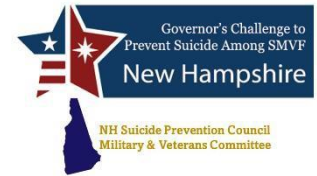


SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL—MILITARY & VETERANS COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING



June 7, 2023

Item

Welcome, Housekeeping, Introductions (if necessary)

In Attendance: Amy Cook (co-chair)

Stephanie Higgs, Bill Metcalfe, Stephanie Fraine, Alexandra Baer, Andrea Mitchell, Candice Alizio, Carissa Elphick, Dale Garrow, Selena Herbert, Tye Thompson, Andrea May, Shawn Jones, Tiffany McNeil, Tracey Parker, Joseph Vano, Jason Welsh, Seth Gahr, Stephanie Ouelette, Catalina Kirsch, Dr. William Bograkovsk, Heather Smith

SPC Full/Leadership Update: Russ Conte and Mary Forsythe-Taber terms are expiring so change in leadership Amy Cook will be the new Chair of SPC but will remain on Military & Veteran committee as co-chair for the time-being.

SPC Retreat June 26 all committees and public invited. Agenda: allocation of NH SPC funding, leadership change, SPC contracting to develop its own website - currently utilizing DHHS and DMAVS websites. Own website with each committee to have its own page. Basic website to premier in fall.

Annual NH SPC conference in November. Call for workshop proposals, due 6/21. Presenters get free registration.

Action Step: Submit your workshop proposal if interested by 6/21/23.

DMAVS Update on State Contracts

Easterseals NH Veterans Count contract is to enhance its clinical capacity to improve access and use of mental/behavioral health services for SMVF.

- In the month of May, VC received 8 new referrals for MH services.
- Outreach in May- The Clinical Director presented information to retiring NHNG service members about VC mental health services and how they may self-refer to services. The Clinical Project Director met with NH Drug Court officials to encourage collaboration and referrals of Veterans for SUDs and mental health counseling.

Partnership for Public Health NH contract is to discover the needs, gaps and barrier within NH's Veteran population to assist local communities with opportunities to reduce social isolation for Veterans through development of local coalitions.

- Greater Manchester coalition to be led by Forge VFR.
- The seacoast region has signed a contract to develop a regional coalition for NH Veteran Suicide Prevention.
- PPH and Justin Moeling meet with Carroll County Coalition for Public Health to discuss a possible Veterans suicide prevention coalition in their region.

DMAVS hired BroadReach Communications as a marketing and advertising partner to develop a campaign to increase awareness of programs available to assist SMVF and emphasize the importance of identifying SMVF within social service practices and the NH labor force. The scope of the campaign will focus on three of the Departments programs/initiatives: 1) NH Veteran-Friendly Business Network and how it provides resources for employers to recruit, hire, and retain individuals within the SMVF population; 2) the Ask the Question Initiative to educate civilian providers the identify SMVF during the initial intake process and increase military cultural competence; and 3) NH's military skills and test waiver programs available to service members and veterans which allow transitioning Service Members and Veterans to utilize skills learned while in the service to waive portions of licensing requirements such as Troops to Trucks. These programs are not widely known in NH.

VA Community Coalition Update: Claremont and Lebanon coalition; interest in developing a Statewide Women's Veteran Coalition.

SWAM Event June 2nd - 47 Veteran service organizations at Fisher Cat Stadium Friday addressing barriers to accessing care- discussion of potential solutions and collaboration. Topics included state certification of service animals has passed requiring landlords to allow their tenants to house certified service animals. Discussion took place regarding the DHHS plan to implement a Closed-Loop Referral System and how this will address many of the barriers that were discussed and identified by participants at the SWAM event. There needs to be more awareness around the CLR plans so other initiatives do not duplicate efforts.

Action Step: Committee members agreed that once the CLR is implemented, Phil Taub should be invited to a SPC M&V meeting.

Other ideas were discussed on how to connect SMVF in New Hampshire:

Military and Veteran Family Fair and Resource to connect with each other and share resources for suicide prevention. Survivor outreach kids under age of 12. YMCA camp / retreat. Yellow ribbon funding is being reduced to only ½ day event did not have resource tables due to amount of time. Event was previously a 3-day retreat with the entire family. Involving families in outreach events is needed so family members may be educated about signs of suicide ideation.

Committee Business

1) May Innovations Conference Attendee Update

Carissa and Kate represented committee. Carissa shared that the keynote speaker addressed veteran suicide ideation with law enforcement. 988 system transition continuing outreach. States are working with the same goal of coalition building. Would peer support groups connecting SM and Veterans work in NH?

It took 988 48 hours to support an individual in a homeless shelter in Laconia . Are there opportunities for peer support specialists to assist within the 48 hour span?

Bill Metcalfe stated 833 number can offer more supports – local mobile crisis team. Discussion of hiring peer supports with certification requirement through local mobile crisis team. DHHS's current peer support certification is specifically designed for SUD/MH (mostly SUD). May be an opportunity to design a different framework for Veteran Peer Support Specialists who are trained to assist with resource navigation, not provide clinical support. Ayla Kendall DHHS Peer Support Specialist and CRSW.

Action Step: Convene a panel of peer support experts for a CoP meeting (January) to explore what this might look like in New Hampshire.

2) Committee Budget Report--all funds for FY23 available to M&V Committee were expended. Funeral Directors Association requested a MCT & SP training, 80 seats for online suicide prevention training were purchased and made available to CMHC staff across the state (with CEUs), sticky notes with QR code to promote military culture training challenge were purchased.

3) Focus Area Updates

• Training

a) 2023 Training Challenge--July 5th is the next drawing for training attended in April, May and June. Two \$100 gift cards will be awarded.

b) ASIST availability: June workshop is full. Two other workshops 7/31 and 8/1. Merrimack Advocacy Coalition has ASIST seats available 8/28& 8/29; Addiction Recovery Coalition training has available seats for training.

Kits donated by the SPC M&V are being utilized. The committee has 12 prepaid training spots available for ASIST. Ask Dale Garrow for details.

c) PsychArmor Portal—# Users has increased but still need to promote better if we want to keep the portals.

d) Military Culture Training event update—reviewed data dashboard; increase in #hours of MCT provided. Will postpone plans for a statewide MCT training event until we can use FY24 funds.

• Ask the Question--Stephanie H. and Amy C. will be meeting to discuss strategy for a re-launch.

• Social Connectedness—Brainstorming took place on how to connect SMVF in New Hampshire: Military and Veteran Family Fair and Resource to connect with each other and share resources for suicide prevention. Survivor outreach kids under age of 12. YMCA camp / retreat. Yellow ribbon funding is being reduced to only ½ day event did not have resource tables due to amount of time. Event was previously a 3-day retreat with the entire family. Involving families in outreach events is needed so family members may be educated about signs of suicide ideation.

• DHHS Closed Loop Referral – tabled so DHHS may further expand scope and available resources. 715 Welcome Home Letters have been sent in 2023 to date by DMAVS to inform Veterans returning to NH about resources available.

4) Guest speakers for virtual Community of Practice meetings

• Sept—Harbor Care; Nov—SPC Conference; Jan—peer support panel?

Postvention & Resources

Connect postvention training offered by NAMI NH

Coalition of Clinician Survivors <https://www.cliniciansurvivor.org/>

No other discussion.

Member Updates

Ending Veteran Homelessness Summit, two-day event. Veteran provider session will take place on June 20 at NHH campus 9-3; Day 2 event for those in leadership roles on June 28 at New England College in Henniker. Justin and Amy will be speaking. Contact Shawn Jones with questions.

Stand Down Event is September 8th contact Andrea May for preliminary registration. Tentative participants include an eye doctor, hair dresser, provider for shots and blood pressure. There will be a lunch meal available for Veterans.

Surviving family members of Service Members that have died by Suicide need support and services. Bill Metcalfe stated that West Central Behavioral Health in Claremont offers counseling. Easterseals NH can provide financial services to families within one year of their loss.

CIT 40-hour training for police officers at Police Standards Academy will start in July. Trains officers to be of support to community when there is a mental health crisis. Many Departments send officers to CIT trainings but this will be first time is embedded in the Policy Academy for all new officers!

Wrap Up

- Next meeting dates

Virtual Community of Practice 7/5/23 2PM (post-note: this was cancelled)

Business Meeting 8/2/23 2PM

NH SPC Full Council 8/28/23 10AM-12PM



Remember to utilize the DMAVS Community Calendar—find events and trainings or post them to share with others!



2023 Training Challenge --- Enter your MCT or SP training to win \$100 gift card! Enter one time per training you take! Two winners each quarter will be drawn July 1st, October 1st, and January 1st.