

New Hampshire Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) Task Force

The mission of JIV is to serve justice involved veterans by promoting and supporting the development of veteran-centered programs throughout the State

Wednesday, February 28, 2018
9:00 – 11:00am, Room 460, DHHS

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Dial-in Number: (515) 739-1015 Meeting ID: 288-605-054 Host PIN: 1157

Thank you to Alex Casale for sponsoring our conference call!

In Attendance: Karen Barilani, Counselor, Riverbend Intern/Military Liaison, Riverbend Community Mental Health Center/Graduate Assistant, Office of Veterans Affairs, New England College; Sheena Bice, Executive Clinical Director, Veteran and First Responder (VFR) Healthcare; Sherry Bisson, Court Clerk, 9th Circuit Court – Nashua; Ed Drury, Military Liaison, Lakes Region Mental Health Center; Bill Gilding, Director of Alternative Sentencing, Grafton County; John Hattan, Program Specialist IV/Military Families Liaison, NH Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS or Department), Division of Child Support Services (DCSS); Shawn Jones, Child Support Officer, DHHS/DCSS; Glenn Kazan, MTS, MDIV, Care Coordinator, Military & Veterans Services, Easter Seals NH, Inc.; Dan Marcek, President, Vetflix, Inc.; Susan Mead, MA, Community Educator & Outreach Director, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center (GNMHC); Jo Moncher, Bureau Chief, Community Based Military Programs, DHHS; Jill O’Neill, Court Liaison, GNMHC; Michael Owens, Veteran Justice Outreach Coordinator, White River Junction (VT) Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center (by phone); Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant, NH National Guard; Ed Rajsteter, President, Friends of the NH Drug Courts; Terrie Raposo, Director of Psychological Health, NH Army National Guard; Lara Saffo, Grafton County Attorney; Kimberly Somarriba, Military Family Initiative Outreach Specialist, NAMI NH (by phone); Lon Weston, North Country Justice Involved Veterans Team (by phone); and Ronald R. White, Executive Director, NH Association of Counties.

I. Welcome & Introductions – All present introduced themselves and their professional affiliation.

- Bill Gliding introduced Ed Rajsteter from Friends of the NH Drug Courts. Ed spoke about the organization that he represents and why he wanted to attend our meeting and plans moving forward to work cooperatively with the JIV Task Force.
- Jo Moncher went over the agenda items to be discussed at today’s meeting.
- Jo Moncher stated that Judge Leary had contacted her concerning funding and capacity to continue to serve non-VA eligible veterans for the JIV programs. (see Item VI on page 3).
- Jill O’Neill spoke about the leadership transition and advisory team. Jill and Larry Vogelmann will be facilitating meetings together and that other members are welcomed to come to Larry’s office for the every other monthly meetings. (see Item XI on page 6)

II. Approval of Minutes – Ed Drury motioned to accept the minutes. Jill O’Neill seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Susan Mead spoke about the **12th Annual Stand Down for Homeless Veterans co-hosted by Harbor Homes and the Manchester VA on Thursday, September 20, 2018** from 9 AM to 2 PM. She passed out flyers to be distributed by JIV members.

IV. Jo Moncher shared a **JIV Task Force Membership & Contact Information list (master list)**, as well as a longer list of anyone who over the course of the last five years had asked to get emails from the JIV Task Force. She stated that the master list had been consolidated recently with input from those on it. She asked those attending the meeting examine the second, longer list (distributed during meeting) to see if there were any names that ought to be included on the master list.

