



MEETING AGENDA

9:00 am	Engagement and Access Working Group
9:30 am	Check-in
10:00 am	Welcome & Agenda Nathan Graeser, Collaborative Coordinator, CIR
10:10 am	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Survey Report end of September◆ Upcoming Events
10:30 am	Working Group Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Behavioral Health◆ Career Advancement◆ Families & Children◆ Housing & Homelessness◆ Legal & Re-Entry◆ Faith Based◆ Higher Education◆ Health Care
11:30 am	Review of Working Group Sessions
11:55 am	Administrative Items & Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ LAVC Facebook, Minutes and Website Nathan Graeser
12:00 pm	Collaborative Meeting Adjourns

I. Welcome & Agenda

Nathan Graeser, Community Liaison/Analyst welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

II. Working Group Breakout Sessions

The working groups then met for one hour. The working groups that convened were:

- **Behavioral Health**
- **Career Advancement**
- **Families & Children**
- **Housing & Homelessness**
- **Legal & Re-Entry**
- **Faith Based**
- **Higher Education**
- **Health Care**

III. Working Group Session Summaries

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group. Groups were asked to think about what information from such a survey would help them the most.

IV. Behavioral Health Working Group

a) **Action Arm**

- a. Mark Mitchell- Discussed 211 as a resource and its effectiveness in dealing with the Vet population. Described some negative encounters experienced by Antelope Valley Vet programs. Also discussed Value Options as and EAP for military and need for excellent customer service in working with the vets. He also was in contact with Mayor Riordan and possibility to make donor contacts.
- b. Claire Lawless of IAVA explained her organization's vast data base for referral resources which may help augment what 211 is able to provide.
- c. Sherry Winston- Discussed need of BHWG to decide on an area of focus to be presented as she pitches various radio and T.V. stations regarding PSA for the group. Also need a press release and talking points before she can approach the various station producers. A group discussion regarding the issue of veteran suicide rates and need for prevention programs.
- d. Roxann Abrams- discussed her organization Operation IV which addresses suicide risk etc in the vet population.

- e. Val put forth a motion to make the topic of suicide rate and prevention as the theme for the first PSA. Sherry seconded the motion and it was a unanimous vote to move forward.
- f. Antonio Chapas- Discussed policy and is compiling a list of politicians who could help the cause. Also researching policies available locally i.e. SSVF Supportive Services for Veterans. Also addressed need for vets who do not qualify for mental health services via the VA but still need services.
- g. Melissa Rodriguez- Discussed social media and spreading the message via Facebook, and creating our own FB page or piggy back the cite to the CIR page. Other venues such as Instagram, Hashtags and Twitter. Also go to other vet sites.
- b) Val Reyes suggested creating a Social Media Exploratory Committee and Melissa Rodriquez volunteered to be the lead with Antonio Chapas and Claire Lawless as collaborators
- c) Spencer Vigoren- Presented his work with Innovative Services for Vets, government bill S852 that allows complimentary alternative treatments to be accepted by VA and Tri Care. Also resource of Brain Treatment Center for free treatment to DD214 eligible vets. Open to receiving referrals.
- d) Goals and Agenda for January
 - h. PSA on Vet Suicide
 - i. Social Media Marketing Plan
 - j. Spencer Vigoren to discuss more on BTC
 - k. Roxann Abrams to present on Operation IV
 - l. Phil Wong to present on Gateways Hospital
 - m.

V. Career Advancement Working Group

- a) Michael Wolf then gave a presentation on his work with Mayor Garcetti's Veteran's Affairs office to engage employers in the Los Angeles Area in the Mayor's Hiring Initiative. Michael is bringing together a small group of Human Resources professionals from a variety of industries to provide guidance to the Mayor's Office, to the Collaborative and eventually to other employers around the issue of recruiting and retaining veteran talent. The Career Advancement Group anticipates working very closely with this group.

VI. Families & Children Working Group

Mission: To heighten the awareness and impact policy related to the concerns and needs of military connected children and their families. Particular attention is addressed to the families of the Guard and Reserve service members who as a result of their status may not fully access resources within the military service delivery system or within their communities.

Vision: Children and families impacted by the military service of their loved ones will be identified in order to receive the supportive care and attention needed to maximize their adjustment to challenges associated with the deployment process and to reinforce family resiliency. The identification of services will serve to enhance the military affiliated child's healthy growth and development and family functioning.

