

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, May 23, 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!

- I. **Welcome & Introductions** – 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; John Hattan, Program Specialist IV, Policy, Planning & Training, Division of Child Support Services (DCSS); Roy Hunter, Regional Director of Military and Veterans Services, Easterseals New Hampshire; Shawn Jones, Child Support Officer, Concord District Office, DCSS; Glenn Kazan, MTS, MDIV, Care Coordinator, Military & Veterans Services, Easter Seals NH, Inc.; Dora Lavigne, Unit Manager, Merrimack Department of Corrections; Diane Levesque, LICSW, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator, Manchester VA Medical Center; 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; Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant, NH National Guard; Larry Vogelmann, Director, Legal Boots on the Ground/Veterans Law Project; Ron White, Executive Director, NH Association of Counties,
- II. **All present introduced themselves and their professional affiliation.**
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – Thank you Jill O’Neill – John Hattan motioned to pass the minutes as amended. Glenn’s first name spelling was corrected, and it was made clear that 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 was effective July 2018. Larry Vogelmann seconded. Motion carried.
- IV. **Update on the Governor’s Executive Order** – Warren Perry – Regarding the Executive order, all the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) had been signed by the necessary parties, and the parties were currently working through the business actions.
 - Set to be a G&C item in June G&C calendar, to make certain they can spend the money.
 - Two new positions = VSO’s (Veterans Service Officers); next budget will probably include more positions.
 - They are currently figuring out a strategy for how to go forward; which will be presented to Adjutant General. The strategy will include improving services, in effect, improving access, and developing the workforce to make certain that it can meet the needs.
 - Subset priority is to hire veterans.
- V. **Announcements** – Diane Levesque asked to make a couple of announcements which were the following:
 1. Dan Bricker returning as a VJO to the Manchester VA June 11. Had gotten his MSW. Diane stated that this was very good news.
 2. She also will be attending this year’s National Veterans Track conference. Rockingham County Aaron M. Dristiliaris will also be attending

VI. **Veteran Track Sites-Updates:**

- **Nashua Veteran Track** – 13 veterans were currently enrolled, with 2 set to graduate tomorrow. A non-VA-eligible veteran was set to join in June, whose case will be covered by Easter Seals.
 - Currently there are 7 Non-VA eligible individuals who would have been eligible for the Veterans Track, but are now not.
 - One individual has violated. This individual has been in the court for over a year and has still been using; he got arrested again. Everything has been tried to help this guy; he can't seem to settle down.
- **Manchester Veteran Track** – 11 – just took a guy out of Belknap Superior Court – One guy here is also going to be violated. Judge, though, wants to give him a chance.
 - Violations will have a hearing. Attorneys are involved. Individuals charged with violating may be brought up on the original charges which brought them to the attention of the VA and the Court. Individuals run the risk of serving time.
- **Rockingham Veteran Track** – 7 – one of whom is graduating this month.
- **Grafton Veteran Tracks (Three!)** – Veterans are integrated into the other courts – White River Junction VJO Coordinator Michael Owens works with them.
- **North Country Veteran Tracks-**
 - I. **Lancaster Drug Court** – no information available
 - II. **Ossipee Drug Court** – no information available
 - III. **JIV attendance at Friends of NH Drug Courts BOD meeting** on 3/21/2018 – no information available
 - IV. **North Country JIV Team** meeting update. They has met last week and were preparing for a North Country Veterans Conference in the fall.
 - Dan Marcek and Pastor Dave Cantor were playing out scenarios which use the 18-minute *Justice for All* film as a conversation starter.
 - They are both identifying opportunities for the film's use.
 - Larry Vogelmann states that in his work with Veterans in the North Country Pastor Dave Cantor is a name that commands universal respect.

VII. **Advisory Committee Update** – Larry Vogelmann – Advisory Committee had met last month on April 25; Warren Perry, Larry Vogelmann, Jill O'Neill, Sheena Bisson had all attended.

