



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Anthony Hassan, CIR Megan Hazle, CIR
<b>9:40 am</b>	<b>Introductions</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Survey Results</b> Megan Hazle, CIR <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Location</li><li>◆ Schedule</li><li>◆ Focus</li><li>◆ Structure</li><li>◆ Follow-through</li></ul>
<b>10:55 am</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle, CIR
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourns</b>

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

Dr. Anthony Hassan, Director of the USC Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans & Military Families (CIR) welcomed the attendees to the CIR office and the meeting. Dr. Hassan explained that CIR will now be managing and hosting the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative Committee and thanked the attendees for their presence and work in the community. Attendees then introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of their work or agency's services.

Ms. Megan Hazle, Project Manager for Communications at CIR, facilitated the meeting and group discussion regarding the focus, intention, and structure of the Collaborative.

**II. Meeting Schedule**

Collaborative meetings will now be held at the CIR Office (1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114, Los Angeles, CA 90015) on the second Wednesday of each month. The next Collaborative meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 11, 2012.

At a future time, members will determine whether or not the Collaborative should meet during the months of July and August, or take a brief hiatus for the summer.

**III. Collaborative Focus**

Prior to the meeting, CIR surveyed the Collaborative members to determine their needs and desired 'next steps' for the group. According to this survey, many members use the Collaborative as a place to get information on community resources, to network, and to work on issues in the community related to veterans. The survey indicated that members want more time to share resource information 'offline' and use meeting time to identify and collaborate on issues affecting them and other organizations that serve veterans in the Los Angeles-area.

Members also briefly discussed how to grow the Collaborative, and expressed interest in including community stakeholders in the meetings.

**IV. Meeting Structure**

Many members expressed interest in creating Working Groups within the Collaborative in order to work on specific topic areas, such as legal issues or homelessness. Members discussed the possible topic areas for the Working Groups including: Homelessness, Mental Health, Families, Legal, Women Veterans, Employment, and Education. Members debated the topics for the Working Groups and how best to divide the focus areas to facilitate collaboration. Among the concerns that members expressed regarding the delineation of Working Group topics were:

- How best to address the needs and issues affecting different generations of veterans (e.g. Vietnam vs. OEF/OIF veterans)
- How best to divide Working Group topic areas in order to facilitate collaboration and cross-pollination between topic areas.

- How best to sub-divide Working Group topic areas without creating too many to manage or populate within the Collaborative (e.g. should prison re-entry be a part of a Legal, or its own Working Group; should Women Veterans be its own Working Group, or should women's issues be addressed throughout the other groups instead of separately).
- How best to coordinate with other existing veterans councils and collaborative groups, such as the Women Veterans Collaborative or Governor Brown's Interagency Council on veterans issues.
- How to translate identified issues within the Working Groups to policy change.

Members agreed to participate in a trial-run of the Working Groups at the next meeting on April 11. During this trial-run, members will participate in several Working Groups to draw up a list of issues pertaining to each group, determine its focus, and prioritize the most pressing concerns or needs for policy change. The Collaborative will then review all of the work done by the separate Working Groups and discuss how best to divide the topic areas and focus the mission of each group.

For future meetings, it was proposed that the meetings be structured as follows:

1. **30 minutes:** Collaborative meets to review issues to be discussed at each Working Group meeting that day.
2. **60 minutes:** Working Groups meet separately to discuss their particular issues and draw up a list of action items and notes to share with the rest of the Collaborative members.
3. **30 minutes:** Collaborative meets to review the discussions of each Working Group, their action items, and collaborate on 'next steps' and solutions to the identified problems or issues.

After the trial-run, members will discuss how off-site attendees might be included in Collaborative and Working Group meetings (e.g. via Skype or Google+).

#### **V. Follow Through**

CIR will create and host a webpage on its website for materials related to the Collaborative, including meeting minutes, meeting agendas, member info and resources, and lists of Working Group action items. CIR will research the possibility of creating a message board for the Collaborative to share information and collaborate between meetings.

