

NH Suicide Prevention Council - Military and Veterans Committee

March 2, 2022

Facilitator:

Amy Cook, Co-Chair, NH SPC Military & Veterans Committee, Administrator -Division of Community Based Military Programs, Department of Military Affairs & Veterans Services Amy.m.cook@dmavs.nh.gov

Attendees:

Chaplain Andrew Shriver, 1st Armored Division, Brigade Chaplain for NH Army National Guard
Heather Smith, Grants & Resource Development Coordinator, Division of Community Based Military Programs
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Karen Hebert, Director of Economic Housing Stability, DHHS Transitional Assistance Division
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Kate Sullivan, Strafford ServiceLink/Community Partners
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Miguel Morales, Economic Specialist/Veterans Business Development Officer- US Small Business Administration
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Selena Herbert, Veterans Outreach Program Specialist, Manchester VA
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Shawn Jones, Program Specialist Housing Stability, Division of Community Based Military Programs
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Skyler Conway, NH Disaster Behavioral Health Liaison from Bureau of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery, Department of Health & Human Services
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Stephanie Ouellette, Support Coordinator, Survivor Outreach Services
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Tracie Parker, Psychotherapist & Military Liaison, Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester
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Victoria Bagshaw, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Manchester VA
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Welcome, Hybrid Meeting Housekeeping, Introductions

Welcome to Shawn Jones, Program Specialist Housing Stability, Division of Community Based Military Programs.

SPC Full/Leadership and Committee Updates

- In-person meetings & quorum requirement

The Suicide Prevention Council recently informed Committee Chairs of the requirement for all committees to meet in-person and conduct business with a quorum in attendance. Virtual attendance is an option for those not able to attend in person, however, business will only be conducted if a quorum is present in person.

Meetings are held every other first Wednesday of the month- dates posted on the Governor's Office and Department of Military Affairs & Veterans Services websites.

- **SAMHSA/SMVF TA Center Site Visit Re-ENGAGE**
The SMVF TA Center will be sending two facilitators to conduct an in-person site visit 10:00am – 3:00pm in the spring (tentatively May, date TBD). This technical assistance is available as a result of New Hampshire’s continued involvement with the *Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans and their Families*. SAMHSA will review the committee’s priority issues and provide suggestions to reach our major objectives.
The power point slide included in today’s agenda define the above items for SAMHSA.
Amy Cook will be handing out items with the Veterans Crisis Hotline logo at this retreat. Swag to include: stress balls, pens, wallet cards and other items for community providers to distribute.

Postvention

VA has programming to assist VA providers/professionals with loss in their professional lives. Victoria Bagshaw offered to get more information—is this only for VA employees or also the community-based providers contracted by the VA?

Focus Area Updates

A. Peer Support Services

There has not been progress in expanding access to military and Veteran peer support services. Identify and invite the missing stakeholders in this field to participate and provide further resources.

1) DMAVS RFP

DMAVS will be requesting proposals in the coming month for programs and services to provide SMVF assistance with mental health services and reduce social isolation. Peer Support Service providers could utilize this RFP.

B. Training

1) Funds for ASIST training

SPC approved expenditure of up to \$5,000 in grant funding towards four ASIST Trainings (two-day training, 13 attendees each session). About fifty community partners will be able to attend the trainings scheduled starting in June. When dates are set, committee members will be notified. Committee members identified community partners that would benefit from ASIST Training. Suggestions included members of American Legion/VFW groups and staff of the NH State Veterans Cemetery and Liberty House.

2) Star Behavioral Health Providers

Free online tier training is available through Star Behavioral Health. Link available on DMAVS website

3) Other MCT

- DHHS Suicide Prevention Team is hosting a collaborative meeting on March 17th.
- Lakes Region Veterans Coalition provides suicide prevention gatekeeper training to community partners in that region.
- PsychArmor has new online training for employers to learn how to recruit and retain Veterans at their workplace.

- Recommended MCT links are available on the DMAVS website [mcc-training-recommendations_spc-mv-final-11-4-20.pdf \(nh.gov\)](#) register under the NH Governor’s Challenge.
- Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester continues to update their tier training. Tier One is 85% complete and will launch in June.

4) RFP for training provision

DMAVS will be requesting proposals in the coming month for providers to supply Military Culture Training, Justice Involved Veterans training for the court system, and connect community partners to MCT resources available on DMAVS website.

C. Social Connectedness

- 1) Lakes Region Veteran Coalition (Together with Veterans) offers a \$5.00 gift card to a Service Member or Veteran who will invite a peer to have coffee with them. Can be a virtual or in-person meet up. “Buddy Check Coffee” [Lakes Region Veterans Coalition \(lrvn.org\)](#)

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

- 1) Next Pet Respite meeting on March 11th 11:00am will have a guest speaker sharing her background in Homeland Security Studies and working for FEMA specializing in disaster relief pet placement, and Pet Respite for victims of domestic violence.

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

- 1) DHHS Closed Loop Referral System update
DHHS will publish RFP at the end of the month for a Closed Loop Referral System Provider. Selection of vendor will occur mid to late spring. The system is to go live in summer. This system will provide valuable data to the committee such as “What services are utilized by the SMVF community and where in the state are services needed?”

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

- 1) Updates
VFB application was redesigned in January to include service providers, for profit and non-profit organizations.

Related Initiatives

- A. Manchester Health System Zero Suicide Project – increased class attendance
- B. Other Zero Suicide updates—no report available
- C. DMAVS RFPs (MH & social isolation, training, marketing)
DMAVS’ third RFP is a social marketing awareness campaign to promote to NH employers, NH health providers, and out-of-state Veterans the resources that may be utilized to assist the SMVF community and to promote NH as a Veteran friendly state.
- D. NH Veteran-Friendly Business Network—recruiting outside NH to fill workforce (MH)
National Veteran Recruitment Event to be held fall 2022.

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E. Franklin Veterans Campus - Governor allocating funds to build a Veterans campus in Franklin. Easterseals is spearheading this initiative to provide a campus for mental health services, transitional housing, and permanent family housing.

Announcements & Member Updates

VA hearT Program is presenting online virtual training April 19th 4:00pm-8:00pm or April 22nd 9:00am-1:00pm to engage women Veterans not enrolled in the VA about VA health and wellness services. To register visit (spelling case sensitive): https://bit.ly/womensheart_NE

[VA S.A.V.E. Training](#) aids in supporting a Veteran that may be at risk to suicide.

Miguel visited NH business that employ Veterans from Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, and New Hampshire.

Selena met with the new director at the Berlin Vet Center. She is Veteran with boots to the ground to connect resources in upper portion in State of New Hampshire

Chaplain Shriver stated that there are increased numbers of active-duty members to be medically discharged due to mental health issues throughout nation.

Stephanie is working with loved ones that have lost a Veteran through suicide to build a Veteran Suicide Memorial. There is a Veteran bereavement group for families to share stories of loss in a safe manner.

Wrap Up

Next meetings:

Pet Respite Group—3/11/22 11AM via Zoom

SPC Military & Veteran Committee—May 4, 2022 2PM-3:30PM; Concord