

# NH Suicide Prevention Council – Military & Veterans Committee

December 1, 2021

## Facilitator:

Amy Cook, Co-Chair, NH SPC Military & Veterans Committee, Administrator -Division of Community Based Military Programs, Department of Military Affairs & Veterans Services

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## Attendees:

- Beth Alves, Co-Chair, NH SPC Military & Veterans Committee, Social Work Supervisor, Manchester VAMC  
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- Andrea May, Program Manager for Homeless Veterans Reintegration Grant, Harbor Care  
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- Chaplain Steve Veinotte, Support Chaplain for NH Army National Guard  
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- Chaplain William Mullins, incoming Support Chaplain for NH Army National Guard  
[wem1912@gmail.com](mailto:wem1912@gmail.com)
- Chaplain Andrew Shriver, Brigade Chaplain for NH Army National Guard
- Dale Garrow, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, NH Army National Guard  
[dale.e.garrow.ctr@army.mil](mailto:dale.e.garrow.ctr@army.mil)
- Jennifer Sabin, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Department of Health & Human Services  
[Jennifer.a.Sabin@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:Jennifer.a.Sabin@dhhs.nh.gov)
- Kate Sullivan, Strafford ServiceLink/Community Partners
- Skyler Conway, NH Disaster Behavioral Health Liaison from Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery- Department of Health & Human Services  
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- Susan Stearns, Deputy Director, NAMI NH  
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- Tracie Parker, Psychotherapist & Military Liasion, Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester  
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- Trooper Seth Gahr, NH State Police Support Unit  
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- Victoria Bagshaw, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Manchester VA  
[marguerite.bagshaw@va.gov](mailto:marguerite.bagshaw@va.gov)
- Heather Smith, Grants and Resource Development Coordinator, Division of Community Based Military Programs, Department of Military Affairs & Veterans Services  
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## Welcome, Virtual Housekeeping, Introductions

Welcome to Skyler Conway, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness; Chaplain Andrew Shriver NH National Guard; Heather Smith, Division of Community Based Military Programs.

## SPC Full/Leadership Update:

- New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Conference held virtually November 2021
- SPC was allocated \$100,000 in state budget. NAMI NH will be fiscal intermediary on behalf of SPC. \$5,000.00 will be allotted to each SPC Committee (may pool award with another committee) for use as they determine (pending final approval by SPC Leadership). Discussion took place among committee members—it might be worthwhile to consider using these funds for a community partner ASIST training

instead of waiting for funds to be available through DMAVS which will take much longer. Come to January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with ideas; committee will finalize its proposal on 1/5 so it can be presented to SPC by February.

Deadlines-- Committee will finalize ideas at January 5, 2022 meeting; Proposals are due to SPC: March 2022 meeting; Funds need to be expended by June 30, 2022.

## **Postvention**

Skyler Conway inquired as to if a Military Loss Survivor Packet is available. There is not a specific packet for military; however, NH Survivor Resource Packet is available on NAMI NH website [Survivors of Suicide Loss – NAMI NH](#).

## **Focus Area Updates**

### **A. Peer Support Services**

Veteran Peer Support services are difficult to find in NH. Question of “What” areas need further services and “How” to provide services to the NH Veteran population.

Amy Cook met with behavioral health provider Aspire which provides in-home treatment and care coordination services for individuals experiencing substance use addiction.

VA Grant for peer support services, outreach and education: Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP) <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/ssgfox-grants/index.asp> .

NH DHHS has contracted with private, not-for-profit agencies for services for people with mental illness 18 or older and self-identify as a recipient, former recipient or as at significant risk of becoming a recipient of publicly funded mental health services: [Peer Support Agencies | Bureau of Behavioral Health | NH Department of Health and Human Services](#) .

The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester offers Peer Support and has a couple Veteran Peer Support Specialists.

### **B. Training**

- 1) Star Behavioral Health Providers – in person training is currently not available; Annual Report coming in January, useful resource for data.
- 2) Other MCT –

Mental Health Center is updating their training and is scheduled to start in-person training in April 2022.

CH Veinotte has curricula materials available from previous training provided by “Dare Mighty Things”.

Veterans Health Administration webinar “Providing Health Care for Military Veterans” provides MCT to health care workers: <https://www.train.org/vha/course/1089371/>

Psych Armor Training is in process of adding additional training on the NH On-Line Training Portal for employers and HR staff.

US Army is implementing the Army Suicide Prevention Program providing in-person training for Army leadership: <https://www.wric.com/news/military/u-s-army-implements-new-suicide-prevention-initiative/> .

### **C. Social Connectedness**

- 1) Veteran Wellness Series—Northeast Passage. No report available.
- 2) Lakes Region Veteran Coalition (Together with Veterans)  
In-person Community meetings have re-started. The Coalition welcomes an increased first responder presence. Team members will be attending training in Colorado March 2022.

**D. Reducing Barriers for In-Patient Services and Homelessness/Housing Services**

-Pet Respite (no December meeting)

Military & Veteran population decline in-patient services and housing because they have a pet. They cannot find care for the pet or there are restrictions in housing that cannot be met due to lack of funding to pay for pet vaccinations or spaying. Nationwide several organizations offer pet respite for military on deployment; services for other needs should be evaluated. Where are the gaps for resources for NH Military & Veterans? Data collection is necessary to support funding. This group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, 11AM, virtually. Contact Amy Cook if interested in participating.

