



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**
- ◆ Survey Update
 - ◆ Upcoming Events
 - ◆ Anthony Hassan, USC CIR Director, addressed the collaborative
 - ◆ Announced the beginning of Higher Education Working group
- 10:30 am** **Working Group Sessions**
- ◆ Behavioral Health
 - ◆ Career Advancement
 - ◆ Families & Children
 - ◆ Housing & Homelessness
 - ◆ Legal & Re-Entry
 - ◆ Faith Based
 - ◆ Higher Education
- 11:30 am** **Review of Working Group Sessions**
- 11:55 am** **Administrative Items & Closing Remarks**
- ◆ 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. Anthony Hassan, Director of CIR and addressed the LAVC and thanked them for their hard work and invited leaders and CEO's to Impact Day. Nathan announced the beginning of the Higher Education Working group.

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**

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

Facilitated by: Val Reyes, Mark Mitchell

- a. Introduction of new members.
- b. Ken Lynch- Brian Reeves- Bringing mindfulness to veterans. Address high suicide rates of veterans. Def: how to be present in the moment without judgment but with compassion. Connecting mind and body. Working with vets on Skid Row with VOA. Brook Army Medical Center. Somatic Experiencing with trauma. Empower facilitators to lead meditation and mindfulness meetings throughout the country. Work with PATH for homeless population.
- c. Developed and updated list of agencies that work with veteran behavioral health.

V. Career Advancement Working Group

- a. Adam Renteria presented the Navigator Program Luci Ursich from CIR presented HR Course for hiring veterans
 - Course is roughly 80 minutes
 - The 10 topics in the course are: 1) Veteran Job Seekers, 2) Veterans Mental Health, 3) National Guard and Reserves' job seekers, 4) Military culture and workplace expectations, 5) Why hire veterans, 6) Sourcing and recruiting veterans, 7) Skills and education translation, 8) Interviewing a veteran, 9) Veterans in the workplace, and 10) Retaining veteran employees
- a. The group discussed creating teamwork environments and chemistry among staff so that the veteran feels an ease within the transition. This environment would produce two-fold effects: helping the veteran transition and producing a better workplace environment for all employees
- b. Leadership is more important to veterans: such as working for great leaders and maximizing leadership potential within veteran employees.
 - Increased efficiency and better processes are more conducive to the veteran employee and the employers

VI. Families & Children Working Group

- a. **Mission:**

To heighten the awareness and impact policy related to the concerns and needs of military affiliated (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.
- b. **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. The identification and coordination of services for military connected families will serve to enhance the military affiliated child's healthy growth and development and family functioning.

VII. Housing & Homelessness Working Group

- a. Proposition 41: Prop 41 now has an official website and is looking for greater advocacy. To officially endorse Prop 41, visit www.yesonprop41forvets.org and hover over the endorsements tab. Then click "Organization Support

Form”. You can also access official fact sheets and campaign material in the “About” section under “Facts and Campaign Materials”.

- b. SSVF: Jonathan Castillo from PATH discussed PATH’s SSVF proposal, which will include subcontracting with other community organizations. Their program will focus on rapid rehousing and prevention services.
- c. VASH: Christina Lupo from HACoLA reported that they have 135 vets to contract under VASH with 2013 funding and 40 more vets to contract under prior years’ allocations.
- d. Discharges that are not Honorable: More discussion will follow in the May Veterans Collaborative meeting regarding VA policy on eligibility for Grant Per Diem and SSVF homeless services for veterans with discharges that are not Honorable.
- e. VASH: The Working Group discussed challenges to VASH for veterans with children attributed to the federal definition of chronically homeless. Although the focus nationally is currently in the chronically homeless population, vets in LA who are not chronically homeless have fewer opportunities for housing and services. The Working Group wants to advocate to bring more services to families and to prevent more from falling through the cracks.
- f. Cal Vet: The Working Group also discussed the Cal Vet skilled nursing and assisted living facility. More policy research and analysis to be done.

VIII. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group

- a. New Members introduced themselves
- b. Filled group in on current status of various legislative and legal resource projects around PC 1170.9
- c. Agreed to continue recruiting members

IX. Faith Based Working Group

- a. Discussed possible partnership for launch of Faith based clergy training curriculum. Finalize by 5/14.
- b. Went over outline for curriculum, identifying any needs to fill in gaps in curriculum. Finalize one day and six week course for implementation on 5/14.

X. Higher Education Working Group

- a. This discussion focused on the information provided veterans on campus and off campus. Our goal is to invite our sister campus to participate and come up a plan to that we all mirror each other. We will start with the Triages on campus.
- b. **Best Practice College Campuses**
 - Develop a Triage on campuses – **(CSUDH)**
 - (on campus information and other campuses)
 - Asses Student needs
 - Benefits information
 - Up to date resource guides
 - All campuses like FACEBOOK page for information purposes
 - Know the right information to direct veterans on campus and off campus
 - Resume preparing (small groups)
 - Referral services
 - Information on legal services
 - Family law
 - 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:

- May 14, 2014
- June 11, 2014
- July 9, 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, May 14, 2014

10:00 - 12:00 pm

Sunset Theater

1149 South Hill Street, 11th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90015