

TABATHA DAHN

Goes to work every day with one mission: **Assist Veterans in need.**

Through her volunteer work with a local non-profit Veterans organization, Tabatha Dahn recognized the need for more wrap-around services for our state's Veterans. She witnessed the need to get to the root cause of homelessness, the need to focus on mental health, and the need for more advocates.



“As an American citizen, I feel I have a duty to advocate for our nation's Veterans.”

Tabatha Dahn

This is where her journey into case management and supportive services for Wisconsin Veterans and their families began. As a volunteer, she worked side-by-side with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) team and discovered she was ready to make a transition in her career – she became a VORP coordinator herself.

Dahn is the Region 1 WDVA VORP coordinator. Coordinators

like Dahn work throughout the state to connect Veterans to community services and provide case management and support, with a special focus on treatment and recovery. She has an office in Prairie du Chien, but rarely sees it as she spends most of her days working directly with Veterans throughout her region, which includes Sauk, Richland, Vernon, Crawford, Grant, Iowa and Lafayette counties.

Veterans involved in VORP can receive crisis services and on-the-

street case management to get treatment for mental health and/or substance use care, including assistance in paying for private treatment. VORP coordinators like Dahn work closely with County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO), Veteran Service Organizations, local government agencies, community nonprofits, and other organizations to help the Veterans in their region access individualized wrap-around services such as housing, food, clothing, furniture,

education, and employment.

Amid a global pandemic, Dahn found herself working with an elderly Veteran who had recently become a victim of domestic violence. This situation left the Veteran homeless in a time when every resource available had closed their doors and transitioned to telecommuting. Dahn connected with the Veteran and worked together with her local CVSO office, as well as other service providers, via email and telephone, to get this Veteran off the street and into a hotel until suitable housing could be established. The Veteran is currently housed with assistance and continues to use the services provided by Dahn through the VORP program.

WDVA's VORP began as a pilot program in 49 counties in 2014 and has since expanded to all 72 counties in Wisconsin. Since the program's inception, coordinators have helped hundreds of Veterans obtain mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, and other supportive services.

If you know of a Veteran in need, you can reach Tabatha Dahn at 608-306-0390.

Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program

The Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) connects Veterans to community services, provides case management and support, with a special focus on treatment and recovery.

VORP staff work with community partners and professionals to provide assistance and connection to:

- Mental Health Services
- Substance Use Treatment
- Financial Assistance
- Housing and Utilities
- Claims and Benefits Assistance
- Employment and Education
- And many other services

“You put yourself out there every day for us Veterans and we are blessed to have people such as yourself during this troubling time. I am forever grateful for the work you did to get me into a place of my own.”

U.S. Army Veteran