#### **VI. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 11, 2012**

9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

USC CIR Office  
1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

## MARCH 21, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES

Amanda	<b>Anderson</b>
Jessica	<b>Arnold</b>
Cara	<b>Borm</b>
Marian	<b>Branch</b>
Karl	<b>Calhoun</b>
Shawna	<b>Campbell</b>
Joseph	<b>Chicas</b>
David	<b>Cook</b>
Mayra	<b>Galicia</b>
Jose	<b>Gonzalez</b>
Syreeta	<b>Greene</b>
Lee	<b>Gutierrez</b>
Monica	<b>Guthre-Davis</b>
Anthony	<b>Hassan</b>
Deborah	<b>Hayes</b>
Megan	<b>Hazle</b>
Tamiko	<b>Hirano</b>
Alice	<b>Kim</b>
Lory	<b>LaGro</b>
Laura	<b>Lechlenberg</b>
Mona	<b>LeDuc</b>
Annette	<b>Lin</b>
Matthew	<b>Lorshesder</b>
Michell	<b>Molina</b>
John	<b>Moss</b>
Janice	<b>Neal</b>
Debbie	<b>Nichols</b>
Andy	<b>Nguyen</b>
Bobby	<b>Ortiz</b>
Shaun	<b>Pruett</b>
Mary	<b>Sanders</b>
Gregory	<b>Scott</b>
David	<b>Smith</b>
Gail	<b>Soffer</b>
Rhonda	<b>Sparks</b>
Janice	<b>Tsao</b>
Mario	<b>Uribe</b>



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Megan Hazle, CIR
<b>9:45 am</b>	<b>Trial Working Group Session: Round 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Trial Working Group Session: Round 2</b>
<b>10:15 am</b>	<b>Trial Working Group Session: Round 3</b>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourns</b>

**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Dr. Anthony Hassan, Director for the USC Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans & Military Families (CIR) welcomed the attendees to the meeting and to CIR. He informed attendees that they would break out into working groups for the first time, as discussed at the previous meeting. He suggested that working groups consider how they can impact policy and address barriers to care in their respective areas. Dr. Hassan expressed the hope that the Collaborative working groups will become action-oriented vehicles to change policy in order to benefit veterans and their families.

Ms. Megan Hazle, Project Manager for Communications at CIR, provided an overview of the meeting structure for the day. Attendees were to:

- Convene as a collective group to review the agenda
- Break out into working groups for three 15-minute brainstorming sessions in order to determine the issues that each group should address, and how these issues might be prioritized. After each 15-minute segment, attendees were free to switch working groups, in case they would like to participate in more than one.
- Re-convene as a collective group to present highlights of their discussions to the other attendees.

Each working group was tasked to:

- Determine its scope:
  - Define **Mission**
  - Define those served (**Target Group**)
  - List **Issues to Address** (e.g., service or policy gaps)
  - Determine **Goals**
- Prioritize top 3 issues to address
- Suggest a final name for the group
- Suggest members (e.g., community stakeholders, other organizations)

**II. Working Group Breakout Sessions**

The working groups then met for a total of 45 minutes and took notes to present their discussions to the other attendees. The working groups that convened were:

- **Behavioral Health**
- **Career Advancement**
- **Families & Children**
- **Housing & Homelessness**
- **Legal & Re-Entry**

**III. Working Group Session Summaries**

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

**a. Behavioral Health Working Group**

The Behavioral Health Working Group presented the following information, based on the members' discussion:

- **Mission:** To provide leadership and partnerships to create a seamless safety net for veterans.
- **Target Group:** All veterans from all conflicts and their family members/loved ones from Los Angeles County & Greater Los Angeles.
- **Issues to Address:**
  - Stigma associated with mental health challenges
  - Sustaining momentum of effort
  - Lack of agency coordination
  - Insufficient number of qualified providers in needed areas
  - Difficulty navigating support systems
- **Goals:**
  - Identify best practices and resources available through an asset map
  - Use combined strengths by incorporating work throughout the community and sustaining connections between organizations
  - Engage elected officials, businesses, and labor organizations
  - Campaign to reduce stigma regarding military service or veteran status

**b. Career Advancement Working Group**

The Career Advancement Working Group presented the following information, based on the members' discussion:

- **Mission:** To facilitate greater access and awareness to education, training, and employment placement.
- **Target Group:** Veterans of all eras.
- **Issues to Address:** Unique challenges for each era of veterans, including overlapping challenges among groups. These include:
  - Reluctance to trust employment programs and employers
  - Inconsistent work experience history
  - Unemployment among military spouses who are overseas
  - Stigmas shaping employer perception of veterans
  - Difficulty translating military experience to civilian employment
  - Lack of policies and grants for veterans who may not qualify for current programs(which are mostly intended for post-9/11 veterans)
- **Goal:** To create a list of prioritized issues in the WG topic area.