Attendance: Gail Soffer, Mindful Warrior Project; Sachi Murakami, Community Partners; Chris Chase, Operation Family Caregiver; Pauline Tan, The Village Family Services; Erica Trejo, Didi Hirsch MHS; Edwin Rodarte, LA Public Library; Marcy Manker, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Nikole Seals, Big Brothers Big Sisters; Olivia J. Chavez, YWCA – Glendale and 29th Congressional District

- a) Update AB2341- Awaiting Congress vote, no new update
- b) LAUSD - First day of Fall School semester - 8/12/14 Discussed need to follow up with LAUSD regarding the military student identifier that was to begin this semester. Discussed military resources and training offerings for teachers.
- c) Deborah Hayes will contact Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), to inquire possible training opportunities in the Los Angeles area.
- d) Erica Trejo, Didi Hirsch MHS has indicated that they have interfaced with Inglewood, Lennox, Hawthorne and the Wiseburn Unified school districts regarding their MFAR program which is providing resiliency support and counseling to military connected children and families. Debbie Nichols also reported that her organization, the Military Children's Collaborative, is making contact with school district personnel in the regarding identifying military connected students.
- e) Thank you to Olivia Chavez for sharing information regarding:
- f) North Carolina Collaborative for Children Youth, and Families - Family Toolkit
- g) Link: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/MHDDSAS/childandfamily/childfamilyteamtoolkit-all7-09.pdf>
- h) Contact Deborah Hayes for the updated "Socio-Emotional Toolkit Guide for Military Connected Children and Families" and for the Military Children's Resource Guide, August 2014.
- i) Governors ICV data exchange is moving forward and a work in progress. SAMHSA requested State of California delegates support with student enrollment process needing assistance assist for a newly formed group. Connected Orange County Dept of Education as an advisor to the group walking through the process.
- j) Edwin Rodarte, representing the LA City Public Library would like to have available for library patrons, resources and information to support military children and their families.
- k) Olivia Chavez shared that Tony Cardenas, Congressman, 29th District, is looking to identify resources for military families. The Families and Children work group members were asked to provide a brief (2-3 paragraph) program description that includes services provided, service areas, statistical data, etc.
- l) Requested that Families and Children work group members send their program information to Deborah and Debbie so that this information can be compiled and forwarded to Congressman Cardenas' office by Olivia Chavez.
- m) Olivia is planning an event in the San Fernando Valley on November 11th (Veteran's Day) that will involve veterans, children and families. All ideas for this event are appreciated.
- n) Debbie Nichols shared that she acknowledges the Veteran's children for also serving our Country. School age children can be presented a "*Certificate of Appreciation for Serving our Country*" available on the [www.militarychildrenscollaborativegroup.com/Resources/toolkits/salute the kids](http://www.militarychildrenscollaborativegroup.com/Resources/toolkits/salute%20the%20kids). Debbie shared school districts she has contacted are

planning on using the certificates for acknowledging children on - Sept 11 Patriot day, April Military Child month and any patriotic holidays.

Community Outreach

- a) Nikole Seals, Intern Manager - *Big Brothers & Big Sisters Club of Greater Los Angeles*- is developing an intern program that will utilize MSW interns to provide mentorship to military connected children. She has developed program contacts in Culver City and is outreaching to various local universities for interns.
- b) USC Veterans Survey update- Target date for dissemination of findings, September 2014.
- c) San Diego Military Family Collaborative Annual Conference- Stop, Listen and Collaborate/Activate Your Mission -8/8/14 - Approx 300 were in attendance.
- d) Gail Soffer – Mindful Warrior Project, discussed training opportunities and outreach that her program is offering to those who are working with veterans and their families.
- e) Deborah Hayes and Carla Cavalier met with representatives in Senator Holly Mitchell's office to gather their support for April, Month of the Military Child, 2015. **Senator Holly Mitchell's** office has offered to partner with the LAVC Families & Children Work Group and other community partners in support of co-sponsoring an activity for military connected children during April, 2015, Month of the Military Child.
- i. Discussed how best to engage military families in their participation of this activity and other community events. There is a need to meet with Family Readiness officers, Military parent groups, Natl Guard Youth & Children programs (Brandon Penn), etc. to identify best practices in our efforts to engage military families in community activities.
- f) Edwin suggested that a calendar of events be developed for the Collaborative. Debbie will mention this suggestion to Nathan

Announcements of Upcoming Events

Aug 30th, 9-3 pm in Orange County for Caregivers caring for wounded Veterans. (See Chris Chase)

Perinatal Mental Health 2 day Certificate Training – Sept 29th and 30th

www.maternalmentalhealthla.org

November 11, 2014 – 12th Annual Veteran's Day Celebration at Byrd Middle School in Arleta, CA (See Olivia Chavez for additional information)

Los Angeles Veteran's Stand Down is scheduled for Dec 20-21 LA Convention center partners and volunteers are needed. (See Gail Soffer)

VII. Housing & Homelessness Working Group

- a) **Proposition 41:** Proposition 41 passed with voter approval! Thanks to all of the organizations in the Collaborative that participated in advocacy efforts. **New Update:** Stakeholder meetings discussing implementation will occur throughout the state in July. To sign up for the afternoon Los Angeles meeting, visit <http://goo.gl/OzBAqi>
- b) **SSVF Referral Information:** The working group went over a SSVF referral information packet compiled by Phil Bowers of VOA. The guide includes basic

eligibility information, SSVF Agency listing and contact by SPA and an SSVF referral form for case managers. Referrals from the VASH program will use a separate package. To access the SSVF referral information, please visit:

<http://goo.gl/DkNvcB>

- c) **SSVF Proposed Rule Change:** Recently, the VA released a proposed rule change to SSVF that would expand services for an extremely low-income population and clarify what SSVF funds can and cannot be used for. The working group went through the proposed changes in detail. All of the SSVF funds must be tied to housing stability, and funds must go through a third party rather than be directly dispersed to a Veteran. SSVF can pay for hotel vouchers for up to 30 days if a household has dependents and is transitioning between housing. SSVF funds can be used to purchase refrigerators, mattresses and pay for the application fees. We clarified that it is illegal for property managers to ask for an extra deposit for service animals. To view key points of the proposed rule, visit: <http://goo.gl/kAA7bb>.
- d) **SSVF Proposed Rule Change Public Comment:** During the discussion of the SSVF Proposed Rule Change, the working group discussed ideas for public comments if they chose to submit one on behalf of their agencies.

