

**Commission on PTSD & TBI Meeting Notes
Walker Building, Room 274**

Thursday June 20, 2019

Recorder: Peggy LaBrecque

Member attendance:

Jerry Donovan	TBI Provider- Robin Hill
Seth Gahr	NH State Police
Eric Johnson	NHCBHA
Peggy LaBrecque	NH Veterans Home
Latha Mangipudi	NH House of Representatives
Ana McKenna	Care Coordination Program NH
Robert Motolla	Manchester VA
Richard Oberman	NH National Guard – Army
Richard Osborne	NH House of Representatives
Maj Craig Sanderson	NH National Guard - Army
Dr. Nicole Sawyer	NH Psychological Association
Nick Tolentino	Disabled American Veterans
Dr Richard Wren	WRJVA

Excused

David Appleby	NH State Police
Amy Cook	DHHS
Maj Gen Gretchen Dunkelberger	NH Veterans Cemetery Association
Tony Paradiso	Veterans Advocate
Denise Roy-Innarelli	NHES
Catrina Watson	NHMS

Guest attendance:

Melanie Spears	Congresswoman Kuster’s Office
Janis Connor	
Chelsea Connor	Krempeis Center
Hannah Lavery	PMHNP Student

I. Welcome & Introductions

Pledge of Allegiance

New Member Introduction:

None

New Guest Introductions:

Chelsea Connor introduced herself and explained that she is a student at the Krempeis Center, so is doing research on PTSD/TBI.

Hannah Lavery introduced herself and explained that she is a student at PMHNP. She is also doing research on PTSD/TBI.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May 16, 2019 meeting were approved as written.

III. Commission Updates (Updates pertinent to COPT mission)

General Membership

Ana McKenna: Mental health – financial caseloads are very heavy.

Dr. Robert Mottola: CBOC – Somersworth has new CBT and 2- more mental health.

Representative Richard Osborne: Plans on visiting more institutions around the state.

Eric Johnson: Community Mental Health Centers are having a challenge with no budget. The next State Budget has Medicaid rate increases included in it. They held their annual meeting and elected officers – Peter Ebers with Maggie Pritchard as the Treasurer.

Nick Tolentino: Will be starting a new job at Wentworth Douglas.

Dr. Nicole Sawyer: Amy Cook and Community Mental Health Center Liaisons are continuing to educate on the “Ask the Question Toolkit”. Dan Marck requested the Fireworks Protocol for the CEO of Atlas Works.

Trooper Seth Gahr – Peer Support coordinator – seeing a steady increase of veterans to the VA Manchester and White River Junction. North Country is working with Telehealth; social workers at both VA’s are assisting.

Maj Russ Conte: Crisis Intervention training for all State Troopers.

Col. Oberman: reminded everyone that this is his last meeting as he is heading off to Navy War College (active duty on July 12). The funding that was requested for the CMHC’s has been denied. The grant cannot legally be given to the CMHC’s.

Peggy LaBrecque: The Veterans Home is still experiencing high turnover and many job openings remain. Come September, the community colleges will start up their LNA courses.

In the meantime, The Veterans Home is thinking outside the box to try to stretch nursing resources. They are constantly looking to improve efficiencies and they have mandated additional shifts continue to be worked.

NH DHHS Update

Amy provided an update. (see attached)

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

None

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

SB 59-FN Adding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Acute Stress Disorder to the definition of “injury” for purposes of Worker’s Compensation.

Senate Bill 59 is adding PTSD to the definition for workman’s compensation. Specifically it adds post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder to the definition of "injury" for purposes of workers' compensation and establishes a commission to study the incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders.

The bill has passed. Advancements like this help to reduce the stigma associated with PTSD.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm

Next Commission Meeting is Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 2:30 – 4:30 pm at the Walker Building, Room 274, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord