SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL—MILITARY & VETERANS COMMITTEE

Business Meeting: April 5, 2023



Attendees: Amy Cook (Co-Chair), Justin Moeling (Co-Chair), Naivy Arias, Alexandra Baer, Dr. William Bograkos, Seth Gahr, Dale Garrow, Selena Herbert, Stephanie Higgs, Keith Johnson, Shawn Jones, Kevin Keefe, Andrea May, Liana Perez, Shawn Jones, Heather Smith, Alicia Somers, Tye Thompson, Joseph Vano, Jason Welsh

SPC Full/Leadership Update

DMAVS Update on State Contracts

Easterseals is able to increase its capacity for Veteran mental health counseling, serving 11 new clinical clients in the month of March.

Parternership for Public Health has expanded Veteran coalition building to the greater Nashua and Manchester areas. Coalition building in the seacoast and northern areas of the state are the next areas to be developed. Interest has been expressed as to a statewide Women Veteran coalition.

Justin Moeling, VA Community Engagement & Partnerships is looking for hosts for coalitions throughout NH.

Committee Business

- 1) **May Innovations Conference** Carissa Elphick from PPH and Kate Choquette from ARC NH will attend on behalf of our Governor's Challenge Team.
- 2) **Committee Budget Report** Funding 50 training spots for ASIST training through Dale Garrow, NHNG. Logo Post it sticky notes will be purchased to promote committee. Catering for the DEI site visit. \$4,000 for training funds will be utilized to help organizations provide MCT or SP training to staff. Requests should be directed to Amy C. We want to spend total amount allocated so this will be done a first-come, first-served basis until funds are spent. Possible ideas for use of next fiscal years funds include a full day catered workshop held at the Plymouth Common Man Restaurant as to Military Culture Training.

3) Review of DEI site visit and reports

- Next step—spring/summer webinar Ideas--Ensure that messaging is culturally appropriate as to targeted ethnic group. Need to develop materials in Spanish language. Are organizations prepared to provide services for the future aging female Veteran population? Currently most aging services are designed to assist male Veterans. Mid-summer materials from this site visit can be presented to a public audience to increase awareness and education.
- 4) Focus Area Updates
 - Training
 - **ASIST spots available**—spots are filling quickly but Dale does have some spots left. Contact him for dates and info if you or a colleague is interested.
 - **PsychArmor Portal**--Three new portal members for 2023. Need to prioritize time to talk more about this. If we don't use it, we'll lose it. Do we see a need for it? Is it necessary? How can we promote it?
 - 2023 Training Challenge—The winners for Q1 were drawn and next drawing will be 7/5 for Q2. Only 12 people were entered into the drawing for Q1 so we need to promote it better. Next time, Amy will enter the PsychArmor registrants who took trainings if they're contact info is available.

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- Ask the Question—Will convene a time-limited work group to come up with ideas and a plan for this. The DMAVS marketing contract will also help. Will try to align work group efforts with that contract plan.
- **Social Connectedness**—Justin shared how some of the coalitions are attempting to provide opportunities for Veterans to be better socially connected.
- **DHHS Closed Loop Referral**—Heather provided a timeline update on this. The selected vendor should be announced soon and work will commence in the near future. Amy provided background on the effort and details about the vision for how this will operate in New Hampshire. It will be important to align our committee's work with the rollout of this initiative as it will be a valuable way to connect with organizations and providers and educate them about ATQ, military culture, and suicide prevention. It needs to be on everyone's radar.
- 5) Guest speakers for virtual Community of Practice meetings
 - Ideas for future?

Postvention & Resources

Connect postvention training Coalition of Clinician Survivors--https://www.cliniciansurvivor.org/

Member Updates (if time allows)

Wrap Up

- Review action steps
- Next meeting date
 - Virtual Community of Practice 5/3/23 2PM—Easterseals NH will be sharing their work that is funded by DMAVS
 - Business Meeting 6/7 2PM