**c. Families & Children Working Group**

The Families & Children Working Group presented the following information, based on the members' discussion:

- **Mission:** To create a collaborative that is focused on strengthening military families.
- **Target Group:** Family members and dependents of veterans.
- **Issues to Address:**
  - Lack of resources for families of veterans with Dishonorable Discharges
  - Family issues arising during the early reintegration phase
  - Lack of coordination among service providers
- **Goals:**
  - Identify where military families are located in the Los Angeles-area
  - Identify military children in LA-area schools
  - Create a list of state and federal town halls that focus on military families

- Utilize the Collaborative to outreach to families and educate civilian and military communities about existing resources
- Change policy through education

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

The Housing & Homelessness Working Group presented the following information, based on the members' discussion:

- **Mission:** To help veterans obtain permanent and affordable housing and to serve the housing needs of military children and spouses.
- **Issues to Address:**
  - Potential passage of the Los Angeles Community Care Ordinance, which would reduce availability of affordable housing
  - Lack of housing and services in San Gabriel Valley and in the South Bay
  - Lack of transitional housing for women and children
  - Limited homelessness-prevention programs
- **Goals:**
  - Assess the impact of the LA Community Care Ordinance on veterans and possibly create a policy brief to inform policymakers about its consequences.
  - Reach out to community groups and stakeholders to join the Collaborative, such as the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing and Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles.

**e. Legal & Reentry Working Group**

The Legal & Re-Entry Working Group presented the following information, based on the members' discussion:

- **Issues to Address:** The main issue members discussed is that veterans are not fully aware of the specific laws that protect them.
- **Goals:**
  - Educate veterans and lawyers about the laws, rules, and regulations that protect veterans.
  - Improve access to veteran benefits.

**IV. Administrative Details**

**a. Meeting Structure**

Ms. Hazle reviewed the new meeting structure which will be implemented starting with the next Collaborative meeting.

1. **9:30 am – 10:00 am:** Collaborative meets to review issues to be discussed in the Working Group sessions that day.
2. **10:00 am – 11:00 am:** Working Groups meet separately to discuss their particular issues and draw up a list of action items and notes to share with the rest of the Collaborative members.
3. **11:00 am – 11:30 am:** Collaborative meets to review the discussions of each Working Group, their action items, and collaborate on 'next steps' and solutions to the identified problems or issues.

**b. Mailing Lists**

Currently, all Collaborative members are included on one mailing list, which is used to disseminate information about upcoming meetings, meeting minutes, and Collaborative administrative details. Ms. Hazle stated that CIR occasionally receives information that may be



of interest to Collaborative members, but also realizes that not all members wish to receive additional, non-Collaborative-related information (e.g., upcoming community events).

She presented attendees with several mailing list options, which will be made available to members in a forthcoming email announcement:

- **Collaborative Mailing List** – This mailing list will only be used to disseminate Collaborative meeting or administration-related announcements (e.g., agenda, meeting minutes)
- **Collaborative “Forwarding List”** – This mailing list will be used to disseminate information that may be of interest to Collaborative members, such as community event announcements and information related to veterans and military families in the Los Angeles-area.
- **Working Group Mailing Lists** – A mailing list will be created for each Working Group, to facilitate communication and coordination among members outside of Collaborative meetings. Collaborative members may sign up for more than one Working Group mailing list, if desired. The Working Group mailing lists will be made available to all Collaborative members.

