

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

Meeting 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!

In Attendance: **Jill O’Neill, Co-Facilitator of JIV Task Force**/Community Mental Health Military Liaison, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center (GNMHC); **Larry Vogelmann, Co-Facilitator of JIV Task Force**/Director, Boots on the Ground Legal Project; **Daniel Bricker**, Reentry and Veterans Justice Outreach Officer, Manchester Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center; **Gavin Cherry, MS, LCMHC, MLADC**, Clinical Director of Military and Veterans Affairs, Easterseals NH; **Amy Cook**, Bureau Chief, NH Department of Health and Human Services (Department or DHHS), Bureau of Community-Based Military Programs (BCBMP); **Ed Drury**, Military Liaison/Special Projects, Lakes Region Mental Health Center; Trooper **Seth Gahr**, NH State Police; **John Hattan**, Program Specialist IV/Military Families Liaison, DHHS, Bureau of Child Support Services (BCSS); **Dora Lavigne**, Unit Manager, Merrimack County Department of Corrections; **Diane Levesque**, LICSW, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator, Manchester VA Medical Center; **Susan Mead**, Community Educator/ Outreach Director, Greater Nashua Mental Health Center (GNMHC); **Deanna Monroe**, Care Coordinator, Military and Veteran Services, Easterseals NH; **Terrie Raposo**, Director of Psychological Health, NH Army National Guard (NHARNG); **Nancy Russell (by phone)**, Community Advocate for Treatment Courts/Chair, FNHDC, Advocates for the Grafton County Mental Health Courts; **Kimberly Somarriba (by phone)**, Military and Family Support Specialist, NAMI New Hampshire

- I. Welcome & Introductions** – All present introduced themselves and their professional affiliation. Jill O’Neill welcomed new Bureau Chief Amy Cook and Easterseals NH Military and Veterans Affairs Clinical Director Gavin Cherry.
- II. Approval of July 25, 2018 & September 26, 2018 Minutes** –Ed Drury moved to accept the 7/25 and 9/26 JIV minutes, the 9/26 with some edits to the **NH Military Leadership Entity Update** section. Larry Vogelmann seconded. Motion carried.
- III. NH Military Leadership Entity**
 - Warren Perry introduced **Amy Cook**, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Community Based Military Programs (BCBMP) at DHHS. She was doing a lot of things and had started a couple of initiatives. She was going to facilitate Military Leadership teams, and was evaluating the “Ask the Question” campaign. She was also working with Concord school System to identify the school children with military parents.
 - **Update Governor’s Executive Order** – Warren Perry stated he and Adjutant General David Mikolaities had met with District 2 State Senator Bob Giuda and NH Representative John Graham (Hillsborough District 7 [Bedford]) about sponsoring a bill to codify Governor Sununu’s Executive Order 2018-01 into law. There would be no substantive changes to the Executive Order. People on the team working to codify the executive order were DHHS Director of Finance Jo Moncher and Veterans Affairs Administrative Secretary Cynthia Fisher.
 - Two additional Veterans Service Officers are getting started.
 - **Governor’s Challenge** - Amy Cook stated that in the past week as a result of support sought by Governor Sununu, the State of New Hampshire was notified this week that it has been selected as one of five states that will be provided technical assistance by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) regarding implementing a comprehensive public health approach to facilitate the development of state-wide policy to practice implementation plans to prevent suicide among at-risk Service Members, Veterans and their Families!

III. NH Military Leadership Entity (continued)

- **Governor's Challenge (continued)** BCBMP had been given less than a week to pull together a State team for which 30 individuals had applied.
- There would be site visit from SAMSHA on Friday, Dec. 7, for which, as of yet, there was no set agenda.
- The site visit by SAMSHA will help the team identify gaps with the goal being policy initiatives on a State and local levels.
- A logistical email will go out the end of next week.
- All regions of NH are represented and 25 different agencies represented in applications to be on the State team. Lots of Mental Health Centers represented. Easterseals NH had representation. Bureau of Drug and Alcohol representation were represented as well. No lawyers had applied at present. Trooper Seth Gahr and Major Russ Conte had expressed interest. No judges or lawyers had applied. Two clergy had asked. No colleges.
- Warren Perry recommended that BCBMP reach out to Karen Gilbert, who was the UNH Director of Military & Veterans Services.

IV. JIV Task Force Membership- Update

- Review meeting with TAG – Jill O'Neill thanked Warren Perry for his assistance with the conversation with TAG, as well as everyone else who attended.
- Hillsborough South Superior Court Judge Leary had reached out to General Mikolaities and invited him to a Veterans Track session, which had allowed TAG to experience the Veterans Court. Deanna Monroe stated TAG had been very surprised.
- Jill O'Neill stated that talking with TAG had helped us edit our elevator speech. On first glance, the conversation had not seemed to be a lot of veterans; we must focus on showing TAG the need.
- The challenge presented was to continue to assist non-VA eligible veterans and present that need as one that ultimately impacted VA-eligible veterans but also in and of itself, was a need that needed to be addressed.
- In future, must be presented as a totality. NPR presented a story about VA-eligible benefits changes in Connecticut. Larry Vogelmann stated that the State of CT had just enacted legislation that stated the State would cover any services not covered by the VA that were related to PTSD. Link to State of Connecticut's official website release regarding this law: <https://portal.ct.gov/DVA/Pages/OTH-Qualifying-Condition-Verification>
- Need some ownership about outreach which would create a sustainable Veterans Track program:

V. Scope of Problem- Validate Data

- Mapping of where military service/veterans are in the state - Ron White had asked for data about Veteran population throughout the State. Must present fresh data. Original data based on a survey. Map produced in 2015. Individual county data a little older than that. At least time total number was 115,000; now some reports down to 105,000. Jill O'Neill wants the most recent data. It is helpful to us
- Number of military service members/veterans booked through county jails in the state.
- Number of individuals referred both by VJO's and Easterseals Military Care Coordinators and referral source.
- Most veterans live on the Seacoast, per Warren Perry, due to the shipyard. Per Ed Drury, 70 per cent of veterans live in Merrimack County east

V. Scope of Problem- Validate Data (continued)

- Kimberly Somarriba stated she had put a brochure together a couple of years ago, and she stated she would update it. Just needed someone to assist her. Ed Drury stated he would assist. Stated and Aaron at the State (DHHS? Logistics?) was also helpful.
- We want to get information from the jails and prisons. Ron White has information about seven counties. Stated she had shared it with Linda Sutton also. Relative few people are detained; doesn't assist with data collection.
- We must bolster our message – would like to meet with acting Judges and Judge Lynn to bolster our argument for a Statewide Coordinator.
- Second meeting with original sponsors of Veterans Track legislation to bolster language in support of our ability to create a sustainable Veterans Track
- Warren Perry states we must not only focus on Discharge status but also on overall degree of services; that there must be a service-connected reason for their illness and/or criminal problems.
- Must connect individuals with what happens in Veterans Tracks. Need to refine this data. Can we get a phone call with National Veterans Court leaders about how to track data.
- We must be able to talk about fiscal advantages in order to win prospective leaders.
- Larry Vogelmann stated he would talk to a friend to establish what their problems are costing society economically.
- Trooper Gahr said it is heartbreaking to see that the troopers see it firsthand the loss to society. Lot of people out there who do not know they are not aware that they are eligible for benefits.
- Justice for Vets does work to provide assistance with States to establish Veterans Courts. Does Justice for Vets have data about how successful Veterans Tracks can be? Need data about people in NH but also need data about the model.
- Terri Raposo stated she would volunteer. Jill O'Neill stated she would set up another call with Terri Raposo. Must show that it works in both rural and urban areas. Jill O'Neill stated that the type of criminal charges are missing.
- We can correlate Veteran Track data to suicide rates, and point that Veteran and Military member suicide rates in NH are lower than average. Not necessarily an impactful statistic.
- Recidivism rates a point. Mapping Veterans around the State – Ed and Dora can provide some County-related data; Diane Levesque and Deanna Ellison could provide data. Susan Mead can share data; Terri Raposo and Jill O'Neill would work together globally. Hopefully that we can go back and incorporate data we have already collected.
- Jill stated she would reach out to Alex Casale and get data about costs from the Court. What are the cost for one Care Coordinator, one Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator, and compare what would be the most economical and fiscally responsible. Must be prepared to support our facts.
- We must anticipate potential questions.
- Larry Vogelmann and Nancy Russell stated that data that is meaningful if it is foundationally important. Their non-profit organization had first started in Grafton County to address the lack of Treatment Courts.
- They had met with Chief Justice Lynn and Justice Kelly and Justice Nadeau for deletion of court time. Statewide comprehensive vision of treatment courts. Needed to have a coordinated approach.

V. Scope of Problem- Validate Data (continued)

- Current judicial process was a huge part of the issue. We exist in a system where there is a shortage of court personnel, and courts have money issues.
- Court system was organized to a certain extent.
- Must be able to look at outside courts to show how they managed the transition to a more treatment-focused court model.
- Specific Data Points Which Might Be Helpful to Track
 1. Total number entered the VBHT
 2. Total number completed program
 3. Total number terminated from program
 4. Who we serve- demographics
 5. Branch
 6. Dates of service
 7. Discharge status
 8. Legal Charges
 9. Diagnosis
 10. Substance use
 11. Type of housing
 12. Average length in program
 13. Operational Costs- assign Task Force members to conduct comparative analysis VBHT, Mental Health Court, Drug Courts across the state.

VI. Veteran Track Sites-Updates (Tabled for next Meeting):

- Nashua Veterans Track
- Manchester Veteran Track
- Rockingham Veteran Track
- Grafton Veteran Tracks (Three!)
- North Country Veteran Tracks
- North Country JIV Team meeting update-

IV. Further Discussion:

- Informal Executive Committee Meeting was currently scheduled the last week in December between Christmas and New Year's Eve – January meeting we must focus on action items.
- Skip the December and reconvene as a general meeting on January 23, 2019 at 10 Minuteman Way.
- Camp Resilience- Camp Resilience is looking to discuss tailoring their activities to JIV Task Force participants. The cost was a Nominal deposit and transportation. Want to secure a schedule site visit. Jill will reach out to Veterans Track in Nashua. Camp Resilience wants to grow.
- Questions of whether JIV Task Force Membership was by invitation or by vote?
- JIV Task Force Members list and group email distribution list – who should be on it?
- TAG doing a series of information sessions about what the Executive Order means. TAG was meeting with local VFW post commanders about how he was assisting veterans throughout the State.
- Jill O'Neill referenced the 10-year Mental Health Plan is embracing the “Ask the Question” and Servicelink. Not well coordinated throughout the State. People do not know what benefits are available and what treatment is available.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at 10 Minuteman Way