

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, July 25, 2018
9:00 – 11:00am, Room 460, DHHS

MINUTES

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 and Introductions:** **Sheena Bice**, Executive Clinical Director, Veteran and First Responder (VFR) Healthcare; **Alex Casale**, BA, NH Statewide Drug Offender Program Coordinator/Alternative Court Coordinator, NH Judicial Branch Administrative Office of the Courts; **Ed Drury**, Military Liaison, Lakes Region Mental Health Center; **Eric Golnick**, Chief Executive Officer, VFR HealthCare; **John Hattan**, Program Specialist IV, Policy, Planning & Training, Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) (late); **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; **Dan Marcek**, President, Vetflix, Inc.; **Susan Mead**, MA, Community Educator & Outreach Director, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center (GNMHC); **Deanna Monroe**, Care Coordinator, Military and Veteran Services, Easterseals NH, Inc. **Jill O'Neill**, Court Liaison, GNMHC; Warren Perry, Deputy Adjutant, NH National Guard; **Terrie Raposo**, Director of Psychological Health, NH Army National Guard; **Lara Saffo**, Grafton County Attorney; **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. Motion to accept **Minutes for May 23rd** meeting – 1st Dora Lavigne, 2nd Susan Mead, no abstentions- all in favor
- IV. **Executive Order- update**
 - Proposal has gone to Governor & Council (GNC) for 2 additional Veteran Service Officers (VSOs) and for purchasing Case management software.
 - Still hiring for **Jo Moncher's replacement** - Bureau Chief of Community Based Military Services for DHHS. Interviews scheduled this week for 2 internal candidates before posting externally.
 - **The Adjutant General (TAG)** heads to Washington DC - he was unable to make today's meeting. However, TAG is scheduled to attend JIV's next general meeting on September 26th.
- V. **Advisory Sub-Committee Meetings - Larry Vogelmann** – Subcommittee had been meeting regularly every other month for the past four months. Convening these meetings had allowed anyone who attended to drill down on items more thoroughly.
 - The big question at the Subcommittee meeting in June was how the JIV Task Force could enable Non-VA veterans getting enrolled in the Veterans Track.
 - No minutes were being taken. No agenda for meetings was being published prior to the meeting.
 - Filmmaker Dan Marcek stated that he hoped that agendas and minutes would be published for the sub-committee.

V. **Advisory Sub-Committee Meetings (continued)**

- Warren Perry stated that everything that was discussed at the subcommittee meeting was on today's agenda.

VI. **Grafton County NH County Attorney Lara Saffo not running for re-election** – Alex Casale stated that either of the two candidates running could be a good fit for working with the JIV Task Force, as Lara Saffo had been. NOTE: John Hattan was aware of one of the candidates, Natch Greyes, but did not know the other.

VII. Jill O'Neill – asked about **Data Collection and Asking the Question**, who the State as a whole was not able to provide services to, and how we could better. Dora Lavigne had provided a yearly count in Merrimack Department of Corrections. In 2015 98 Veterans, in 2016 in 78, in 2017 in 86, so in 2018. The number so far had been 2.

- The question was raised regarding identifying Veterans who were not being counted, and whether everyone who is being booked is asked the question.
- Jill stated she was trying to keep tabs on the scope of the population and trying to build up relationships throughout the State.
- Deanna Monroe stated that doing something such as this was trying to look at the big picture.
- Still some confusion in the general population as well as the service and safety community about who actually is a veteran?
- Some people do not self-identify as a Veteran for a variety of reasons, even though they have served in the armed services.
- Broad Discussion about who, what and where people asking the question.
- Public defenders were doing it, but it requires a constant education of how to reach to military service members. Larry Vogelman stated he would reach to the Public Defenders.
- Diane Levesque stated she had done outreach. She stated that the focus must be on engaging Veterans in the entire Justice Involved Veterans program to get the eligible services.

VIII. **Easter Seals Military Services** – wanted to understand the scope of the work that ES is doing:

- Deanna Monroe stated that the Easter Seals social workers would get a list from Diane Levesque of Justice Involved Veterans, and if they were not VA-eligible the Easterseals Socials Workers would go in and meet with veterans, to find out what services Easterseals might have available to assist the veterans.
- During assessment, they looking at the individuals as veterans and assess how they gotten to this point in their lives; how to assist them and enable with the transition from military service into civilian life
- This assessment is not happening anymore
- Easterseals would hopefully assist veterans with services when they are released, such as housing, employment
- Also could assist someone who was not VA-eligible become VA eligible
- Help people daily with activities of daily living
- Assess what their relationship status was, in effect, are they married, or do they have children
- Easterseals then looks to connect them with therapeutic services
- Assess their strengths and risk factors if they are parents for parenting needs
- Shawn Jones asked if Child support workers could refer parties to VJO coordinators or Easterseals workers, and Deanna stated that child support was welcome to provide veterans information about the Easterseals programs