**c. Upcoming Events**

Ms. Hazle invited all members of the Collaborative to attend the following upcoming events:

- **Prudential Insurance’s Veterans Networking & Appreciation Reception**  
Tuesday, April 17, 2012  
5:00 – 7:00 pm  
USC University Park Campus, Davidson Conference Center, Vineyard Room
- **CIR’s Military Behavioral Health Colloquium**  
Wednesday, April 18, 2012  
8:30 am – 12:00 pm  
USC University Park Campus, Davidson Conference Center, Alumni Room

**V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 9, 2012**

9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

USC CIR Office  
1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Attachments:**

1. APRIL 11, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES
2. COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

**Attachment 1: APRIL 11, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>
Larby	<b>Ablouh</b>
Todd	<b>Adamson</b>
Amanda	<b>Anderson</b>
Lisa	<b>Anderson</b>
Lina	<b>Berrio</b>
Brennan	<b>Burnett</b>
Joseph	<b>Chicas</b>
Jonathan	<b>Castillo</b>
Karl	<b>Calhoun</b>
Diana	<b>Cruz</b>
Debbie	<b>Edwards</b>
Mayra	<b>Galicia</b>
Jodi	<b>Galvin</b>
Jose	<b>Gonzalez</b>
Syreeta	<b>Greene</b>
Heather	<b>Harris</b>
Anthony	<b>Hassan</b>
Megan	<b>Hazle</b>
Deborah	<b>Hayes</b>
Gentry	<b>Humphrey</b>
Gerald Dean	<b>Johnson</b>
Lory	<b>LaGro</b>
Patrick	<b>Link</b>
Carl	<b>McKnight</b>
Michell	<b>Molina</b>
Anne	<b>Murphy</b>
Mike	<b>Neely</b>
Andy	<b>Nguyen</b>
Debbie	<b>Nichols</b>
Lourdes	<b>Nishi</b>
Shaun	<b>Pruett</b>
Monica	<b>Ramirez</b>
Russana	<b>Rowles</b>
Susan	<b>Rueb</b>
David	<b>Smith</b>
Gail	<b>Soffer</b>
Jo	<b>Sornborger</b>
Stephanie	<b>Stone</b>
Kengo	<b>Tanaka</b>
Kathleen	<b>West</b>
Mario	<b>Uribe</b>

## Attachment 2: COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

### Behavioral Health Working Group

First Name	Last Name
Todd	Adamson
Jose	Gonzalez
Patrick	Link
Susan	Rueb
Gail	Soffer
Stephanie	Stone

### Career Advancement Working Group

First Name	Last Name
Larby	Ablouh
Lisa	Anderson
Brennan	Burnett
Joseph	Chicas
Mayra	Galicia
Jodi	Galvin
Syreetta	Greene
Andy	Nguyen

### Families & Children Working Group

First Name	Last Name
Lina	Berrio
Diana	Cruz
Lory	LaGro
Carl	McKnight
Debbie	Nichols
Monica	Ramirez
Russana	Rowles
Jo	Sornborger
Kathleen	West

### Housing & Homelessness Working Group

First Name	Last Name
Karl	Calhoun
Jonathan	Castillo
Heather	Harris
Anne	Murphy
Mike	Neely
Shaun	Pruett
Mario	Uribe

**Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Amanda	<b>Anderson</b>
Gerald Dean	<b>Johnson</b>
Russana	<b>Rowles</b>
David	<b>Smith</b>
Kathleen	<b>West</b>



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR Megan Hazle, Communications, CIR
<b>9:35 am</b>	<b>Review of Issues To Be Addressed in Working Groups</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourns</b>

**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Dr. Anthony Hassan opened the meeting and emphasized that the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative should be an action- and results-oriented effort by community members to improve the lives of veterans and their families. He also pointed out the importance of bringing in key constituencies and community stakeholders, such as labor and corporations, to the Collaborative to help address veterans issues and fill service gaps.

Dr. Hassan then introduced Mr. James Schickel, Local Interagency Network Coordinator for the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Mr. Schickel introduced himself and spoke about The Valor Guide, a directory of resources for veteran services throughout California. He requested that members to contact him to correct, add, or edit resource information. Mr. Schickel also suggested that all of the veterans collaborative groups throughout California communicate and coordinate with one another in order to maximize their efforts. One attendee suggested that the Collaborative coordinate with 211 in order to maximize resources and not duplicate efforts. Ms. Megan Hazle, CIR Communications Project Manager, informed everyone that she would email the resource directory to the Collaborative members.

