

Assisted Living for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury at Bancroft

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and Bancroft have paired together to offer a federally funded pilot program for Veterans with traumatic brain injury called Assisted Living for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Currently, 6 Veterans are in the pilot program and 21 organizations nationwide are participating in this initiative. The Bancroft Program provides a variety of rehabilitation services that are customized to meet each Veteran's unique challenges. These services include occupational and speech therapies, physical therapy, and psychological counseling and residential assistance. The clinical experts at Bancroft have created a treatment philosophy that reflect the most current best practices in TBI rehabilitation. Bancroft's team of clinicians and staff members developed customized treatment plans to help Veterans and others diagnosed with TBI. These customized treatment plans help Veterans and others to relearn how to function at home and in their community, regain work-related skills, cope with day-to-day and long-term psychological challenges, and regain daily functioning skills. Eligible Veterans include individuals that have either service-connected brain injuries or injuries that occurred later in civilian life. Veterans that have received services from Bancroft have reported having made tremendous progress in a very short period of time. Also, they reported feeling healthier and being more physically and socially active. The VA program contract for Bancroft has been extended for four years through 2015. *Citation: Comegno, C. (2012). Bancroft program aids vets' recovery. Courier-Post. Retrieved from <http://www.courierpostonline.com/article/20120819/NEWS01/308190018/Bancroft-program-aids-vets-recovery>* ◆

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Did You Know?

- Traumatic Brain Injury is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head or a penetrating head injury that disrupts the normal function of the brain.
- Each year, an estimated 1.7 million people sustain a Traumatic Brain Injury.
- Traumatic Brain Injury is the leading cause of death and disability in children and adults from ages 1 to 44.
- Every year, approximately 52,000 deaths occur from traumatic brain injury.
- The unemployment rate for Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq is 10.3%.
- For Veterans age 24 and under, the unemployment rate is 29.1%, or 12 points higher than for civilians the same age. ◆



Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) is a new training and education program for unemployed Veterans to upgrade their skills for in-demand jobs. The VA has approved more than 36,000 applications for VRAP and expects to fill all 45,000 available slots for the fiscal year 2012 phase of the program before the September 30, 2012 deadline. They will continue to process new applications for fiscal year 2013, which has 54,000 slots available. VRAP is a provision of the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011; this act allows qualifying Veterans to received up to 12 months of education assistance. VRAP's goal is to train 99,000 Veterans over the next two years in more than 200 jobs skills that the Department of Labor has determined are the most favorable by employers. Veterans eligible for VRAP include: individuals who are 35-60 years old, unemployed on the day of application, not dishonorably discharged, not eligible for any other VA education benefit program, not enrolled in a federal or state job training program, and not in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability. Approved applicants for the 2013 phase should enroll into a full-time VA approved program and start training by April 2013 in order to take full advantage of VRAP before its termination in March 31, 2014. To learn more about VRAP and apply for this program, please visit www.benefits.va.gov/VOW or call VA toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. ◆