VIII. Easter Seals Military Services (continued)

- Ed Drury stated that Lakes Region Community Mental Health Center (LRCMHC) provides many of these services. LRCMHC can assist with some of this process; and mental Health Centers can provide an alternative for possible assistance. States that their mental health professionals regularly engage and assist veterans.
- Larry Vogelmann wanted the group to focus on the services that were not being provided to Veterans
- Terrie Raposo asked if an information packet could be provided to them. One of the things in transitioning back into is they can make choices. Merrimack County Department of Corrections provides individuals who are being discharged with packets of information about where they can get assistance.
- North Country was a gap area regarding services.
- The question was raised about how to open up communication about where these gaps were happening
- Question came up about details about service members who are able to suicide successfully, 14 out of the 20 are outside the VA. Lots of questions about who they are and it is difficult to get good information. Multi-deployment can be a protective factor.
- Larry Vogelmann stated that jails and prisons have a lot of outreach regarding suicide prevention
- Easterseals has been successful because their social workers can assist Veterans with a full a full range of services and can engage the court system when needed. CMHC's can assist these members, but not in the same outreach manner that Easterseals can.
- Terrie Raposo stated that now might be a good time to reach out to the service community about these services not being available
- Deanna Monroe stated that the earlier that Easter Seals can get in and visit with Veterans in prison, the earlier the veterans can get out.
- The loss is that someone not coming in from the outside to set up contacts and appointments outside
- A lot of states are applying for SAMSHA grants that could be applied specifically to veterans
- Grant writing is one of the things that State Office of Veterans Services – not case managers, but claims managers can assist with
- SAMSHA grants last for two years
- Easter Seals will assist with the Grants, but
- Alex Casale stated that at present the State is reaching out regarding two major grants
- It can assist groups to address issues which may be part of the grant and May be geographic.
- It helps to partner with other organizations as that can allow the grants to be more sustainable
- Focus must be on Hillsborough County and how to pick up the slack there, because we won't be able to expand if Hillsborough County doesn't succeed.
- The focus must be Referrals being turned away because they are non-VA-eligible
- Jill O'Neill summarized goals for the Task Force
 - Keep an eye out for Grants
 - Must make the CMHC's aware
 - Talk to Legislators about what is happening
 - Look for Coalition partners in the community

- IX. **Interview with The Adjutant General (TAG)** – next general meeting, in effect, Wednesday, September 26, 2018, TAG was scheduled to attend. JIV Task Force must be able to communicate where our priority is within the State plan
- Must broadcast various needs of Justice-Involved Veterans
 - Updates on various Veterans Tracks within the State
 - Susan L. Stearns from NAMI New Hampshire could provide a historical overview of what the JIV Task Force is
 - We must be able to get to the point quick
 - Be concise and direct
 - Veteran service is TAG's passion
 - We can still use the stat sheet. TAG is a read ahead about the next day leader. JIV Task Force is on his calendar for September 26.
 - Warren Perry stated he would set up the meeting at NH National Guard Military Reservation; 1 Minuteman Way; Concord NH
 - This is what we do – Susan L. Stearns
 - This is what our current crisis, in effect, what we can't do anymore
 - This is what need to get past the current crisis
 - Provide a list of who is actively engaged in the JIV Task Force
 - Have a good showing of various stakeholders
 - Hopefully walk away from the meeting having at least established a line of communication
- X. **Next Advisory Committee** scheduled for Wednesday, August 22, at 10 AM- 77 Central Street in Manchester, NH
- XI. **Behavioral Health Tracks**
1. **Nashua** – referrals to Behavioral Health District Court have slowed down based on Felonies First – go to Superior Court immediately, don't stay in District Court – what is interesting is that it is tough for them to show discretion regarding how to charge cases. Currently have 9 open cases in Veterans Track. Judge Coughlin is retiring.
 2. **Manchester** – 9 Veteran Tracks cases on Docket
 3. **Rockingham** – 7 Veterans Tracks Cases on Docket
 4. **Grafton** – no Judge time in Mental Health Courts for the rest of the year – Courts dealing with a lot in Family Courts – good thing is that it resulted in a meeting in which it was asked about what they could do.
 - a. Court is supportive. Need to standardize.
 - b. It sounds kind of bleak, but not as bleak as it seems.
 - c. The court will convene team meetings. Things will be okay. Working with court.
- XII. **New Business** – Diane Levesque reported that in the North Country – Michael Owens had a new counterpart, or a second White River Junction VJO Coordinator whose name escaped Diane at the time.

XIII. **Meeting Adjourned at 11 AM.**

Next Meeting: Weds., Sept. 26, 2018, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM, at Joint Operations Center (JOC) Conference Room, Second Floor, Building 1; 1 Minuteman Way; Concord, NH

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