Dr. Hassan also suggested that the state might provide funding for the Collaborative in order to support new projects such as an asset maps, needs assessments, or other pilot studies.

**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**

**III. Working Group Session Summaries**

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

**a. Behavioral Health Working Group**

The Behavioral Health Working Group focused its discussion on the area of knowledge management and knowledge sharing. The group plans to create a matrix illustrating how best to navigate and access mental health services in Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs. The group's aim is to help streamline the process and enhance the continuity of care. During the collective review with the larger Collaborative, group members mentioned that the Department of Mental Health is training 100 health care navigators that may benefit from this matrix. Other attendees suggested that in considering behavioral health care access, the Collaborative should examine the veterans services available through HMO providers and determine how private providers might improve their service to veterans.

**b. Career Advancement Working Group**

The Career Advancement Working Group discussed the importance of educating providers about the resources available to veterans and how to connect them with these resources. In order to provide this guidance to providers, the group will develop an asset map focused on existing resources and will identify how much funding Los Angeles County invests toward helping veterans find employment. The group indicated it will look at government, private, and workforce development fund allocations. Also, the group will identify other assets in the community such as colleges, business associations, Chambers of Commerce, etc., and include such groups in a discussion of the issues and process. Additionally, the group will look at topic areas with the greatest need and determine its priorities based on those needs.

Joseph Chicas, CIR Project Specialist, informed the Collaborative that CIR has a group of student researchers that might work on some of the projects identified by the Collaborative's working groups. The working groups would provide strategic guidance to the students working on a specific project. Mr. Chicas recommended that the Collaborative identify specific tasks and goals for proposed projects for these student researchers. Working groups may submit project proposals to Megan Hazle at [hazle@usc.edu](mailto:hazle@usc.edu).

**c. Families & Children Working Group**

The Families & Children Working Group discussed how to identify where military families and resources are located in the community, and how to connect them. The group is currently identifying areas where veterans are located in Los Angeles County.

The group suggested that members of the Department of Education and the Los Angeles Board of Education be invited to the Collaborative meetings in order to discuss the possibility of identifying military children upon their enrollment in Los Angeles schools, in order to identify areas where more military family resources are needed.

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

Working group notes not provided.

**e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

The Legal and Re-Entry Working Group identified their main focus area: how to educate veterans and lawyers about the specific laws, rules, and regulations that protect veterans and their family members. The group determined that a resource guide is needed that will provide an overview of the laws and regulations that specifically address veterans, similar to the way in which The Valor Guide identifies veterans service agencies. The purpose of this legal guide will be to improve access to veteran benefits by providing a list of legal agencies and clinics available to help with obtaining veterans benefits (e.g. help in filing a disability claim).

**IV. Administrative Details**

**a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**

The attendees decided to continue to hold Collaborative meetings through the summer months, in order to preserve the momentum of the working group discussions and actions. The Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meetings will be:

- June 13
- July 11
- August 8
- September 12

**b. Upcoming Events**

Ms. Hazle invited all members of the Collaborative to attend the following event:

- ***CIR Brown Bag – Trauma-Informed Care for Women Veterans Experiencing Homelessness: A Guide for Service Providers***  
Thursday, May 24, 2012  
11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
USC University Park Campus, Montgomery Ross Fisher Building

**c. Collaborative Mailing List**

To join the Collaborative's mailing list, please contact Megan Hazle at [hazle@usc.edu](mailto:hazle@usc.edu).

