

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, March 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: Sheena Bice, Executive Clinical Director, Veteran and First Responder (VFR) Healthcare; Adam Burnett, American Red Cross NH & Vermont; Ed Drury, Military Liaison, Lakes Region Mental Health Center; Eric Golnick, CEO, Veteran and First Responder (VFR) Healthcare; 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; Susan Stearns, Deputy Director NAMI NH; Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant, NH National Guard; Terrie Raposo, Director of Psychological Health, NH Army National Guard; Larry Vogelmann, Director, Legal Boots on the Ground/Veterans Law Project.

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

- Formal recognition by the JIV Task Force given to Jo Moncher for her unwavering commitment and service as the facilitator of the NH JIV Task Force for the past five years. Her accomplishments as facilitator were reviewed. Jo Moncher remains a JIV Task Force member. Her last meeting as facilitator concluded on February 28, 2018.
- Larry Vogelmann went over the agenda items to be discussed at today’s meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes – Glen Kazan motioned to accept the minutes. Terrie Raposo seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. JIV Task Force Membership- Update

- JIV Task Force Membership list updated- thank you Jo Moncher. Updated JIV meeting schedule sent out electronically. Advisory Committee set to hold the first meeting on April 25, 2018 from 9am-11am; location: Nixon, Vogelmann, Slawsky & Simoneau, 77 Central St., Manchester.
Advisory Committee Members: Sheena Bice, Seth Gahr, Eric Golnick, Jill O’Neill, Warren Perry, Lara Saffo, Susan Stearns, Larry Vogelmann, Ron White.

IV. NH Military Leadership Entity- Update: Warren Perry provides an update on the Governor’s Executive Order that initiates the creation of one coordinated State Operation for the provision of veteran services.

- The MOU’s between the Adjutant General, the Veterans Council, the NH State Office of Veteran Services, and DHH’s Bureau of Community Based Military Programs have been signed and in effect for 5 working days.

- The short-term goals: 1. Define how the agencies will operate. The intent is to strengthen collaboration between the agencies. 2. How to evaluate/measure effectiveness. What should be measured? Who is in need of services and are we meeting those needs?
- The longer-term goals- To simplify and streamline access to veteran services for improved access, to address gaps in services, and address workforce shortages. To address barriers to employment for veterans.
- Warren questions “what we should be measuring?” Specifically, who needs us and are we meeting the demand.
- Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks discussion regarding data collection and outcomes ensues between committee members. See agenda item: VI.

V. Justice for All- Review Plymouth State University Event Evaluations-JIV Task Force unanimously agreed to table this agenda item until the next general meeting. Brief discussion occurred regarding the North Country and Grafton County interested in holding Justice for All events. No further updates were provided.

VI. Veteran Track Site- Updates:

- **Nashua Veteran Track- refer to agenda number VII.**
- **Manchester Veteran Track- refer to agenda number VII.**
- **Rockingham Veteran Track- refer to agenda number VII.**
- **North Country Veteran Track-**

- I.** *Lancaster Drug Court-* Larry Vogelmann and Jill O’Neill attended The Friends of NH Drug Court Board of Director’s meeting in April to provide education on the JIV Task Force and “Ask the Question” campaign as there is no Veterans Behavioral Health Track in the Northern parts of NH. Larry and Jill discussed by “asking the question” of individuals referred to drug court can identify and help connect military service members to more widely available services and resources. The BOD members were very interested in understanding how they can help. Our message was “ask the question,” link and refer. Our future vision is to create a partnership in starting a Veteran’s Behavioral Health Track in Lancaster using their newly established drug court model.
- II.** *Ossipee Drug Court-* no members were available to provide an update. JIV Task Force will include on upcoming agenda.
- III.** *North Country JIV Team Update-* no members were available to provide an update. JIV Task Force will include on upcoming agenda.

VII. NH Easterseals Military and Veteran Services- Data Review & Update: Easterseals Military Services is phasing out services to justice involved veterans. Easterseals has been providing care coordination/court liaison work for three of the Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks in the state which includes: Nashua Circuit Court (first pilot program in the state), Manchester Circuit Court, and Rockingham Superior Court.