V. Justice for All - Plymouth State University – held on Monday, Feb 26

- 81 people attended
- The distinguished panel, who were super, had been made up of Michael Clark, Prosecutor with the Plymouth (NH) Police Department; Michael Owens; VJO Outreach Coordinator from the White River Junction VA Medical Center, Lara Saffo, Grafton County Attorney, as well as two veterans, Robert Wilson, a Veterans Track participant, and Jeremiah Linscott, a Plymouth State University (PSU) student.
- Keynote Speaker, the Honorable Judge Gerard Boyle, Circuit Court, Conway, NH, delivered a speech which provided context for the Track program dating back to his work in the Marines after the Vietnam War
- His brother, the Honorable Judge John Boyle, Circuit Court, Coos County, NH moderated the panel
- Great dialogue/engagement with PSU students and faculty as well as the Veteran community
- Executive Councilor Joe Kenney (District 1) had attended and stayed until 9:00 PM.
- Stephanie J. Halter, Chair of the PSU Criminal Justice Dept. had moderated the whole event
- Event had been co-sponsored and staffed by Alpha Phi Sigma, PSU's Criminal Justice Honor Society
- Dan Marcek spoke, and was excellent. A Vetflix film crew attended and filmed the whole event. Goal was to add footage to the current film.
- Facilities were fantastic.
- Warren (Perry) stated that the audience had been the most engaged audience so far.
- Difference with this event was that some educators were there. You could see there was empathy for what is going on.
- Three state troopers also attended in full uniform.
- Warren stated that we must maintain the focus on the court process.
- One question was how do you get into this program? Answer was that it was an accident. Right now too accidental; goal is make the process a blanket one which captures as many veterans as possible who can use the assistance.
- Michael Owens emphasized that there was no wrong entry point.
- Lara Saffo emphasized the importance of how the mental health court in Grafton County had gotten started, in effect, by a grant proposal written by a PSU student
- There was also discussion surrounding the movie, and that the movie can be a trigger and that we must be vigilant to monitor audience response and support attendees as needed.
- Susan Mead recommended that a disclaimer be added to the event brochure or in the film.
- Judge Gerald Boyle gave both veterans a challenge coin.
- Jo stated that the Dean of PSU is a veteran and opened the event.
- Dan Marcek stated that Warren raised a good point. Something changes on the campus and it becomes a part of the conversation. People want to do things. Contact points for people to be integrated should be part of what is shared.
- These events are a catalyst for making a better system. We are not just presenting; we are engaging in a dialogue with the community and we must listen.
- Jo Moncher stated she had been on a conference call with the individuals who sponsor the Let's Talk series from the MyVA Engagement Board. She shared the positive experience of the PSU event with this Board.

VI. NH Easterseals Veterans Care Coordination & Non-VA Referred Veterans Care Status

Glenn Kazan talked about what made the NH Easterseals program unique is that it assists both VA and Non-VA eligible veterans. That it can assist with VA-referred Veterans but also Veterans who are not integrated into or known to the VA. At present, NH Easterseals can no longer assist any new Veterans coming into the JIV program. It can assist Veterans who are already referred, but no additional candidates more. For instance, based on these changes, Easterseals can no longer go into jails.

- Judge Leary contacted Jo and requested that this item be added to today's agenda.
- They are looking for a funding stream and for guidance about what to do.
- Jo stated that the JIV Task Force had partnered with the AG's Office (for 2 years in a row) on including a funding request for JIV work in their overall statewide application for Drug Courts. Those grants were not approved.
- Jo has emphasized Easterseals' essential role in the Veterans Track process to meet the need to support non-VA eligible veterans.
- Jill O'Neill stated we must look at this and see what we can do. Care Coordination is part of this service; is there a specific reimbursable element not necessarily related to their being a Veteran?
- She stated that this is currently an essential part of our "Ask the Question" next step process; that we must establish something that is sustainable and for the future.
- Warren Perry wanted to circle back to access points. Lots of comorbidity here in that Veterans can also suffer from alcoholism, substance abuse, mental illness, etc., but is there is a specific access point that is lost because Easterseals is not able to provide this service. Because in seeking to access this lack of service we must talk in terms of the service and not specifically Easterseals.
- Glenn Kazan responded by saying that what was being lost was the care coordination Easterseals currently provides as well as their being able to serve non VA-eligible Veterans.
- Ron White asked if all the funding stream dollars were compartmentalized and then somehow the funds could be shaken out from this or that compartment.
- Glenn stated said he could not speak to that.
- Ed Drury stated the issue is that in Massachusetts they do not have a referral process; that this was a challenge for a Mass. Veteran he had tried to assist.
- Ed stated that his Court friends group was not always eligible to apply for some grants, that some grants were only available to entities such as the Department of Health and Human Services.
- The Easterseals issue at present is that it provides some current services to Veterans that are not available any other way.
- Jill asked what we can do at present that assists with making these services available again.
- Glenn states the one-stop shop, i.e., care coordination, currently available through Easterseals will be lost.
- Ron asked if there was a strategic plan regarding an ask for a grant?
- Jo shared that the following were possible steps to tackle this issue and needed to be on next month's agenda:
 1. Possible Legislation
 2. Grant funding from known sources
 3. Research other miscellaneous grant options
 4. Strategies from Easterseals itself
 5. Look for other currently available services where care coordination and non VA-referred Veterans services can be provided
 6. What is our unified messaging surrounding this issue? How does it affect our current messaging
 7. Need data which can support the process

VII. Introduction of Governor's Executive Order

Warren Perry stated the Executive Order 2018-01, released Thursday, February 15, 2018. (a link to the press release is provided here: <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/press-2018/20180215-veterans-services.htm>, and the actual executive order here: <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/orders-2018/documents/2018-01.pdf>) directs the Adjutant General to figure out how to make the current veteran services being provided within the state all be under one tent - under General Mikolaities.

- Warren stated we already have some synergy regarding this based on the work that is being done by the JIV Task force.
- The goal is that the stakeholders, i.e., the Adjutant General, the Veterans Council, the NH State Office of Veterans Services, and DHHS's Bureau of Community Based Military Programs; must figure out how to continue the various state bureaucratic funding streams to achieve this goal. For example, they must work through the Department's Grant Funding pieces to enable the whole process to occur though the new veterans' office even though the funding stream may still come through the Department.
- He stated that the Veterans Council is a three-person volunteer council who advocates for veterans issues, and whose job is to direct the Office of Veterans Services. The council is currently made up of two people: James Adams, Chairman and Brendan Finn, Council Member (link here: <https://www.nh.gov/nhveterans/aboutus/council.htm>).
- He stated that Bill Gaudreau, a retired Navy veteran, had transformed that office. A total of eight people can work there; in effect, he can have a total staff of 7, with one being an Administrative Officer and the rest being Veterans service officers, whose job it is to find veterans and link them to resources that are available to them
- Warren stated that our issues are not their issues; that they mostly deal with people who need visceral things. The six VSOs have 200 face to face interviews with Veterans a month.
- 73 million dollars directly contributed to Veterans through Veterans Affairs. He stated that the VSOs make less than 40 K a year.
- He stated that right away some administrative efficiency will happen.
- He said we must understand that OVS is a conduit by which veterans access services, not a service provider, which services they do not get in the way of
- Inside Adjutant General, department number one is the Care Coordination program, which is a global service provider, in effect, financial, substance abuse counseling, child services, etc.
- That this program has five Family Service coordinators throughout the state, and that they can provide services to VA-eligible Veterans.
- He stated that some services currently being directed though both offices which will bring efficiencies; that the Adjutant General's intent to work out the required Memorandums of Understanding to make this happen as quickly and efficiently as possible.
- Jo shared three significant benefits of this model:
 1. Establishes authority – something that many stakeholders have been asking for.
 2. Provides greater coordination – by aligning three State entities. This does not solve all issues in regards to veterans and their family members, but it is a significant start forward.
 3. Strengthens military and civilian partnerships (by moving DHHS Military Programs into the Adjutant General's Department)

VII. Introduction of Governor's Executive Order (continued)

- Jo recognized the following three DHHS leaders who have been/are strong supporters of our military:
 - Associate Associate DHHS Commissioner Chris Tappan (Army Veteran, Wife of Veteran; and Mother of two Veteran sons)
 - New Deputy Commissioner Thomas Pristow (Marine and Army Veteran)
 - Christine Santaniello (Director of the Division of Long Term Supports and Services and Jo's new boss)
- Warren Perry stated that National Guard will still advocate for the JIV Task Force and its work and that funding streams may be affected; that we must always be careful. Still must always request for resources.
- The question was raised about how doing this affects legislation? Warren Perry stated after HB 636 died in House. Governor made the decision before the State of the State.
- Mr. Perry stated that the Governor had to act quickly, and that the intent of his action was to drive future legislative action; that if this model works, we will move forward using this model, and if it didn't work, he wanted people to advocate a different model.

