouraged to **contact the MVA Intake Team at (877) 452-8387**.

To learn more about the services provided by MVA, see the links provided below:
MVA website
Find your nearest MVA office
MVA frequently asked questions