**V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 13, 2012**

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office  
1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Attachments:**

1. MAY 9, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES



**Attachment 1: MAY 9, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>
Gerald	<b>Adamson</b>
Lynn	<b>Alvarez</b>
Lisa	<b>Anderson</b>
Renee	<b>Andreassen</b>
Armida	<b>Avila</b>
Antoinette	<b>Bailey</b>
Lina	<b>Berrio</b>
Brennan	<b>Burnett</b>
Karl	<b>Calhoun</b>
David	<b>Chenoweth</b>
Joseph	<b>Chicas</b>
Eric	<b>Frye</b>
Anthony	<b>Hassan</b>
Megan	<b>Hazle</b>
Gerald Dean	<b>Johnson</b>
Mike	<b>Johnson</b>
Craig	<b>Joyce</b>
Laura	<b>Lechtenberg</b>
Anne	<b>McNally</b>
Carl	<b>McKnight</b>
Anne	<b>Murphy</b>
Bobby	<b>Ortiz</b>
Susan	<b>Pangelinan</b>
Shaun	<b>Pruett</b>
Russana	<b>Rowles</b>
James	<b>Schickel</b>
Gregory	<b>Scott</b>
Gail	<b>Soffer</b>
Regina	<b>Soto</b>
Peter	<b>Stigers</b>
Stephanie	<b>Stone</b>
Carlos	<b>Venegas</b>
Kathleen	<b>West</b>
Daniel	<b>Young</b>



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<b>9:40 am</b>	<b>Review of Issues To Be Addressed in Working Groups</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourns</b>

**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Dr. Anthony Hassan opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees to CIR. He asked the Collaborative members to work together in order to identify gaps in care and access issues relating to veteran and military family support. While working together, he also asked that members identify policies that require change at the local, state, and federal levels. As an action-oriented group, he highlighted the Collaborative's position in the community to make an impact on these levels.

Dr. Hassan and the CIR team recently met with the Assistant Secretary of the VA, Dr. Raul Perea-Henze, and informed him of the LA Vet Collaborative and its working group strategy. Dr. Henze was excited to hear about the collaborative and is looking forward to seeing the products that come out of the working groups.

For the working group sessions, Dr. Hassan advised each group to identify a problem and 3-5 potential policy solutions and recommendations. Given CIR's expansive reach at the policy level, Dr. Hassan offered CIR's assistance in supporting the Collaborative's efforts by forwarding these recommendations to the right policy contacts. He also emphasized the importance of working outside of the Collaborative meeting times in order to carry out action items discussed during the meeting.

**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**

**III. Working Group Session Summaries**

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

**a. Behavioral Health Working Group**

The Behavioral Health Working Group discussed the issue of access, awareness, and quality of mental health services for veterans. Stigma relating to accessing mental health services was once again brought up as a concern. The group suggested creating a matrix for services in order to have a single source that can align service accessed by veterans and recommended working on grassroots public service announcements focused on how to access care.

In addition, the group emphasized the importance of not losing track of veterans that need and seek services, but discontinue service because they had a bad experience. The group suggested that a good strategy to mitigate this problem may be to create a 'gold seal of approval' for programs that are proven to work and that the Collaborative feels comfortable recommending to veterans and their families. A participant suggested that the group might consider creating an equivalent to an Angie's List for veteran resources.

**Action items:**

- Engage with the California Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the veteran services application it developed, in order to better inform how the application can more effectively guide veterans to access services.
- Evaluate existing public service announcements regarding veterans and explore ways of incorporating those messages into existing programming.

**b. Career Advancement Working Group**

The Career Advancement Working Group focused their discussion on pressing career and job development issues regarding veterans. According to the group, there is a lack of adequate preparation for veterans entering the civilian work force. Difficulty translating military skill sets, effectively interviewing for jobs, and career planning were also cited as key challenges. The group also stressed the importance of translating military training and certifications to the civilian employment sector.

Furthermore, the group suggested that it also assess the needs of retiring veterans and dishonorably discharged veterans. Dr. Hassan encouraged the group to invite corporations such as Chase, Prudential, and Humana to the working group to further discussion in these areas. It was also mentioned that John Kelsall (Executive Director of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce) was interested in training and development for veterans. In addition, an invitation to join the Collaborative should be extended to California Employment Development Department (EDD) and Worksource personnel.

**Action items:**

- Contact Chase, Prudential, Humana, LA Chamber of Commerce, EDD, and Worksource to join the Career Advancement working group.