VIII. Data Intern Project

Karen Barilani introduced herself to everyone attending the meeting. She will be focusing her Capstone Project on a JIV Data Project. She asked if members knew where she might access such data, that they should also reach out to her? What's her thesis? She wants the data to show that the Veterans Track is effective. Jo suggested that she review the Drug Court data list from Alex Casale that has been shared in previous meetings and minutes. Jo also suggested she begin by securing data from Easterseals, VA, Vet Center and Legal Boots on the Ground. Those attending suggested she reach out to PSU.

IX. "Ask the Question" Update

- a. *Dartmouth Hitchcock* – Jo stated that the contract about Ask the Question has ended, but that she tries to advocate for this work wherever she can. Stated that she had recently met with the Dartmouth Hitchcock administration and there had been a strong interest in moving forward with the campaign, in effect, initiating "Ask the Question" procedures, scheduling Military Culture trainings, etc.
- *Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Treatment & Recovery – Military Task Force: "Then What"...* - Jo stated the State needed a "Then What..." or "What Next..." campaign in addition to the "Ask the Question" campaign. Leadership from the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services are now on board. They have 14 providers groups which begin to identify military at intake.
- *NH Medical Group Management Association – DHHS and VA Presentation*
- *National; - Administration on Community Living, AARP & NH VA (Dr. Richard Wren)*
- She stated that organizers of the Seacoast Veterans Conference are also incorporating an "Ask the Question" model into their March provider conference.
- Ron White talked about "Ask the Question" training that had been provided to the Sheriffs' and Police Chiefs' Associations, and they are still not integrating it into their procedures; that somewhere the thread had been lost. May need a new training with these stakeholders. We are talking about system change, which is data driven and within our civilian service delivery network and within the civilian community.

X. The Friends of New Hampshire Drug Courts – Welcome!

Ed Rajsteter shared information on the Friends of NH Drug Courts and how they support Drug Courts across the State. Stated they meet monthly in a Board meeting here in Concord at the New Futures office.

- Ed Drury talked about how, in the past, we had talked about getting Veterans Drug Courts, but that the current push is to integrate Veterans Courts into whatever courts are available.
- He stated that with two drug courts being established in Ossipee and Lancaster that the JIV Task Force didn't want to be aggressive regarding getting these entities on board. The intent is to imbed in a way that is supported by current and evolving court structures.
- Ed Rajsteter stated that the Friends of NH Drug Courts are very supportive of that approach with the Courts.
- Jo asked if he and his organization could assist the JIV Task Force in supporting the work of the North Country JIV Team in establishing a North Country Veterans Track. Ed shared that they have their Board meetings at New Futures here in Concord. She asked if someone from the JIV Task Force could attend the next Board meeting.
- Ed stated that in order for the Friends to assist in this mission that their Bylaws might have to be changed.
- Ed stated that Jo and another person or two were welcome to attend the Friends Board meetings. Jo shared that she would be pleased to attend.

XI. Leadership Transition – Jill O'Neill

- Meeting schedule of Full Commission & Advisory Team provided to all those attending. Jill O'Neill stated that the Advisory Committee was meeting every other month
- Role of advisory team - the goal is to take some of the meeting time away from the JIV Task Force.
- Advisory Team Membership -So far the committee was made up of Susan Stearns, Warren Perry, Trooper Seth Gahr, Ron White, a point person from VFR, Larry Vogelman, and Jill O'Neill. Jo Moncher shared that she will not be serving on the Advisory Committee.
- Moving Forward -Jill stated that Jo had been a fierce leader who had encouraged everyone to participate. If people have ideas, please reach out to her or anyone on the Advisory Committee. Jo will send out one final email and clean up the mailing list and then pass it along to Linda Sutton.
- Jo stated she has been honored to serve on the JIV Task Force and is grateful for the collaboration of this team, and the tremendous leadership, support and services that the JIV Task Force has provided to NH's military community.

Next Meeting: March 28, 9:00am – 11:00am at Room 460, DHHS Brown Building, Concord

Thank you for your leadership and support to NH Veterans, Service Members & their Families!