

New Hampshire Military Leadership Team

*A Meeting to Build Partnerships & Improve Services for
New Hampshire Veterans, Service Members and their Families*

October 25, 2022

10:00am – 11:30am

Edward Cross Training Complex, Pembroke, NH

New Hampshire Military Leadership Team Attendance

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| X | Major General David Mikolaities, Adjutant General, NH National Guard |
| X | Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant General, NH National Guard; MLT Co-Chair |
| X | Kevin Forrest, Director, Manchester VA Medical Center; MLT Co-Chair |
| X | Amy Cook, Administrator, Community Based Military Programs, NH DMAVS; MLT Facilitator |
| X | Jim Adams, Chair, NH State Veterans Council |
| X | Steve Ahnen, President, NH Hospital Association |
| X | Matt Albuquerque, Next Step Bionics and Prosthetics |
| X | Pete Burdett, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army |
| X | Madeline Dreusicke, NH State Veterans Council |
| X | Ed Drury, Community Behavioral Health Association |
| X | Brendan Finn, NH State Veterans Council |
| A | William Gaudreau, Director, Division of Veteran Services, NH DMAVS |
| A | Jason Grower, Regional Director of Operations, Dead River Company |
| X | Karen Hebert, Director, Division of Economic and Housing Stability, DHHS |
| A | Ena Lima, Director, VA Regional Benefits Offices in MA, NH & VT |
| X | Paul Lloyd, Chair, State Veterans Advisory Committee |
| A | Kim MacKay, Commandant, NH Veterans Home |
| X | Sarah Morrissey, Employment Service Bureau Director, NH Employment Security |
| A | Vacant, Family Representative |
| A | Vacant, State Approving Agency, Education |
| A | Dr. Brett Rusch, Director, WRJ VA Medical Center |
| X | Roger Sevigny, NH Veterans Council |
| GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE: | |
| X | Matt Henry, NH Veterans Home |
| X | Jessica Hunt, VBA |
| X | Sarah Classy, VBA |
| X | Celeste Stimpson, American Red Cross |

Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome, Introductions, Membership Updates

Jeffrey Newman will no longer be a member of the MLT—the NH DOE’s contract with the VA as the State Approving Agency was terminated.

- II. Review of April Minutes**—August 2022 minutes were reviewed. Pete B. moved to accept the minutes. Kevin F. 2nd, all members approved. The August 2022 minutes can be found on the DMAVS—MLT website page: <https://www.dmavs.nh.gov/about-us/councils-and-committees/nh-military-leadership-team>.

III. Presentation: Red Cross of Northern New England, Celeste Stimpson

Celeste Stimpson, Service to the Armed Forces - International Services Program Director,

American Red Cross, Northern New England - *serving ME, VT, & NH* presented information about the services that the Red Cross provides to military, Veterans, and their families. See attached powerpoint slides for more information. More information can also be found at: <https://www.redcross.org/local/me-nh-vt.html>

IV. New Business

A. 2023 Schedule

After discussion regarding the frequency of meetings for the group, it was decided that the MLT will meet quarterly in 2023 for a 2-hour meeting. The last meeting of 2022 will be in December, then the first meeting of 2023 will be in March. Members felt it would be important to focus its efforts on a specific topic for the year. Stakeholders related to that topic can be invited to meetings and discussions can inform members about the challenges or work being done in that particular area. Subjects of interest: employment, housing, workforce housing, the Easterseals Franklin campus.

B. Legislative Update—Warren Perry

LSRs are starting to come in at this time. They may be slower to develop because of upcoming elections. Warren is tracking only 12 related to Veterans right now. DMAVS has requested 4 changes to rules which will be addressed in two bills. If changes pass, the National Guard enlistment incentive will be increased from \$500 to \$1000 and the Commission on PTSD and TBI will be eliminated. The requirement of DHHS and VSOs to implement a Veterans Services Navigator Program will also be eliminated. Education benefits for NHNG will be expanded to allow the transfer of the benefit to spouses within the University system.

V. Information Briefs

A. Member Updates & Announcements—

1) DMAVS

NH Veteran-Friendly Business Update—Amy Cook

64 businesses are currently participating. Oct 5th the network hosted a national recruitment event for military-connected students. 90 students attended from 18 different states. Lunch & Learn Series has been successful so far. 3 have taken place, more planned for Nov, Dec, and Jan. Nov 15th is Annual Symposium with two presentations and lunch. A marketing contract secured by DMAVS will be starting in 2023 and will help with promotion of network.

