

**Commission on PTSD & TBI Meeting Notes**  
**Walker Building, Room 274**  
**Thursday April 18, 2019**  
Recorder: Tony Paradiso

**Member attendance:**

Gavin Cherry	Easter Seals Military Veterans Services
Robert Motolla	Manchester VA
Richard Osborne	State Legislative Representative
Erin Hall	Brain Injury Association of NH
Amy Cook	DHHS
Kevin Myers (for Denise Roy-Innarelli)	NHES
Dr. Nicole Sawyer	NH Psychological Association
Nick Tolentino	Disabled American Veterans
Ken Norton	NAMI
Suellen Griffin	NHCBHA
Eric Johnson	NHCBHA
Peggy LaBrecque	NH Veterans Home
Tony Paradiso	Veterans Advocate
Michael Rice	SVAC
Catrina Watson	NHMS

**Excused**

Maj Gen Gretchen Dunkelberger	NH Veterans Cemetery Association
Jerry Donavan	Robin Hill Farms
Ana McKenna	Care Coordination Program NH
Colleen Moriarty	NH Vet Center
COL Richard Oberman	NH National Guard
Denise Roy-Innarelli	NHES

**Guest attendance:**

Melanie Spears	Congresswoman Kuster's Office
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**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Pledge of Allegiance

New Member Introduction:

Eric Johnson will be replacing Suellen as the Commission representative for the NHCBA. Eric is president of Northern Human Services which provides services in the areas of mental health,

dual disability, and substance abuse. Eric has been with Northern for 35 years and has been its Executive Director for about six years. He is looking forward to representing the community mental health centers on the Commission.

New Guest Introductions:

None

## **II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes for the March 21, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

## **III. Commission Updates (Updates pertinent to COPT mission)**

### **General Membership**

Dr. Sawyer: Dr. Sawyer will be conducting another CIT training in May in Bethlehem. Thirty-five state troopers will be trained with a goal of improving response to veteran crisis. She will also be on the Laura Noye NPR radio show talking about first responders.

Nick Tolentine: Nick is a nurse practitioner and in that role he was recently able to assist a homeless patient living in car and to connect to Easter Seals and leverage the resources that the Commission has helped to facilitate.

Mike Rice: The next SVAC meeting will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Their last meeting had representatives from HUD and Harbor Home in attendance and dealt with homelessness issues. SVAC will continue to review legislative activity as bills move from the House to Senate. SVAC's Memorial Day ceremony will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

Erin Hall: Last month was brain injury awareness month. The BIA had a table at the VA.

Richard Osborne: As a member of the health and human services committee, Representative Osborne is dealing directly with legislation. As yet, he hasn't seen any bills that are strictly related to veterans.

Robert Motolla: Next month is mental health awareness and recovery month. Robert indicated that there will be a photography exhibit at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon. The nationally-traveling exhibit designed to reduce the stigma of mental illness titled "99 Faces," will be on display in Lebanon from April to September.

Ken Norton: NAMI is designated by the state to submit a federal SAMHSA grant. They are working with National Guard and North Country and expect to know by end of summer whether they win the grant.

Peggy LaBrecque: The Veterans Home is still looking for LNAs and nurses. They will be having their Memorial Day celebration on Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>. About 75 veterans will be attending and they enjoy visitors. The public is encouraged to attend. They recently conducted a Vietnam Veterans event which was very moving. Vietnam Vets are working to ensure no other vets are ever treated like they were.

Suellen Griffin: Suellen is retiring but has been encouraged that the CMHC liaison program has continued despite a lack of funding. Seven representatives still attend meetings. She hopes this will continue.

Catrina Watson: The Medical Society will be conducting their Family Physician Conference. Catrina encourages committee member who have anything they would like her to take to the conference to let her know.

### **NH DHHS Update**

Amy Cook: Provided the Commission handouts on the Governor's Challenge that outlined the expectations of what results will look like along with a Progress Report. Four people represented NH in Washington DC at a suicide prevention related session. A variety of topics were discussed including programs around the country that might be candidates to implement in New Hampshire. A team will be returning to DC in May.

The liaison initiative has hit a funding snag. Funding is being requested through the National Guard. However, it might be delayed. The group plans to meet next month regardless of funding status.

The link to the new website was distributed to Commission members. The link does not allow anyone to make edits, rather, Amy is seeking feedback and comments. Please email Amy or Dr. Sawyer if you have any input to provide.

### **IV. Action Items (Items that require decision /action by COPT)**

None

### **V. Old Business**

#### **2017 Veteran Survey**

The Commission needs to approve this document. A cover letter will be drafted and attached to the survey findings which will then be distributed. It is expected that the cover letter will be completed by the end of next week. Once it's distributed to all the required entities, Dr. Sawyer will post it to our Facebook page as that is where we have received the most feedback.

## **VI. New Business**

The Commission is scheduled to present to the Health and Human Services Committee on April 19<sup>th</sup> in Room 205 of the Legislative Office Building. Normally, the Commission presents once per year, but this follow-up meeting was scheduled in order to present the survey findings.

The question was asked to the Commission: What's next? Suggestions included reinvigorating the military liaison program, advocating for the ATQ toolkit, and making sure that the ATQ effort remains visible. Suellen suggested that we might use one of our future meetings as a strategic planning session. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm

**Next Commission Meeting is Thursday, May 16, 2019 from 2:30 – 4:30 pm at the Walker Building, Room 274, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord**