

Intro

- Introduce yourself, title and role.
- Express that you are pleased to share about LSS and...whatever they are calling your testimony.
- “I would like to start by telling you about Rocky.”

Story of Hope

Rocky arrived at one of our residences feeling powerless over an addiction to drugs and alcohol and without a place to live. With the help of LSS counselors and peer specialists, he found sobriety, secured Veteran’s Administration disability, saved a substantial amount of money, and found independent housing.

Unfortunately, recovery is rarely a linear journey, and Rocky’s is no exception. Statistics show that more than 85% of individuals will relapse within a year after treatment¹.

After several months, Rocky once again found himself dependent on drugs and alcohol, in significant debt and staring at a five-day housing eviction notice. He was in a dark place, but LSS was there to provide Rocky with a safe and secure residence and reintroduce the tools and resources he needed without judgment or stigma.

Rocky embraced his program. He attended all group meetings and counseling sessions, connected with 12-step programs in the community, became “Safe Serve Certified” to help in the kitchen, and served as a mentor to other Veterans in the program. With renewed hope and strength, Rocky “graduated” from LSS Veteran’s Homeless Services in May. He is looking forward to living independently and committed to maintaining his sobriety.

¹NIDA. “Treatment and Recovery.” *National Institute on Drug Abuse*, 9 Mar. 2023

Overview of LSS Homeless Services for Veterans/Program Data Analysis and Outcomes

- LSS provides the tools, resources, and therapies necessary for Veterans like Rocky to find success.
 - Tools including...
 - Resources for...
 - Therapies that are trauma informed/trauma responsive – addressing issues our Veterans’ experience (PTSD, etc.)
- What we found, however, is that by incorporating data collection/analysis related to individual success in the program has significantly improved outcomes for our Veteran clients.
- Mention what data you are collecting and how you have seen improvements (e.g., comparing the 85% relapse statistic to actual LSS Veterans Services clients that stay with our program for that “sweet spot” amount of time)

Close/Call to Action

- Thank the panel
- Affirm that data collection/analysis is not mutually exclusive from our services or the work that Veterans do to find recovery. It is an essential piece of our program.
- **The need for WI/across the US and how legislators can make a difference.**

- Bring it back to Rocky – and all Veterans like him – that deserve to receive services from providers like LSS that are invest time/resources into improving their individual outcomes through data.

FYI – I have included a quote from Rocky about LSS Homeless Services for Veterans. It is too long for your story of hope. If you find an “in” then take a sentence or two and add it to the top or bottom of your remarks. It’s powerful!

In his own words, Rocky says, “I came to LSS Veteran’s Services a very disturbed and lost soul. The staff was great in helping me get my bearings and played a huge role in the development of my very successful program. I am currently free of all outstanding debts, have accumulated a lucrative bank account, and I have a good credit score, which I have never had. All of this leads me to believe anything is possible...I have full confidence in myself. All I have learned through this program will continue to help me as I move forward in a positive direction.”