Division of Community Based Military Programs—Amy Cook

DCBMP is planning a military culture training series and training challenges for 2023 to increase the number of providers attending military culture and suicide prevention trainings. The Division recently signed two new contracts to increase mental health services--\$400,000 to Easterseals NH and \$350,000 to Partnership for Public Health.

The Governor's Office is also planning to transition the VA contract and duties of the State Approving Agency for educational benefits from DOE to DMAVS. Implementation is anticipated to begin in 12-18 months.

Easterseals Franklin Campus Project Update

Easterseals staff met with DMAVS to get input regarding the campus. They will also be presenting at SVAC in December. They are just beginning to put together logistics and involve other partners. There will need to be a sustainable business model for revenue. It's not clear yet what services will be available there but there is still time to provide input.

2) VA Medical Center, Manchester—Kevin Forrest

There continues to be a need to expand the VA workforce. Staffing availability affects bed availability. There is a need to expand specialty care especially in mental health services. A new Chief of Surgery and a new Chief of Infectious Diseases started yesterday. Because there is not an inpatient component to the VA in New Hampshire, the VAMC has staff called

a VA Care Team embedded at CMHC and Elliott Hospitals. They will work with teams and coordinate care back into the VA at discharge.

Department—in process of working through budget for new biennium.

3) **Veterans Home**—Matt Henry

NHVVH is implementing two federally funded projects—sprinkler update and IT upgrade. Staffing challenges continue especially for RNs.

4) **DHHS**—Karen Hebert

Child Support is resuming participation in Stand Down events to provide information and resources to Veterans. There is an event coming up in November in Manchester. They will also continue to have a JIV representative as well.

5) **NH Hospital Association**—Steve Ahnen

NHHA will be working with partners to launch a statewide fund to support and fund workforce housing and other programs that support social determinants of health. An announcement will be made in next few months. This is a topic that has greatly impacted hospitals and healthcare practices across the state.

6) **VBA**—Sarah Classy

The PACT Act is keeping VBA busy. They are hiring and training for a 1/1 “go live” date. Please help spread the message to get a claim in as soon as possible!

7) **NHES**—Sarah Morrissey

They are currently promoting a New England Regional Virtual Job Fair and encouraging employers to participate and job seekers to register.

VI. Next meeting date

December 27, 2022; 10am-11:30am

Virtual Meeting on Zoom (no in person meeting)



American Red Cross
Service to the Armed Forces
October 2022



American Red Cross
Northern New England Region

A Legacy of Supporting Those Who Serve



For more than **130 years**, the American Red Cross has provided comfort and support to members of the United States military and their families, **around the clock and around the globe.**

Serving our New Hampshire Military and Veteran Communities

- Hero Care Network
 - Emergency Communication Messages
 - Military Aid Societies - Financial Assistance
 - Critical Community Needs
 - Collaboration with Disaster Cycle Services for military and veterans affected by disaster
 - Veteran referrals and information
- Outreach to Military/Veteran Communities

Hero Care Network – New Hampshire

| SAF Cases in NH FY22 | |
|---|------------|
| SAF Emergency Cases | 159 |
| SAF Critical Community Cases | 615 |
| Total SAF Cases | 774 |
| Get to Know Us Briefed | 224 |
| SAF Resiliency Course Participants | 69 |



Hero Care Network – New Hampshire

| SAF Cases in NH YTD FY23 | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| SAF Emergency Cases | 40 |
| SAF Critical Community Cases | 166 |
| Total SAF Cases | 206 |



Emergency Communication Messages

- Service Member Information
 - Full Legal Name
 - Rank
 - Branch of Service
 - SSN or DOB
 - Military Unit Address
- Information about the emergency
 - Name and information on the immediate information on the person experiencing the emergency
 - Nature of emergency
 - Where the emergency can be verified

Financial Assistance

- **Who is eligible?**
 - An active-duty service member
 - A member of an activated National Guard or Reserve unit
 - An immediate family member of a service member in the above two categories
 - A military retiree or spouse/widow(er) of a retiree



Information and Referrals

Critical Community Services



- The American Red Cross offers confidential services to all members of the military, veterans, and their families by connecting them with local, state and national resources through our network of chapters in communities across the United States and offices on military installations worldwide.

