

## **NH Suicide Prevention Council Military & Veterans Committee**

**February 1, 2023** - Hybrid meeting at NH Hospital Association, 125 Airport Rd, Concord

Facilitated by Committee Co-Chair: Amy Cook of NAMI NH

### **Attendees:**

In-person: Dr. Bill Bograkos, Dale Garrow, Heather Smith, Selena Herbert, Seth Gahr, Shawn Jones, Stephanie Ouellette, Tracy Parker, Amy Cook (Co-Chair)

Virtual: Andrea May, Jennifer Thomas, Kate Choquette, Katherine Cox, Naivy Arias, Stephanie Higgs, Stephanie Fraine

### **Full council update:**

NH SPC Military & Veterans committee was provided \$5,000 in funding in 2022. The funds were utilized to reserve 52 spots for community providers/stakeholders to attend the NHNG ASIST Suicide Prevention Training. Funds were also used to provide lunch to attendees at the SAMHSA site visit which helped the committee identify suicide prevention goals and strategies for 2023.

The committee submitted a request for funds for 2023 which is pending approval from the full council. The request included funding for 50 new spots for ASIST training; promotional materials for the MCT and Suicide Prevention Training Challenge; allow for suicide prevention training on-site at organizations.

### **Business:**

Committee data dashboard was shared and reviewed which identifies progress towards goals identified by committee.

#### **A. TRAINING**

ASIST Suicide Intervention training- -Dale Garrow reported there are 4 remaining slots from 2022 that are available and anticipates an additional 50 spots to be awarded for 2023.

Committee tracked 525 hours of ASIST training since 2019 completed by community providers.

PsychArmor/Governors Challenge portal for community training for employers and providers shows 25 hours of training of 19 people since 2019. Participation needs to increase or we will lose this training portal.

Training hours for January 2023 so far = 2.43 hrs MCT and 60 hrs Suicide Prevention Training.

Goal to promote Military Culture Training for providers and employers throughout the state. Training Challenge for 2023 will encourage NH providers and employers to participate in MCT or Suicide Prevention Training, then complete a short survey to enter quarterly drawings. Drawings will start April 1<sup>st</sup>. Each quarterly drawing will award 2 people a \$100.00 Walmart gift card (8 in total for year). Social media toolkit for Training Challenge was distributed with images to post on social media. Please share this broadly with your network and colleagues.

To promote the Training Challenge, the committee requested approval from SPC to use funds for swag with QR code for target audience providers or employers. Ideas: calculators, note pad, magnetic to do list, highlighter, id holder, change purse, first aid kit, pen, stickers, notebooks/pads. American Suicide Prevention Council gave out stickers that were well received, can get info about where they ordered them through Deb Baird.

A new resource committee members can utilize for training purposes is complete. ATQ videos debuted on NH DMAVS YouTube channel in January ["Ask the Question" Web Series - YouTube](#).

## **B. SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS**

Money appropriated by the NH State Legislature in the amount of \$1.5M to assist the military and Veterans population with behavioral/mental health services and reduce social isolation. This money allowed for DMAVS to award two contracts: Easterseals NH and Partnership for Public Health.

Easterseals is utilizing DMAVS contract funds to promote ATQ and provide clinical services. ATQ pamphlet strengthens the message of ATQ and builds services. Two and half counselors served 45 clients in January; military training for counselors. Providing military couples counseling, referred from VA.

PPH is developing coalitions with new DMAVS contract.

Closed Loop Referral System RFP is out for bids. Bid closing date is February 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **C. SITE VISIT**

SAMHSA diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) workshop – March 16 and 17 at Heritage Room, NHHH Reservation. Will determine how to make the information available to an audience broader than just this committee. This event will be in-person only.

## **D. POSTVENTION/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Stephanie – Need for mental health services for surviving families of fallen Veterans. Please share any resources you may have with her.

Dale Suicide- ASIST training with NHNG and community partners facilitates greater learning amongst participants. Contact him to register for any upcoming trainings (April, May, and June dates available).

DMAVS has launched new FRAGO Series. First presentation is available on YouTube. Stellate Ganglion Block for treatment of PTSD. [NH Dept of Military Affairs & Veterans Services - YouTube](#)

Military Suicide Loss Memorial site selection made at the State Veterans Cemetery.

Next NH SPC Military & Veterans COP virtual meeting will have presentation by Partnership for Public Health. They will share their plans for additional community coalition building made possible by the DMAVS contract.

## **E. UPCOMING DATES**

### **a. Military & Veteran Community of Practice presentation**

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2PM-3:30PM

Location: Virtual only, Zoom link can be found on [SPC Military & Veterans webpage](#)

**b. DEI and the NH Veteran Community**

Site visit facilitated by Policy Research Associates

March 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM-3:00PM and March 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30AM-12:30AM

Location: Heritage Room, Building B, National Guard Reservation, 1 Minuteman Way, Concord, NH \*\*in-person attendance only\*\*

**c. SPC Military & Veterans Committee Business Meeting**

Hybrid meeting—in-person quorum required + virtual attendance option

April 5, 2023 2PM-3:30PM

Location: NH Hospital Association, Room 1, 125 Airport Road, Concord, NH

Virtual Link found on [SPC Military & Veterans webpage](#)