

Governor's Behavioral Health
Services Planning Council

Veterans Subcommittee Report
2018

2018 GBHSPC Veterans Subcommittee Membership

Chair: Steve Christenberry- FSGC (Retired)

Vice Chair: Steve Roth – Topeka Police Department (Lieutenant)

Members by Regional Recovery Center Areas

Kansas Department of Ageing and Disability Services		
Name	Position	Contact
Charles Bartlett	Project Coordinator	charles.bartlett@ks.gov
Ron Jeanneret	CIT/Vet Program Coordinator	ronald.a.jeanneret@ks.gov
Wes Cole	Volunteer	scole@micoks.net
Gary Henault	Children's Program Manager	gary.henault@ks.gov
Region 1 – Compass Behavioral Health (Garden Center)		
Name	Agency	Contact
Marilyn Roberts	Kansas Soldiers Home FT Dodge	marilyn.roberts@ksh.state.ks.us
Mike Morley	Midwest Energy/VFW Hays	mmorley@mwenergy.com
Larry Salmans	Kansas Senator (Retired)	senatorsalmans@yahoo.com
Region 2 – South Central Mental Health (Andover)		
Name	Agency	Contact
John Agnew	SAC Kansas – Wichita	john@sackansas.org
Pastor Dave Fulton	Saint Paul's Lutheran Church	pastordave.fulton@gmail.com
Crystal Dalmasso	Community Support Specialist	cdalmasso@dcca.org
Region 3 – Wyandot Center (Kansas City)		
Name	Agency	Contact
Jason Hess	Director Heartland RADAC	jason@hradac.com (Lawrence, KS)
Randy Callstrom	President Wyandot Inc.	callstrom_r@wmhci.org
Region 4 – Valeo Behavioral Health Care (Topeka)		
Name	Agency	Contact
Dr. Stephanie Davis	VA-Topeka	stephanie.davis12@va.gov
Carl Taylor	Manhattan/Junction City	ctaylor@therci.com
Region 5 – Four County Mental Health Center (Independence)		
Name	Agency	Contact
Doug Harlan	Iraq War Veteran	jtdug@att.net
Kathy Shepard	RSVP Program Four County	kshepard@fourcounty.com
Ryan York	Commissioner/Veteran	Ryan.york@hotmail.com

Veterans Subcommittee Charter October 2017

Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council

Mission: To ensure that veterans, service members and their families are involved in improving access to behavioral health services which are relevant to military culture in collaboration with key provider organizations and other stakeholders.

Vision: There is an expanded and identifiable network of service providers and community supports to adequately meet the behavioral health care needs of veterans, service members, and their families which includes training provider staff about key elements of military culture and organization as well as ongoing engagement of veterans, service members and family members in eliminating barriers to treatment and in creating flexible treatment and recovery options.

Purpose: The Subcommittee will continue to develop mental health and substance use services for veterans. The Subcommittee will also address the broader behavioral health care needs of veterans, service members and their families, and work toward increased collaboration among providers in the public behavioral health system the VA and other provider networks that focus specifically on veterans, service members and their families.

Membership: Membership on the Subcommittee will be balanced to reflect the following stakeholders. Veterans and service members who experience behavioral health disorders, family members of veterans and service members, behavioral health service providers who are specifically funded to assist veterans and active duty service members, representatives from the public mental health system, state agency prevention staff, educators, and other stakeholders, including veterans service organizations. The Subcommittee will designate a chair or co-chairs. A state agency liaison will be appointed from KDADS to provide staff support to the Subcommittee.

Prospective Goals for 2017/2018:

1. Identify quality resources for veterans and their families. (Would like to identify resources in all 105 counties but, at the least the five regions.)
2. Initiate digital outreach for veteran and family services using Facebook, Twitter etc.
3. Engage veteran service organizations across the state such as VFW posts and American Legions.
4. Identify current available courses that train providers in military culture.
5. Expand the three-day crisis intervention training across the state for police/first responders concerning veterans in a mental health crisis.
6. Communicate/partner with Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs.

History of the veteran's subcommittee reactivation

This subcommittee reactivated in June of 2017. The state is divided into five regions with a designated mental health facility as the lead in that region. The plan of the subcommittee was to identify members in those five regions to help accomplish our goals. Many of the subcommittee members received training from SAMSHA technical assistance program for strategic planning in September 2017. From that training the committee established goals to identify quality resources for veterans, their families and children across the state. The committee presented these goals to Secretary Keck in December 2017. Secretary Keck was very supportive of the subcommittee goals.

Currently, this subcommittee is comprised of the chair, co-chair and 17 members from across the state. The group has decided to meet quarterly in 2018. Our first committee meeting was February 1st to begin work towards our goals. The subcommittee has met on April 16th and July 17th.