Veteran Services



- Referrals to community resources
- Veterans Claims for Benefits
- Volunteerism in VA Hospitals and Clinics

Resiliency Programs

- Coping with Deployments
- Reconnection Workshops
- Mind Body Workshops



Coping with Deployments



- Two “Coping with Deployments” course options:
 - Introduction to Psychological First Aid and Resilience
 - Using Psychological First Aid and Building Resilience in Military Children

Reconnection Workshop Topics

- Reconnection Workshop Topics for Adults
 - *Effective Communication
 - *Stress Solutions
 - Trauma Talk
 - Defusing Anger
 - Emotional Grit
 - *Connecting with Kids
 - *Caregivers
 - *Creating Calmness in Stressful Times
- *Designates that workshops are available virtually.
-

Reconnection Workshop Topics for Children, Teens and Families

- Child/Teen Workshops
 - Roger That! Communication Counts
 - Ages: 5-8 with an adult, 8-12 and 12-17
 - Confident Coping
 - •Ages: 5-8 with an adult, 8-12 and 12-17
 - *Calm and Connected: Virtual Chat for Teens
 - Ages 13-17
 - *Family Laugh and Learn
 - Ages 13-17 with an adult
 - *Designates that workshops are available virtually.

Mind-Body Workshop Overview

- Help participants develop techniques to:
 - Understand “good stress”
 - Manage unhealthy or chronic stress
 - Connect their bodies with their minds
 - Practice living mindfully rather than on autopilot
 - Learn easy skills to improve whole-body wellness

Workshop Audience & Logistics

- Workshop Logistics
 - Length: 60-90 minutes
 - Audience size:
 - 3-12 adults
 - 3-10 children
- Location:
 - Military installations
 - Partner sites
 - VA hospitals
 - Community events
 - Red Cross buildings
 - Virtually

Military Members, Families and Veterans

- Provides a 30% discount to military members, families and veterans for American Red Cross-sponsored classes from Training Services



FREE Emergency Preparedness Training for Your Community!



Preparedness programs are national, standardized and free for community members taught by certified presenters. They are designed to help participants understand, prepare for and respond appropriately to emergencies through engaging and age-appropriate curriculum.



**American
Red Cross**

Disaster and Emergency Preparedness

Be Red Cross Ready

The presentation is designed to teach people how to prepare for and respond appropriately to disasters likely to occur in their community such as hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc.

Hands Only CPR

A 30 min training teaching hands-only technique for CPR. Participants learn how to check for consciousness, call 911 (or the local emergency number) and give continuous chest compressions.

CPR training certification is not provided through this course.

Disaster and Emergency Preparedness for Youth

Prepare with Pedro

Kindergarten–2nd Grade

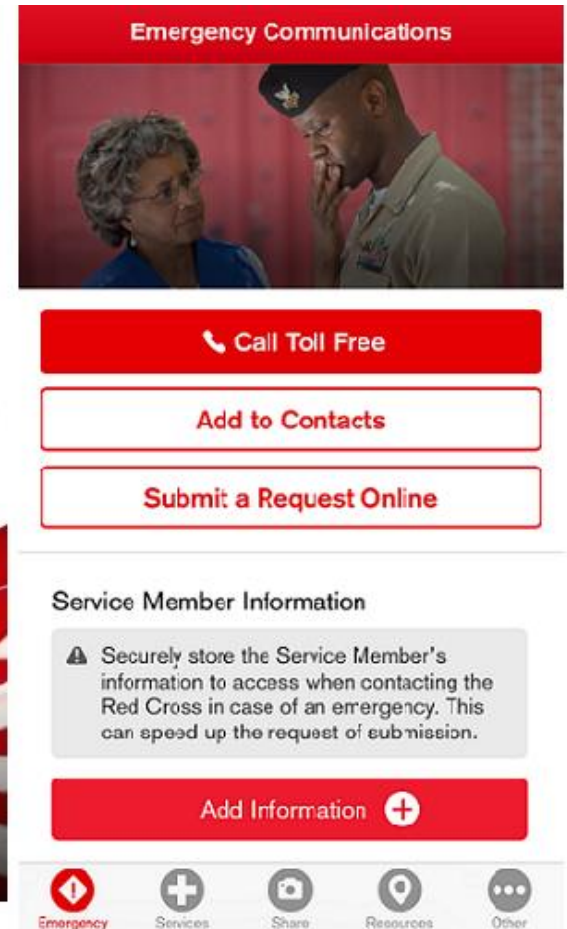
A 30–45 min preparedness program for students that follows Pedro the Penguin and his friends as they learn how to be prepared and take action during an emergency.

The Pillowcase Project

3rd–5th Grade

A 40–60 min presentation that covers local hazards, coping skills and personal and family preparedness through a “Learn, Practice, Share” framework.

Download the Hero Care App



Ways to be Involved

- Volunteer your time
- Donate Blood
- Support a blood drive
- Share information on our programs and courses
- Add SAF to your military and veteran network for services and resources



Thank you!



Celeste Stimpson

Service to the Armed Force Program Director

Celeste.Stimpson@redcross.org