

NH Suicide Prevention Council—Military & Veterans January 5, 2022

In attendance:

Co-Chairs: Amy Cook, DMAVS & Beth Alves, Manchester VA Medical Center

Members & Guests: Seth Gahr, NH State Police; Kate Sullivan, Servicelink/Community Partners; Sheena Bice, Forge VFR; Tracie Parker, Mental Health Services of Greater Manchester; Candace Hanenberg, UpReach Therapeutic Equine Center; Susan Stearns, NAMI NH; CH Veinotte, NH National Guard; CH Mullins, NH National Guard; Tye Thompson, Northeast Passage; Jenn Schirmer, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response, & Recovery/DHHS

If you were logged on to this meeting, but your name did not get recorded in the attendance, please notify Amy Cook for a correction to be made.

SPC Full/Leadership Update

Recommendations for use of the \$5,000 allocated to each committee is due no later than March. Funds must be expended by 6/30/22.

SPC will also have funds to use for media campaigns and conference planning/hosting.

Jennifer Sabin working to fill empty spots on SPC.

Postvention

No discussion

Peer Support Services

Beth Alves shared that the VA is now offering peer support groups for VA professionals who have experienced suicide loss in their jobs or other difficult patient crises. A question was posed and discussed as to whether there are such peer support groups for non-VA professionals who experience suicide loss related to their jobs. No one is aware of such an effort or service.

Military Cultural Competency Training

Star Behavioral Health Providers (Sheena B., Forge VFR)—SBHP is still only offering online trainings. To register for a training, visit SBHP website. Sheena will be seeking information from them as to whether they can offer the ½ day training to New Hampshire providers interested in the Tier 1 content.

Other Military Cultural Competency Trainings (Amy C., DMAVS)--The online, Governor's Challenge PsychArmor training portal containing military culture trainings, suicide prevention trainings and direct links to recommended external trainings launched is available online to any provider desiring military culture or suicide prevention online training. We will be promoting this training portal to all mental health and behavioral health providers as well as other community based providers statewide. They only need to identify themselves a NH Governor's Challenge Team member when registering. Some trainings offer CEUs. We will be receiving quarterly reports from PsychArmor detailing who has used portal and which trainings were completed. As of the last report, there has not been any use of this site, however, we have not yet started to promote it broadly.

Tracie Parker shared that she is currently working to create a military culture training that her organization would share with other community providers and she is also considering the possibility of creating a "civilian culture training" for service members who recently transitioned into the civilian workforce.

Social Connectedness

Veteran Wellness Series, Lakes Region (Northeast Passage)—Report provided by Tye Thompson. The funding that initially supported the Veteran Wellness Series in the Lakes Region has ended. NEP will be continuing workshops and services for Veterans; however, they will not be region-specific in the same way as they had been under the initial grant. NEP is still interested in providing workshops to rural areas but would need help identifying established groups where workshops could be embedded. Attendance was not sufficient when workshops were coordinated as stand-alone opportunities in rural areas, so they prefer to collaborate with an organization that perhaps has an already-existing group of Veterans to tap into. They are currently doing that type of service for Boulder Point in Plymouth and it's working well.

Lakes Region Veterans Coalition (Together With Veterans)—Report provided by CH Veinotte. The group is in process of pursuing a 501(c)(3) status. Board members will be attending an Academy in March. Meetings are monthly. Community engagement is good. A hybrid model Lunch & Learn was held last month and had good attendance. They provided a general introduction to LRVC and information on how to access services at the VA. www.lrvn.org

Reducing Barriers for In-Patient Services and Homelessness/Housing Services

Discussions related to this area take place monthly among a few interested committee members. Let Amy C. know if you're interested and she'll pass along the meeting info. The group did not meet in December and will be meeting again 1/14/22.

Collaborate with other established groups to develop components of NH Veteran-Friendly Service Provider program as it relates to reducing Veteran suicide

Amy C., DMAVS--The 2022 NH Veteran-Friendly Business applications are now available. The 2022 application was revised to better reflect "Veteran-friendliness" among service provider agencies. All agencies represented on this committee would almost definitely be recognized as contributing to Veterans initiatives by supporting employee engagement in committees like ours qualifies as a criteria for recognition. Get the application at: www.dmavs.nh.gov/veteran-friendly-businesses-0/apply.

Preparing a network of information/referral providers to be available for Veterans who need assistance, information or referral

Amy C, DMAVS—DMAVS has been participating on the DHHS Core Team to develop a statewide Closed Loop Referral System. DHHS will be putting out a RFP in February for interested vendors to manage the network and services. DMAVS will be contributing funds towards the cost of the implementation and will receive reports from the Vendor that can be evaluated on an annual basis to identify trends among SMVF seeking services.

Other Related Initiative Updates

Zero Suicide Academy—Alexandra Kirade moved on to a new position. Tracie Parker will provide updates as they are available. There is currently work being done to develop data capture strategies and CANS training.

Ask the Question: Ask, Link, Collaborate Technical Assistance Program (Amy C., DMAVS)—This program is the result of work conducted by the Joint Military Task Force under the Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs.

For more information and the application: <https://www.dmavs.nh.gov/community-based-military-programs/ask-link-collaborate-technical-assistance-program>

There was not a lot of interest by community partners to participate in the program. Will continue to accept enrollments until 2/15/22. Participating organizations will benefit from free training, consults and tools/resources.

Old Business For Discussion

Recommendation for use of \$5,000 allotted to committee—discussion took place regarding the ASIST suicide prevention gatekeeper training. In addition to law enforcement, there are a number of community organizations that have expressed interest in having employees attend this training. Based on the information Dale Garrow provided, he estimated being able to accommodate 13 individuals in each training. The cost would be approximately \$42 per person for materials + the cost of shipping. An appropriate location that can accommodate social distancing would need to be found.

Committee members voted in favor of recommending to SPC Leadership that the committee use the \$5,000 to provide up to four ASIST trainings to community partners in New Hampshire.

New Business For Discussion

2022 meeting scheduled—A proposal was put forth to change the meeting schedule in 2022 to every other month instead of monthly. All in attendance were in agreement.

The 2022 meeting schedule will on the following dates 2PM-3:30PM:

January 5

March 2

May 4

July 13 *due to the week prior being a popular vacation week, this month's meeting will be the 2nd Wednesday

September 7

November 2

Next Meeting

March 2, 2022

2PM-3:30PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93795641445?pwd=LzM2QlVQRlZkemdMN0tRQTRldDljdz09>

Meeting ID: 937 9564 1445, Passcode: 561169; One tap mobile +1-301-715-8592,,93795641445#,,, *561169#