

1.) Introduce yourself

- "I am here to represent homeless veterans and I would like to share with you a little of my story..."

2.) Pandemic/Unsheltered

-When the pandemic hit a lot of the businesses and other resources shut down and I found myself unable have my needs met. Living with COPD I was very afraid that I would catch COVID and be hospitalized or worse.

-I called an 800 number for medical needs because I did not have an inhaler and they connected me to the VA.

- "When I made the call, the VA answered and was able to connect me with a case worker."

3.) Introduction to HUD VASH

-My VA case worker was able to connect me to:

- 1) Social Security
- 2) SNAP/EBT
- 3) HUD VASH
- 4) Health Care...physical and mental health.

-My VA case worker helped me to apply for housing and to find an apartment in Springfield, VT.

4.) Since Being Housed

-This was my first apartment in 10 years. I really enjoyed being outside and living in nature, but my health and my age prevents me from living that lifestyle.

-In April of 2021 I moved into my new apartment.

-Since then, I have lived in my apartment for 2 1/2 years. I take a lot of pride in how I maintain my home and I continue to pay my rent on time. And I have built up my credit score and continue to maintain that.

-I just wanted everyone to know how much I appreciate what everyone has done for me and that any money spent on me has been money well spent.

-"Similar to buying a fire extinguisher in case of an emergency, I have allocated some of my resources to preparing for the worst case scenario, of this beautiful dream that I'm live disappearing. I've used some of my money to prepare for that. This is why it is so important that our government continues to provide assistance and funding to the HUD VASH program and other programs like that."

"Thank you very much for your time and the opportunity to share with you my story."