**E. Preparing a network of information/referral providers to meet needs of SMVF**

-DHHS Closed Loop Referral System update

DHHS is working on two RFPs for CLRS. The first RFP (December) has multiple state agencies involved in deciding which platform will be utilized. (Currently it is the Unite US Platform.) The second RFP (spring 2022) will be to develop and run a Care Coordination Center (CCC). The CCC will be public-facing. The CLR platform and the CCC will result in valuable data that can inform public policy, state funding decisions and our committee's work as well.

**F. Collaborate to develop components of NH Veteran-Friendly Service Provider program**

-Ask the Question Technical Assistance Program

Four organizations are participating in the ATQ program. The program has an open enrollment period until the termination in December 2022. Organizations looking for technical assistance (including financial) to implement or enhance the way in which they are identifying and/or serving SMVF should enroll. Please contact Amy Cook with enrollment inquiries.

**Related Initiatives**

- A. Manchester Health System Zero Suicide Project—no report available
- B. Other Zero Suicide updates—no report available
- C. Other

Harbor Care is working on the mental health model for GPD.

General inquiry about donation of professional clothing (men's suits) to a Veteran's organization. Suggestion to donate to the Goodwill of Hudson- they frequently give out free clothing vouchers to Veterans.

Committees provided suggestions as spending \$5,000 grant resource- funding iCare printing and purchase of additional ASIST kits.

Discussion as to needed military reintegration to civilian life training to provide community resources and a workshop on interviewing for a job.

**Announcements & Member Updates if time available**

***Next meeting will be held via Zoom on January 5, 2022 2:00-3:30PM. Virtual invitation will be sent via email.***

NH Army National Guard's Wellness Division update: CH Veinotte will be retiring from the full-time NH Army National Guard in February and Chaplain Will Mullins will be taking his place. CH Mullins will continue to serve on the SPC Military and Veteran Subcommittee. Three Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) workshops are upcoming in 2022: 2-3 community partner providers may attend a workshop at no cost, to join the military attendees. Workshop 1: 20-21 January; Workshop 2: 21-22 April; Workshop 3: 18-19 August. Please contact Dale Garrow to register.

The Division of Community Based Military Programs welcomes two new employees and is seeking a Program Specialist II working with military and Veteran's housing and homelessness. Heather Smith is the Grants and Resource Development Coordinator and started in November; Jim Roberg is the Program Specialist focused on military skills & test waivers for military entering civilian jobs. He will also help to manage the NH Veteran-Friendly

Business Network. The Division is to issue a RFP for services to assist military and Veterans with mental health services and social isolation and a RFB to provide MCT to community partners.

Harbor Homes is working on a case management medical model as to who needs what services.

NH State Police is continuing with military and Veteran peer support within its agency

The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester is working on MCT training program that will be resource to the committee in April 2022.

Jennifer Schirmer, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery- Department of Health & Human Services provided the following update:

I'm sorry I was unable to make the meeting, but I'm happy to provide an update! Skyler and I had the chance to meet with Jen Hollidge, the coordinator for the NHNG Youth Program, to re-establish a relationship with their Yellow Ribbon activities. DBHRT has historically been involved with providing support during the youth programming activities for YR events and has, at times, engaged in activities for adults during YR events as well. Our meeting with Jen also facilitated our connection with several others within the state who provide support to service members and families including:

COL Oberman

Kristen Ferullo, the Military School Liaison Officer for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Ana McKenna, Senior Program Manager of the Care Coordination Program of NH

SFC Richard Frost, who is working on the Purple Star initiative for schools in NH

In short, the update is that our program is re-engaging in NH military efforts throughout the state.

Susan Stearns, NAMI NH provided information on the following virtual event trainings:

**Supporting a Loved One in a Mental Health Crisis**, Wed. 12/8, 6-7:30 PM

Register today: [go.d-h.org/hls](https://go.d-h.org/hls)

**It's Your Move!** FREE advocacy training:

<https://tinyurl.com/IYM2022-Registration>

**It's Your Move**  
Advocacy Trainings 2022

*Basic 1.0 & Advanced 2.0*

The most effective way our NH legislators and local decision makers learn about **mental health needs** is hearing from **YOU** — their constituents!

Register now for NAMI NH's **FREE** advocacy trainings:

Basic 1.0	Saturdays January 22 & 29 9:00 am—12:00 pm	OR	Thursdays January 27 & February 3 5:30 pm—8:30 pm
Advanced 2.0**	Saturdays February 19 & 26 9:00 am—12:00 pm	OR	Thursdays March 17 & 24 5:30 pm—8:30 pm

\*\* Prior advocacy training such as the introductory "It's Your Move Basic 1.0" or other advocacy training is required.

All sessions will be held virtually via Zoom.

- ▶ Become a strong, effective advocate.
- ▶ Gain a deep understanding of the NH Legislative process.
- ▶ Practice testifying and writing to legislators.
- ▶ Create a plan on how you can make a difference.

Register Today!  
<https://tinyurl.com/IYM2022-Registration>  
Someone will be in touch to confirm and/or to answer any questions that you might have!

Your next move?

**NAMI New Hampshire**

85 North State Street, Concord, NH 03301 • www.NAMINH.org • (803) 225-5359 • (800) 242-6264 (InfoLine)  
It's Your Move is presented by NAMI New Hampshire, with support from the NH Department of Health & Human Services Bureau of Mental Health Services and the NH Endowment for Health.