

Complex Case Study

BACKGROUND

36yo Caucasian transgender female Navy veteran endorsing Military Sexual Trauma reports to VA clinic seeking homeless outreach services. The client is currently homeless, unemployed and pre-transition. The client desires immediate assistance with housing. The client does not have a Substance Use Disorder or co-occurring mental health diagnosis. Two contractual housing options: temporary all-male shelter with 90-day maximum stay and co-ed transitional housing with a maximum 24-month stay. There is no vacancy at a transitional housing program for two months. Another VA Healthcare System within the region offers a transitional housing program that houses transgender clients and has vacancies, but it is a substance abuse rehabilitation program.

CRITICAL ASPECT

Physical and Emotional Safety

- No private room
- Shared bathroom
- Staff lack transgender competency
- Female presentation desired
- Initiation of cross-sex hormone treatment desired

STATISTICS

- 28 deaths of transgender people in the United States due to fatal violence in 2017.¹
- 2018 has already seen at least 17 transgender people fatally shot or killed.²
- One in five transgender people in the U.S has been discriminated against when seeking a home.³
- More than one in four transgender people have lost a job due to bias, and more than three-fourths have experienced some form of workplace discrimination.⁴
- One in two transgender individuals are sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives.⁵
- It's estimated that over 134,000 American veterans are transgender.⁶
- 10% of men in the U.S. have suffered from trauma as a result of sexual assault.⁷

DISCUSSION

1. What would be the best option for housing?
2. What other critical issues need to be addressed?

¹ <https://www.hrc.org/resources/violence-against-the-transgender-community-in-2017>

² <https://www.hrc.org/resources/violence-against-the-transgender-community-in-2018>

³ <https://transequality.org/issues/housing-homelessness>

⁴ <https://transequality.org/issues/employment>

⁵ https://www.ovc.gov/pubs/forged/sexual_numbers.html

⁶ <https://transequality.org/issues/military-veterans>

⁷ <https://www.ptsd.va.gov/public/types/violence/men-sexual-trauma.asp>