**c. Families & Children Working Group**

The Families & Children Working Group started their discussion by pointing out the difficulties in educating military families about resources. According to the group, although veterans are often introduced to resources, the information may not reach the family. Thus, the group proposed that one effective strategy might be to provide resources to military children in schools and make sure they give the information to their parents. To this end, the group proposed that there should be a concerted effort to identify military children in schools. The group will work on identifying resources for military children and families in LA County.

Also, the group suggested educating Los Angeles school leaders and administrators about the needs of military children. The group will reach out to relevant contacts at the local and county level, specifically targeting the LA Unified School District (LAUSD).

**Action Items:**

- Contact Dr. Ron Astor from USC School of Social Work regarding his project “Building Capacity in Military-Connected Schools,” an education-based initiative focused on military children in San Diego schools.
- Contact Suh Chen from USC School of Social Work, who piloted one of the first military children programs in the LAUSD.
- Create an in-service training program for educators.

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

The Housing & Homelessness Working Group recognized that the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program is effective but not sufficient to dealing with pressing housing issues facing veterans. According to the group, a veteran's initial discharge or income status may render them ineligible for existing programs. The group suggested identifying local resources for low-cost housing for veterans in Los Angeles. The group indicated that it will start working on a proposal that gives preferences to veterans applying for low-income housing.

**Action items:**

- Identify number and type of existing low-cost housing units.
- Create a cost-benefit analysis for housing veterans.
- Contact elected officials for support regarding creating tax credits for landlords leasing to veterans.
- Educate landlords about housing veterans.

**e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

The Legal & Re-Entry Working Group introduced four policy recommendations, all framed as legislative solutions in dealing with veterans in court systems:

1. Change the penal code to make it mandatory for public defenders to ask if their clients are veterans in order to determine if a crime may be connected to mental health issues caused by military service.
2. Recommend that the LA Police Department make it standard practice to ask if an individual is a veteran at the time of being detained (as is the standard in Boston).
3. Propose that Veterans Courts deal with serious crimes when service-related mental health issues are suspected.
4. Recommend that Veterans Courts set aside one day a month for the cases of women veterans dealing with trauma-related issues, since male-dominated courts can make it difficult for such women to go to court.

Another concern that was raised was if a veteran might be diagnosed with PTSD or TBI by a civilian provider, as opposed to one in the Department of Veterans Affairs. Also, the group will examine how such individuals might be affected by these recommendations if the recommendations are based on diagnosis of mental health problems prescribed by the VA.

**IV. Administrative Details**

**a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**

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

- July 11
- August 8
- September 12

**b. Collaborative Mailing List**

To join the Collaborative's mailing list, or any of the working group mailing lists, please contact Megan Hazle at [hazle@usc.edu](mailto:hazle@usc.edu).

**V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 11, 2012**

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office

1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114

Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Attachments:**

1. JUNE 13, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES

**Attachment 1: JUNE 13, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Amanda	<b>Anderson</b>
Renee	<b>Andreassen</b>
Jonathan	<b>Castillo</b>
Joseph	<b>Chicas</b>
Irene	<b>Cruz</b>
Sophie	<b>Etemadi</b>
Stephanie	<b>Gillette</b>
Syreeta	<b>Greene</b>
Heather	<b>Harris</b>
Anthony	<b>Hassan</b>
Megan	<b>Hazle</b>
Tamiko	<b>Hirano</b>
Adrienne	<b>Isaac</b>
Gerald Dean	<b>Johnson</b>
Sue	<b>Kapitanoff</b>
Meri	<b>Khananashvili</b>
Natalie	<b>Klasky</b>
Lory	<b>LaGro</b>
Carl	<b>Langfeldt</b>
Laura	<b>Lechlenberg</b>
Xavier	<b>Mack</b>
Carl	<b>McKnight</b>
Kristin	<b>McLaughlin</b>
Max	<b>Molina</b>
Debbie	<b>Nichols</b>
Teresa	<b>O'Neal-Payne</b>
Stephen	<b>Peck</b>
Shaun	<b>Pruett</b>
Steve	<b>Renahan</b>
Mary	<b>Sanders</b>
Cris	<b>Scaglione</b>
Ladan	<b>Shelechi</b>
Regina	<b>Soto</b>
Peter	<b>Stigers</b>
Jane	<b>Templin</b>
Nicole	<b>Towsend</b>
Blas	<b>Villabos</b>
Michelle	<b>Wildy</b>
David	<b>Young</b>



