

# *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, September 26, 2018

9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Location: State Military Reservation, 1 Minuteman Way, Concord  
Joint Operations Center (JOC) Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building One

**In Attendance:** **Jill O’Neill, Co-Facilitator of JIV Task Force/Court Liaison**, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center (GNMHC); **Larry Vogelman, Co-Facilitator of JIV Task Force/Director**, Boots on the Ground Legal Project; **Sheena Bice**, LCMHC, MLADC, Executive Clinical Director, Veterans & First Responder (VFR) Healthcare; **Alex Casale**, BA, Judicial Branch, Drug Offender Program Coordinator; **Ed Drury**, Military Liaison/Special Projects, Lakes Region Mental Health Center; **John Hattan**, Program Specialist, NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS or Department), Bureau of Child Support Services (BCSS); **Roy Hunter**, Regional Director of Military and Veterans Services, Easterseals New Hampshire; **Shawn Jones**, Child Support Officer, DHHS/BCSS; **Glenn Kazan**, MTS, MDIV, Care Coordinator, Military & Veterans Services, Easter Seals NH, Inc.; **Dora Lavigne**, Unit Manager, Merrimack County Department of Corrections; **Diane Levesque**, LICSW, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator, Manchester VA Medical Center; **Mary Little**, Intergovernmental CSO (ICSO), DHHS/BCSS; **Dan Marcek**, Founder & President, Vetflix, Inc.; **Susan Mead**, Community Educator/ Outreach Director, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center (GNMHC); **Deanna Monroe**, Care Coordinator, Military and Veteran Services, Easter seals NH, Inc.; **Michele Paquette**, ICSO, DHHS/BCSS; **Warren Perry**, Deputy Adjutant General, State of NH Adjutant General’s Department; **Terrie Raposo**, Director of Psychological Health, NH Army National Guard (NHARNG); **Nancy Russell**, Community Advocate for Treatment Courts/Chair, FNHDC, Advocates for the Grafton County Mental Health Courts; **Susan Stearns**, Deputy Director, NAMI New Hampshire & Facilitator; **Ron White**, Executive Director, NH Association of Counties  
**Guests:** **Jim Inglese; Brigadier General David J. Mikolaities**, The Adjutant General, State of NH Adjutant General’s Department

## Minutes

- I. **Larry Vogelman called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.**
- II. **Welcome & Brief Introductions** - Everyone present introduced themselves and their professional affiliations and interest in the JIV Task Force.
- III. **NH Military Leadership Entity Update- presented by Brigadier General Mikolaities.** General Mikolaities stated he worked within the NH National Guard the last 10 years and the military the last 30 years. Currently there were three (3) big things occurring:
  - i. Received Fiscal Committee approval to transfer funds from DHHS to NH State Office of Veterans Services (OVS) – about \$250,000
  - ii. Integrated two more officers into OVS outreach programs – currently there are five (5) locations NHVS has Family Assistance Coordinators with a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) – VSO not a social worker, more a care coordinator, FAC does the social work part. VSO’s workload will hopefully increase over time.
  - iii. Hired Jo Moncher’s replacement

Currently OVS working to codify the work of the DHHS operation into the Adjutant General full time – OVS will determine what the next step is legislatively. Jo’s replacement will be housed at Department.

- IV. **NH Justice Involved Veterans Task Force Overview-** presented by Susan Stearns, Deputy Director-NAMI New Hampshire a charter member of the original 10 or 12 member team which went to Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) academy with the goal of finding a better way to serve Veterans who are justice involved.
- Susan stated that she had worked with the Hillsborough County judicial system and had done some groundwork for this kind of work.
  - After attending the SAMSHA academy, Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) Task Force efforts had to get started.
  - First goal was to get better numbers regarding the Veteran population involve with the Court system.
  - Started engaging with people in the Court system, particularly Justice Tina Nadeau, who raised concerns about another specialty court.
  - Strategy was for a Veterans Behavioral Health Track to be a sub-court or docket of the usual court or an already set up Drug or Mental Health court.
  - Upon questioning, the Department of Corrections provided information that up to 10 percent of incarcerated individuals in NH State Prison were veterans.
  - JIV Task Force's work was to prevent that from happening.
  - Diane Levesque stated that she was serving 200 VA-eligible veterans through her work in the Manchester Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital.
  - JIV Task Force coordinated with Judge O'Leary in Southern Superior Court and initiated a Veterans Track in July 2014.
  - Initially, Justice O'Leary was skeptical but is now one of our biggest advocates. Now the New Hampshire Judicial Branch has tracks in Manchester and Rockingham County as well as Grafton.
  - January 1 this year ten aspects needed for a Veterans Court were codified into law.
- V. **Strategic Plan for NH Veteran Behavioral Health Tracks-** presented by Jill O'Neill, Co-facilitator of **NH JIV Task Force.** The JIV Task Force was presented with a bunch of Quandaries at present, and Jill wanted to address these issues.
- To assist with addressing these issues, Jill provided a PowerPoint presentation.
  - She stated that the JIV Task Forces' efforts would continue and that the JIV Task Force would continue to meet.
  - At present the concern was that up until recently Easter Seals had been able to work with Non-VA-eligible Veterans who were justice-involved.
  - These moneys had run out temporarily. *NOTE: Easter Seals had found a funding source recently but the funding source would only last through the year.* The goal was to find a long-term solution which would promote, enact and sustain military track throughout the State of NH, i.e., in every jurisdiction.
  - Having Non-VA veterans eligible in the Veterans Tracks assures the long term health of Veterans Tracks for VA-eligible veterans. Sections of NH are rural and adding these Non-VA eligible produces significant enough numbers to beef up the program.
  - Recidivism rates are low so therefore there are savings for the State.
  - Some of the referrals to Easter Seals who are initially non-VA eligible end up becoming VA-eligible, over the course of the case.
  - Incarcerated prisoners who are not referred for benefits to VA services are paid for by taxpayers.
  - Engaging veterans in this manner allow them appeals to their sense of comradery.

VI. **Question and Answer session Question** - Jill O'Neill followed up after the meeting and thanked everyone who came. She apologized for not sending out the presentation earlier.

- Broad discussion regarding data collection. Alex suggested a sequential intercept model.
- Ron White talked about the need for mapping of where Veterans are in the State
- Don Marcek stated that the impact numbers that we should talk about how families benefit from this assistance.
- Ed Drury stated that it would be a good idea to integrate data from the Community Mental Health Centers

VII. **What were the outstanding questions?**

- What are the total numbers for the Non VA and VA referrals for the last 12 months?
- Why should I care about the Non-VA eligible referrals?
- Who owns the JIV Task Force?
- How much does it cost?
- What is the court cost to provide these services?
- What does care coordination cost?
- What is the return on investment?
- What is the cost of government oversight?
- Comparative Numbers of Veterans Behavioral Health Tracks? Drug Courts? Mental Health Courts?
- What are we/you chasing? -> State Plan!
- What is the GAP analysis of where are now in terms of long term goals?
- How do loop in the work that CMHC Veterans' Liaisons do within the community

**Upcoming JIV Task Force Meetings:**

**Advisory Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, October 24, 2018, 10am-12pm, 77 Central St. Manchester

**JIV General Task Force Meeting:** Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 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!*