- Glen Kazan provides an overview of justice involved veterans served by Easterseals:

18 individuals – non-VA eligible served in Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks

3 individuals- Graduated from the Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks

3 individuals- Discharged (1 violation, 1 rearrested, 1 death)

4 individuals- Active in Veteran Behavioral Health Track

4 individuals- Pending entry into the program

1 Individual- Recidivated (rearrested after graduation from the program).

22 Individuals that were justice involved were provided with care coordination (resource and referral) but did not formally enter the Veteran Behavioral Health track.

- Glen Kazan reports that Easterseals will no longer be taking on any new referrals because we have no way to continue to fund the program. Easterseals will continue to serve individuals in the Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks through their completion of the program. Justice involved veterans referred that are non-VA eligible are being turned away.
- Larry Vogelmann vocalizes that the priority is finding funding to be able to serve non-VA eligible individuals in the Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks.
- Diane Levesque and Michael Owens will maintain their roles as the Veteran Justice Outreach Workers (VJO) serving veterans that are VA eligible only in the Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks through the state.
- Terrie Raposo asks, “What is critical to the Veteran Behavioral Health Track?”
- Susan Stearns reviews the ten essential elements of the mental health court which has now been written into Veteran Track legislation.
- Jill O’Neill reports that serving justice involved veterans that includes those that are VA eligible and those who are not. Think of the justice involved veterans that are non-VA eligible that we can no longer serve because we have no funding mechanism.
- Glen Kazan notes that he has worked to help at least one of his cases that was initially non- VA eligible become VA eligible. He also references a participant that he is working with that served 25 years in the military. “It’s important we are able to serve non-VA eligible in the Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks.”
- Jill O’Neill expresses the need for a statewide Veteran Behavioral Health Track Coordinator to ensure programs are collecting useful data, for monitoring of existing programs, support needed for implementation of new Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks, and support to get a peer mentor program up and running. Jill notes the importance of setting up programs that are sustainable.
- Jill references the data collected from the mental health court programs that have been successful in helping to sustain grant funding and when the grant ended to secure funding through the county.
- Susan Stearns suggests Jill share the data the mental health court collects. Susan also suggests looking at the data elements collected by the drug court teams in the state.
- Ed Drury suggests also looking at existing data. He references that data collected by the community mental health military liaisons which highlights 18-19% of NH veterans & their families are not being seen through the VA but in the community mental health centers.
- Jill agreed to gather data from Diane Levesque, VJO and bring this discussion to the advisory committee meeting scheduled for April 25th as to determine actionable steps.

- Terrie Raposo identifies family court issues as a driving problem for veterans who are facing divorce, child custody issues, or issues related to child support i.e. VA benefits attached to child support. Terrie identifies there is a need for educating family court judges on veteran issues.
- Larry Vogelmann references the difficulty in finding pro bono lawyers who can represent veterans in family court.

VIII. 2018 JIV Goals- JIV Task Force agrees to include to address barriers veterans face in family court one of the 2018 goals.

IX. Added into agenda: Adam Burnett, American Red Cross NH & Vermont- provides an overview of the Military Services offered that includes the Reconnection Workshops and Resiliency Program. The Resiliency Program identifies an increase of deployments and programming needed to help military service members and families adjust. The Programming involves psychoeducation and mindfulness skills training. 21 Individuals have participated in the program. The goal is to serve 95. Discussion of using this resource for justice involved veterans.

X. Adjournment of the meeting- each Task Force member went around and identified reasons why they were involved in JIV Task Force.

- Glenn Kazan- “to make access to services for a veterans not by accident.”
- Susan Stearns- “This is important work. Veterans are at a higher risk of suicide. 30 crisis calls per day on the veteran crisis hotline. There is tremendous hope in that. Veterans are reaching out for help.”
- Warren Perry- desires to help create opportunities for veterans to help themselves and succeed.
- Terri Raposo- “to continue collaboration with the NH National Guard and their partners.”
- Jo Moncher- I’m a veteran and I come from a family of veterans. It gives me such passion to see a community come together with zero dollars to stand up Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks that helps save lives.

Warren Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Terrie Raposo seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Next General Meeting: May 23, 2018 from 9-11am- Room 460, DHHS Brown Building, Concord

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