

KEN CORRY

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

An Air Force combat Veteran who served in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, Corry not only has a service mentality, but his service helps him bond with and gain the trust of those Veterans who need mental health or substance use services.



“Helping out our Veterans who have served and are now having a hard time in the community with life issues is my goal along with all of the other VORP staff.”

Ken Corry

Corry works as the Region 6 coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program. Coordinators like Corry work throughout the state to connect Veterans to community services and provide case management and support with a special focus on treatment and recovery. He has an office in Green Bay, but he's rarely able to spend time in it, as he spends his day working directly with Veterans throughout his region — Brown, Shawano, Kewaunee, Door,

Oconto, and Marinette counties.

“Helping out our Veterans who have served and are now having a hard time in the community with life issues is my goal along with all of the other VORP staff,” Corry said.

Through the WDVA's VORP, Veterans can receive crisis services in addition to on-the-street case management in order to get them treatment for mental health and/or substance use care, including paying for private treatment.

During one recent interaction, Corry received a call from a Veteran who said he'd taken “all of his medication” along with “drinking a liter of vodka.” Corry contacted emergency services, who stabilized him. Afterward, he got ahold of the VA Medical Center in Milwaukee and entered the Veteran into its treatment program for depression, anxiety and PTSD.

Corry personally drove the Veteran down to Milwaukee, a place where the Veteran has been since March.

He's graduated from multiple programs, obtained employment and recently moved into his own home in Waukesha.

"Ken is a huge reason I'm alive today and made it to where I'm at," the Veteran said.

Collaboration is a big part of Corry's job, and he works closely with County Veterans Service Officers, Veteran service organizations, local government agencies, community nonprofits and others so that Veterans may also receive individualized wrap-around services such as housing, food, clothing, furniture, education, and employment.

"Ken has been an incredible asset to the Green Bay HUD VASH (the US Housing and Urban Development's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) program," Licensed Clinical Social Worker Neko Elizondo said. "He's always available to assist with Veterans in need and welcomes the referrals. He's professional and courteous in his interactions and his sincerity is evident in all that he does with the Veterans we serve. He truly makes my job a lot easier when he is working with one of my Veterans."

The WDVA's Veterans Outreach and Recovery Program started out as a pilot program in 49 counties in 2014 and recently expanded to all 72 counties in Wisconsin. Since the program's inception, coordinators have helped about 500 Veterans obtain mental health services, substance and alcohol treatment and other supportive services.

If you know of a Veteran in need, contact Corry at 920-246-7277.

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

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

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Neko Elizondo
Licensed Clinical Social Worker