VIII. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group

- a) NEW Members:
 - a. Colleen Hart-Former Navy JAG, partner @ [Proskauer](#) Law firm, New member from New Directions and attorney from Inner City Law Center
- b) Update on Projects for group in upcoming year :
 - a. Posters/postcards with PC 1170.9 info: developed a means to determine # needed
 - b. Best way to elicit info from vets for PC 1170.9 cases & legal clinic. Laura Cobain submitted questions for use for this.
 - c. Major Stirling will do a policy brief USC (disparity GI Bill Benefits amongst National Guard) preliminary draft done.
 - d. Coordinating a written recommendation for Jim McDonnell regarding veterans and the criminal justice system—anticipated new LA Sheriff.
- c) Veteran Advocate Training (lawyers, social workers, advocates) 1.27.15 CA Endowment
 - a. USC, Co-chairs & committees, LACBA, LAFLA, Public Counsel, Law
 - i. Library, Levitt & Quinn, Matthew Higbee, Professor Stringfellow, 211, consumer law
 - b. 1.27.15-CA Endowment Center-deposit, USC –food, it will be video taped
 - c. Posting of taped training will be on Collaborative Website, hope to have on-hand at Patriotic Hall, maybe law library?LACBA website?
- d) Update on current projects:
 - a. Domestic Violence Veteran Programs—3 in LA, communications begun with LA City Attorney’s office, 2 task forces (city/county) we can do presentations

for. –Jodi Galvin & Kathleen West working on this, conference call Aug 14
VA Head Jennifer Broomfield

- b. PC 1170.9 brief and Senate Bill 1110, requiring that at arraignment a form be filed documenting veteran status of the defendant (with acknowledgement of court and defense counsel in the record) should pass. PC 1170.9 brief almost finished with edits for PD office.
- c. AB2098- legislation Post Traumatic Stress and Sentencing of Military Veterans has passed, Annie briefed.
- d. Parking citation proposal—Annie in on committee and keep us updated regarding progress
- e. Coordination for legal services at Patriotic Hall, subcommittees have been formed. (BH Barristers)(Public Counsel-special focus target programs rip off GI bill benefits)
- f. Dec. 20 & 21 Stand Down, Convention Center—largest ever, Nicole Perez, LAFLA attorney coordinating both PH & Stand Down legal services.
- g. 5. Certificate of Appreciation—have begun to create one for the Collaborative to use to honor those that help our veterans—IE Kruger Tow Company was willing to forego selling 74 yr disabled vet's truck and waive over \$700 fees.

a)

IX. Faith Based Working Group

- a. Finalized Faith based Curriculum and set a date for an appointment to create and fill out 1 day and six week training USC office of Religious and Civic Engagement on 7/4.
- b. Developed planning meeting to build support and outreach to our contacts to begin outreach for course. Went over outline for curriculum, identifying any needs to fill in gaps in curriculum. Finalize one day and six week course for implementation on 6/14.

X. Higher Education Working Group

- a. Our discussion focused on preparing a letter for Mayor Garcetti. This letter will ask the Mayor for his support in asking that the LACCD be more involved with Veterans on their campuses and in attending the collaborative. The letter will be ready at our next meeting.
- b. We have requested that all community colleges attend. We will need your assistance with having the CSU and UC to attend the next meeting. Our focus is to work on colleges best practices..
- c. Best Practice College Campuses
 - a) Develop a Triage on campuses – **(CSUDH)**
 - a. (on campus information and other campuses)
 - b) Asses Student needs
 - c) Benefits information

- d) Up to date resource guides
- e) All campuses like FACEBOOK page for information purposes
- f) Know the right information to direct veterans on campus and off campus
- g) Resume preparing (small groups)
- h) Referral services
- i) Information on legal services
 - a. Family law
 - b. Criminal Background information

XI. Administrative Details

a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings

The Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The three upcoming meetings are as follows:

- July 9, 2014
- August 13, 2014
- September 10, 2014

b. Closing Remarks

Nathan Graeser thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone about the Orange County survey and to pass along any information and ideas to CIR.

c. Collaborative Mailing List

To join the Collaborative's mailing list, or any of the working group mailing lists, please contact Nathan Graeser at graeser@usc.edu

XII. Next Meeting

Wednesday, July

10:00 - 12:00 pm

Sunset Theater

1149 South Hill Street, 11th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90015