

## **Justice Involved Veterans Full Task Force**

Meeting Minutes: 3/24/21

Location: Virtual Meeting

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

Members & Guests: John Hattan, Dan Bricker, Diane Levesque, Evan Shneider, Katie Nicholas Malvey, Seth Gahr, Susan Mead, Susan Stearns, Warren Perry, Amy Cook

### **Updates**

Jill O. and Susan S. provided an update on the work resulting from the Mental Health Court Commission. Expanding mental health courts in New Hampshire and establishing statewide standards have been an unanticipated, controversial discussion. Alex Casale has several interns working on drafting legislation for a House Bill that will expand the Mental Health Courts.

Diane L. & Dan B. were invited to do a presentation to Judges about the Veteran BH Track. That will take place 5/3.

Judge St. Hillaire reached out to Judge Coughlin and the County Attorney from Merrimack to set up a meeting to discuss processes of the Rockingham Track. Other counties have been sending individuals to Rockingham County and they are accepting them as space allows. Diane L. will be participating in that meeting.

### **Old Business**

Continued discussion regarding holding a roundtable discussion for stakeholders regarding the status of the Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks.

One event will be held for legislators and a second event will be held for other stakeholders.

Focus of event for stakeholders will be programmatic results and needs rather than background and purpose. Event for legislators will focus on key issues and needs. Details will be worked on in alternate month meetings. Event presenters will be a mix of practice & policy. Will schedule additional meetings outside of JIV meetings in order to pull events together with the appropriate information.

Important to remember that there's always a turnover with legislators because of being elected/re-elected. Will need to do some level of basic education for those not familiar.

More discussion took place regarding the data available regarding Veterans in NH and, specifically, those in the Tracks. More data is available than in the past, but more is needed.

### **Discussion:**

There might be an opportunity to have the mental health court bill resurrected in the Senate and there might be an opportunity to align the roundtable discussion with that opportunity.

**More information about the Justice Involved Veterans Task Force and meeting minutes can be found at:**  
<https://www.dmavs.nh.gov/about-us/councils-and-committees/justice-involved-veterans-task-force>

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Are courts getting American Rescue Plan funds from the federal government? Is there an opportunity there? Will need to wait and see.

### **New Business**

Where does JIV belong? Who is best equipped to establish long-term, sustainable leadership for the Task Force? Should it be embedded under an existing Commission? Prior to next Full Task Force meeting, the co-chairs and Amy C. will explore what other Commissions exist that might align with JIV.

Diane & Dan were invited to do a presentation to Judges about the Veteran BH Track. That will take place 5/3.

Sheena shared a New Hampshire Snapshot of data compiled by Star Behavioral Health Providers program.

### **Next Meetings**

- Data Group—Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9am-11am; virtual
- Full Task Force—Wednesday, 5/26, 2020 9am-11am; virtual

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