- They had basically talked about what to do with Easter Seals no longer being able to pick non-VA eligible veterans and military members

VIII. Diane Levesque stated that in **Rockingham County they are reaching to Seacoast Mental Health**. One issue, though, is they are going to limit it mental health; would not have case management.

- Derry Mental Health and six of NH's CMHC's are willing to participate. Ed Drury stated a lot of what happens will depend on the diagnosis.

IX. Glenn Kazan provided handouts with **Data and Stories Regarding Non-IV-A-Eligible Referrals** Easter Seals received for possible use.

- Jo Moncher asked about the data concerning total stats.

- X. Jill O'Neill shared some **General Data Regarding the NH Veterans Track Program** that she had worked up.
- Over 100 veterans served since July 2014.
 - Currently 40 active participants.
 - 36 graduated and 3 known cases of recidivism.
 - She was trying to work out data points which can be presented.
 - Both Jill and Warren agreed that we must be very cautious and not share the data until we know the data is good.
 - Diane Levesque stated she can be helpful but she must be told what is wanted.
 - Glenn Kazan stated that Easter Seals' role must be broken out.
 - Larry Vogelmann individuals who don't make it through was not the most valuable data point; it the lack of recidivism.
 - He also wanted to data regarding veterans not being integrated because the services were not available. Now important to track that data.
 - Jill stated that there is some delineation with people not being accepted for services and the reasons for that.
 - Warren was very enthused about what was presented and stated he could use this.
 - Warren Perry asked about why Hillsborough Jail made so many referrals. It has a large population and refers people every week. Message regarding ask the question has gotten to some places. Diane has developed a strong relationship with Hillsborough.
 - Case enrolled in Mental Health and wanted to know if there was any correlation between success and diagnosis. Some overlap. Would be interested in hearing what the charges are.
 - He said he can start to see things that would be presentable.
- XI. **Veteran Behavioral Tracks Workflow and Gap Analysis** – Jill O'Neill – taking this on as she believes in this model which is used with the Mental Health courts in Nashua. Has been very helpful with them in addressing complex concerns and multiple dynamics
- She met with Judge Leary and talked to them about their process. Shared her data elements with them.
 - Data drives trends and challenges. Data is complex and not really all that understood. She attempted to break it down.
 - Jo Moncher stated there is no statewide Veterans Track handbook though the Nashua template has been used by all the other courts.
 - Treatment is always the recommendation. Do not impose incarceration, believes in treatment.
 - Judges used a case management model. Lots of moving parts, which integrates court parties and family and friend resources.
 - Participants must meaningfully engage.
 - Sequential Intercept Model – try to integrate as soon as possible. Doesn't always happen.
 - Three track Program
 - Pre-Trial includes treatment and can include home confinement.
 - Treatments for an individual post sentencing can include different group and individual therapies
 - Can have deferred or suspended sentence.
 - What is unique? Services are more readily available, and it allows for issues that are unique to veterans.
 - In the model, Non-VA eligible veterans must be part of the model.
 - Model can be used in both superior courts and circuit courts.
 - Include veterans in Veterans Behavioral Health Track planning.

XI. **Veteran Behavioral Tracks Workflow and Gap Analysis (continued)**

- One important is graduation will allow your NH Criminal record to be clean.
- If you are arrested it will show up on employer check.
- Jo really liked the presentation. While she was glad this work was able to get done with no funding, hopefully it will result in the JIV Task Force getting funding for such things as a peer support program.
- Also suggesting adding an Ask the Question element.
- Challenges – not by accident
 - There are some inconsistencies throughout the State – not intentional
 - Sustainability
 - Evaluation and Effectiveness data points must be included
- **Gap Analysis –**
 - Access and workforce development needed
 - No formal peer support program
 - Assessment for incarcerated SM's needed
 - Care Coordination for SM's who are non-VA and/or non-VA eligible
 - Need Court liaison for Non-VA eligible SM's
 - Incorporation of evidence based treatments
 - Uniform and consistent data collection

XII. **Action Planning – Jill O'Neill**

1. **Who can serve non-VA eligible veterans in the Veteran Tracks?**

- Jill O'Neill was not sure if Warren was inviting The Adjutant General (TAG) to this coming meeting or another meeting but we need to develop our request regarding how to “fund care coordination/court liaison positions” to serve the non-VA eligible in Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks throughout the state.

