

Date: 9/26/2018 12:27pm CDT

Subject: GrahamVets healthcare needs

msg ID: rt6d. - Another point to this Programs function....

In the course of these past 2-years that our vets have lived in the same house, we have had 10-vets get into serious trouble. We've had to enact internal suspensions for behavior harmful to the group. While our group has 85 members, when 25 are getting into trouble or threatening people, it takes a toll on everyone else trying to deal with the negative behavior. What I have noticed is that half that number (50%) are due to severe mental illnesses beyond our ability to help. When we, or the person, try to get mental help it is inadequate and eventually punishment ensues. Many of these illnesses are PTSD, TBI, Trauma, Bipolar or schizophrenia.

The intentional restrictions placed upon us that prevent the VA from providing treatment they specialize in has hurt many vets in prison.

Since our turn over rate is 50% every year that means we'll see 40-50 new vets in 2019. 10 of those will have severe mental illness that we will be forced to deal with, but not able to get real help for them.

Another reason a full time staff member would help the success of this program is to facilitate getting vets mental health appointments before it's too late and they wind up in trouble, or hurting someone.

Until next time...David