

DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS

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Sacramento, CA 95811-7243



Mr. John Spangler, Chief Consultant
Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs
Legislative Office Building
1020 N Street, Suite 389
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Spangler:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information on how the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) assists incarcerated veterans with obtaining services. Veterans have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation. It is the goal of CDCR to ensure incarcerated veterans are informed of the programs, services, and benefits available to them.

On October 30, 2013, a memorandum (attached) was sent to institutions regarding a current agreement CDCR has with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). This agreement provides Re-Entry Specialists from the USDVA to enter all institutions to assist incarcerated veterans in obtaining healthcare services prior to their release. This agreement is helpful with providing assistance to our incarcerated veteran population.

CDCR is currently working with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CAL-VET) in an attempt to enhance the assistance we are providing incarcerated veteran population. Many institutions are already connecting incarcerated veterans with guidance and support to obtain benefits.

The USDVA and CAL-VET websites www.va.gov and www.calvet.ca.gov are a recognized resource utilized by librarians to provide valuable information such as forms and information relative to obtaining veteran's services and benefits. Departmental librarians offer assistance in completing veteran forms.

The USDVA has created a [Guidebook for California Incarcerated Veterans](#) (July 2013) to assist inmates in obtaining veterans services and benefits. These guidebooks are currently being delivered to all institutions for placement into the inmate libraries as reference material. CDCR staff is encouraged to review both the websites and guidebooks as they may be approached by an incarcerated veteran seeking guidance in obtaining veterans assistance.

It is expected institutions within CDCR reach out to their local County Veteran's Service Offices and Veteran's Organizations to seek guidance in assisting the incarcerated veteran population. In February of this year, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) developed a video to assist the inmate population in becoming aware of their outreach and reentry efforts for incarcerated veterans (see attached memorandum dated February 27, 2013.) In addition, it is recommended institutions utilize their television specialists to broadcast any important

information regarding veterans' programs or services to the inmate population.

CDCR has instructed institutions to establish various services for incarcerated veterans. Each Community Resource Manager has been directed to maintain a Self-Help group to allow veterans to meet on a regular basis and discuss issues while assisting each other with common issues.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the information provided, please contact Thomas Tyler, Captain, Division of Adult Institutions, (916) 324-7956.

KATHLEEN ALLISON
Deputy Director
Special Projects Liaison
Division of Adult Institutions

Attachments

cc: Kristopher Applegate, Chief, Legislative Affairs