

Justice Involved Veterans Full Task Force

Meeting Minutes: 2/26/20

In attendance: Co-Chairs: Jill O'Neill, Sheena Bice

Members & Guests: Susan Mead, Katie Nicholas Malvey, Kevin Casey, Sheena Bice, Warren Perry, Dan Wilson, Susan Stearns, Amy Cook, Lon Weston, Dan Bricker, Troy Townsend, Aaron Dristiliaris, Ben Forge, Ed Drury, Seth Gahr, Diane Levesque

Update

JIV Chair Update:

1st week in March, Veterans Track in NH article by media will be published in NH Bar News. Jill provided accurate, but diplomatic information as it's hard to give good information with a lack of data. The same reporter interviewed several other members of JIV.

Some new grant opportunities have become available to support Veterans Tracks.

A Data Work Group will be meeting during opposite months moving forward—March, May, July, September, November; 4th Tuesday, 9am-11am, Manchester VA Medical Center, Conference Room #W545.

DMAVS Update reported by Warren Perry:

SB726 Veterans Bill of Rights was introduced by Senator Morgan in the Senate recently. It is comprehensive and introduced many areas that will address and protect Veterans needs and issues.

Introduced Troy Townsend, the new Director of Psychological Health for the NH National Guard. He spent the past 8 years working in AK, so has experience working with isolated and rural populations.

Discussion: Counselors at DOC are desperate for training and consultations regarding how to treat individuals with PTSD—counselors from the VA are not authorized to provide treatment services inside the prison system, but those who are lack the necessary skills. This may be an area where Star Behavioral Health Program can be of assistance in the future.

Veteran Track Updates

Rockingham County--8-9 participants—1-2 graduated recently and 1-2 in pipeline. Referrals are increasing which indicates a better awareness among partners. Will be losing a judge in the County.

Nashua—3 participants

Manchester—8-9 participants; the judge was recently recommended to a full-time position which will help.

Grafton—Jill will reach out to get information.

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The level of commitment from judges is critical to the success of the Veterans Tracks. When possible, JIV should express recommendations for well-qualified and well-positioned judges when changes are being made.

Need to continue providing data as it comes through so we have quickly accessible data for whenever needed like grant applications or interview requests.

New Business & Discussion

Grant and funding opportunities—most are following Drug Court Treatment Model, not Mental Health Court model.

Members spent time looking through [BJA-2020-17098 grant solicitation document](#) released this past week (click on link to view). Discussion took place regarding how JIV could perhaps take advantage of this and partner better with the Rockingham Drug Court. Information needed for grant applications and meetings with courts.

Courts should own this—VJOs go into courts as guests. Courts should own infrastructure and data.

Priorities for funding/resources:

- Part-time coordinator
- Enhance data collection (specifically regarding recidivism)
- Increase #s (including case management for non-VA-eligible)

Member Updates & Announcements

VA staff underwent training “Strength At Home”—intimate partner violence training to perform evaluations and group support to Veterans.

Action Steps

1. Amy Cook will send Data Work Group meeting dates/times to Diane L and confirm meeting logistics.
2. Kim Hillson will send out 2020 meeting schedule to group membership.
3. Connect with Alex C. to see if they are applying for the grant (if so, we want a piece; if not, we want to be considered as a partner for future funding opportunities). Small group will ask to meet with him—Jill, Sheena, Susan Stearns, Amy C., Diane L., Aaron D.

Next Meetings*

- Data Group—~~Tuesday 3/24/20, 9am-11am, Manchester VA Medical Center~~
- Full Task Force—Wednesday 4/22/20, 9am-11am, NHNG State Reservation, 1 Minuteman Way, Concord; Main Building, JOC Conference Room*

***Since recording the minutes, the meeting schedule has been changed to accommodate the public health crisis. The March 24th Data Group meeting was not held. An announcement about the April JIV Full Task Force and May Data Group meeting will be forthcoming.**