2. **Who is interested in talking with Rep. Hinch with me regarding legislation to fund a statewide Veterans' behavioral health track coordinator?**

- Jill O'Neill stated she had written up a request and that she had a call into him.
- Jo Moncher volunteered to assist.
- Warren Perry asked to talk to Jill off-line after the meeting as he had an idea.
- Glenn Kazan asked if it would be good to have a boots on the ground person there.
- Jo Moncher stated all of these meetings everything is about dollars and sense. Really wants to know about money or data.
- Rep. Hinch wanted to know what changed that Glenn and Deanna could no longer serve Non-VA eligible positions, per Sherry Bisson.
- Ron White asked why had we chosen Rep. Hinch and wanted to know what the ask was. Also where would the new position be placed and how it would be funded?
- Do we have a new grant solicitation going out?
- Jill O'Neill wanted to know who would write the grant application? Sixty-page document that must be compelling.
- Roy Hunter talked about why Easter Seals had to back out? Easter Seals is being squeezed by other contracts.
- Easter Seals will assist with contract writing but wants state to sign off on it
- Jill O'Neill stated she needed committees to address these issues
- Jill asked that people reach out to her about specific data points related to the Veterans Courts throughout the State of New Hampshire
- Jill stated that it would be good to get data from Grafton – Sherry Bisson said she would talk to Lara Saffo. Also that she would email Michael Owens at White River Junction VA.

3. **Who or what agency can take the lead to develop a peer mentorship program for participants in the Veteran Tracks?**
4. **Who can pursue exploring the drug court grant solicitation that is posted (deadline is June 5)?** Jill thinks that based on what the grant is expecting it would be used as an enhancement grant.
 - Eligible applicants are states, state and local courts, counties, units of local government. The grant includes -Type B Veteran Courts that may serve veterans accused of violent and non-violent offences.
5. **Who can keep a look out for future grant solicitations?**
 - Ed Drury stated that there are 10 Community Mental Health Centers that could bolster the concept of sustainability. He could hopefully start to drum up some interest from at least one executive director. Stated he would talk to his Executive Director at Lakes Region Mental Health.
 - Grant is for forty six months, per Roy Hunter, so it does address some issues of sustainability.
 - Glenn stated that if DHHS and the Adjutant General can back it up, then Easter Seals get write the grant
 - Jo Moncher suggested that we've got to reach out to NH Behavioral Mental Health Association
 - She also stated that the State Veterans Advisory Committee – this is the topic that they are interested in
 - Ron White suggested that Jill O'Neill ask for advice from Rep. Hinch about how best to move forward
 - Ron White and Larry Vogelman suggested getting this issue in front of Neal Kurk as soon as possible
 - There was consensus that the best approach was to request a grant for an Easter Seals non-VA eligible Court Care Coordinator due to the need as that could provide the quickest results
 - Need to create a sense of urgency
 - Larry Vogelman stated that we had to be careful as there might be stakeholders that could get offended
 - Currently we have no State plan or an official entity that is running in support of the plan. Jo Moncher states that we must align this with the Executive Order.
 - Jill O'Neill stated she was hoping for uniformity about the plan. Talk with Rep. Hinch about the need and ask him what his suggestions are for going forward.
 - Jill O'Neill stated she would reach out to Warren Perry.

Meeting adjourned at 11 AM.

Next Meeting: July 25, 2018 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. at Room 460, DHHS Brown Building, Concord

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