Goals pursued in 2018 by the veteran's subcommittee

Goal One: Identify quality resources for veterans and their families. (Would like to identify resources in all 105 counties but, at the least the five regions.) (Work still in progress)

- ❖ Veteran's subcommittee work on goal one: Several members of the group have identified resources in their region and across the state for veterans, their family and children. Numerous resources have been identified but this work is still in progress within the subcommittee. A broad range of resources are included such as; government at all levels, faith-based organizations non-profits etc. etc.
- ❖ Contact information on the KDADS website for veteran services has been updated.
- ❖ KDADS children's program manager is working on a resource/service map for children across the state. This would be a useful resource for veterans and their families.
- ❖ Members of the subcommittee attended a presentation of My RC a website created by a company in Johnson County. This website would be extremely beneficial for veterans and families. It would identify resources across the state and would be update daily.

Goal Two: Initiate digital outreach for veteran and family services using Facebook, Twitter etc. (Work still in progress)

- ❖ Once quality resources are identified a subcommittee member has the expertise to market these resources on social media such as; Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.

Goal Three: Engage veteran service organizations across the state such as VFW posts and American Legions. (Work still in progress)

- ❖ A subcommittee member is a member of a VFW post and has provided a list of VFWs' across the state and contact information. Subcommittee members will reach out to these posts to determine what type of services they may offer.

Goal Four: Identify current available courses that train providers in military culture. (Selecting a course completed reaching out to providers is a work in progress.)

- ❖ The subcommittee discussed several different military culture trainings. Most were free, and some had a cost. The subcommittee decided Psych Armor (15 things every veteran wants you to know) would be beneficial. This is a 15-20-minute video on military culture. The work that still needs to be completed is reaching out to CMHC's, SUD providers, hospitals etc. to have their employees view this video so they have a better understanding of veterans when they come in seeking services.

Goal Five: Expand the three-day crisis intervention training across the state for police/first responders concerning veterans in a mental health crisis. (No action taken at this time.)

- ❖ This goal is dependent upon the expansion of CIT across the state and a funding source. After receiving the 40-hour basic course this advanced three day course can be taken concerning veterans in a mental health crisis.

Goal Six: Communicate/partner with the State of Kansas Department of Veterans Affairs. (Completed)

- ❖ Veterans subcommittee liaison meet with Director Gregg Burden. Director Burden advised his agency would be happy to work with the subcommittee in any capacity that would be beneficial for veterans. Director Burden advised the primary mission of his organization is to assist veterans in the application process for federal benefits. Our subcommittee members can assist if they know of a veteran that needs federal benefits by directing them to the State Department of Veteran Affairs.

2019 goals and objectives of the veteran's subcommittee.

- ❖ The subcommittee will meet in the fourth quarter of 2018 to discuss the goals and objectives to pursue in 2019.
- ❖ At the subcommittee meeting in July it was agreed upon to expand the meetings from quarterly to bi-monthly.
- ❖ The subcommittee will determine whether to continue work on a few of the goals set in 2018.
- ❖ The subcommittee will determine whether to focus on suicide prevention and education efforts for veterans, their families and children in 2019.
- ❖ An initiative through SAMHSA in 2019 is to focus on suicide prevention/education for veterans. Topeka, Kansas was selected by SAMHSA as a site for this effort. This is a local effort with the city, county and state for the Mayor's Challenge. The key objectives are listed below.
 1. Build an interagency military and civilian team of leaders from your city and state that will develop consensus on priorities and action items to support

implementation of a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention at the local level.

2. Acquire a deeper familiarity with the issues surrounding suicide prevention for SMVF.
3. Increase knowledge about the challenges and lessons learned in implementing strategies by utilizing city to city sharing.
4. Employ promising, best and evidence-based practices to prevent and reduce suicide attempts and completions at the local level.
5. Define and measure success, including defining assignments, deadlines, and measurable outcomes to be reported.

SAMHSA technical assistance personnel came to Topeka for the Mayor's Challenge Site visit on August 30th and 31st to provide attendees training to identify other key players, set goals and objectives, implement strategies, identify other agencies to partner with etc. The training had representatives from the Topeka Police Department, Valeo, VA Eastern Kansas, State of Kansas, City of Topeka HR and Municipal Court and the Shawnee County Suicide Prevention Coalition. Once the Topeka Coalition is established the goal will be to expand this prevention/education effort to other cities in the state. The first meeting of this group will be in November 2018.

On October 9th I received an e-mail from SAMHSA asking the State of Kansas to participate in the Governors Challenge. This will be a state-wide effort to reduce veteran suicide. It is very similar to the Mayors Challenge which is more of a local city/county effort to reduce veteran suicide. Secretary Keck is supportive of the Governors Challenge and the veteran subcommittee can participate at the statewide level. The key objectives are listed below.

1. Convene an interagency military and civilian team of leaders from your state to develop an implementation plan that will advance the National Strategy to prevent suicide among SMVF
2. Implement promising, best, and evidence-based practices to prevent and reduce suicide
3. Engage with city, county, and local communities to enhance and align local and state-wide prevention efforts
4. Acquire a deeper familiarity with the issues surrounding suicide prevention for SMVF
5. Increase knowledge about the challenges and lessons learned in implementing strategies by utilizing state-to-state and community-to-community sharing 2
6. Define, measure, and report progress, including assignments, deadlines, measurable outcomes, and lessons learned

Respectfully submitted by
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