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR Megan Hazle, Communications, CIR
<b>9:40 am</b>	<b>Review of Issues To Be Addressed in Working Groups</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourns</b>



**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Dr. Anthony Hassan welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of the group, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and policy advocacy as a way of improving the lives of veterans and military families. He then posed a series of questions to the working groups for members to consider during their meetings, in the interest of strengthening the Collaborative:

- Do we want to change conditions for veterans by realigning resources, by working together, or by impacting policy?
- Why do you attend Collaborative meetings?
- What makes these meetings worth your time?
- How could the Collaborative become more responsive to issues affecting veterans and their families?
- What should the Collaborative do more of?
- What should it do differently?

In addition, he asked that each member bring two more attendees with them to the August meeting. Dr. Hassan also asked participants to invite other groups that may not currently attend the Collaborative, such as foundations, corporations, and community stakeholders. Dr. Hassan closed by stating that his goal is to support the continued growth and work of the Collaborative.

Ms. Megan Hazle then briefed everyone about the meeting structure and the various working groups.

Before the attendees broke out into their working groups, Mr. Joseph Chicas announced that Habitat for Humanity is seeking Los Angeles-area veterans to enroll into its free home repair program. Details about the program were included in a previous email to Collaborative members.

**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**

**III. Working Group Session Summaries**

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

**a. Behavioral Health Working Group**

The Behavioral Health Working Group discussed service gaps and opportunities during their meeting and each attendee identified and discussed the strengths and challenges at their agencies. The group also discussed ways in which they might better collaborate.

The group also discussed the unique needs of National Guard members/Reservists, whom they consider to have “unmet” needs because they often live in civilian communities, away from ready, on-base access to resources, support, and services. In the interest of bridging this gap effectively, the Behavioral Health Working Group is currently discussing how to develop and integrate a ‘gold seal of approval’ for behavioral healthcare services which community-dwelling servicemembers and veterans could use to seek providers experienced in treating military-impacted populations.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Engage with the California Department of Veterans Affairs to discuss how the application could more effectively guide veterans to access services. (In progress)
- Evaluate existing public service announcements regarding veterans and explore ways of incorporating those messages into existing programming. (In progress)

***New action items:***

- Continue working on ‘gold seal of approval’ for behavioral healthcare services.

**b. Career Advancement Working Group**

The Career Advancement Working Group spent some time discussing the group’s structure and assessing better ways to make progress on action items. The group also revisited the core issues impacting veteran employment and career advancement. A list of veteran employment/career issues will be distributed to the group via survey, so that the members may prioritize the top five issues to work on.

In future meetings, the group will further examine these prioritized issues and will discuss and evaluate existing policies impacting each issue area. The group will continue work on mapping the career services available to veterans in Los Angeles and will also explore sources of funding to support the development of the asset map.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue developing asset map. (In progress)
- Invite Chase, Prudential, Humana, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, California Employment Development Department (EDD), and Worksource to join the Career Advancement Working Group. (No update)

***New action items:***

- Create and disseminate a veteran employment survey and discuss findings at future meetings.
- Seek sources of funding for the development of the asset map, such as Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

**c. Families & Children Working Group**

The Families & Children Working Group discussed existing military families/children programs that may serve as a model for the group’s goal of reaching military families through their children in Los Angeles-area schools. Dr. Ron Astor’s project in San Diego, as well as a similar initiative in San Juan Capistrano, were identified as models for the group to examine.

The group also discussed reaching out to National Guard families and cited the importance of inviting the right people to join the Collaborative meetings in order to make the necessary connections.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Reach out to Dr. Ron Astor from USC Building Capacity, an education-based initiative focused on military children in San Diego public schools. (In progress)
- Contact Suh Chen from USC School of Social Work, who piloted one of the first military children programs in the Los Angeles Unified School District. (No update)
- Create training for educators working with military-impacted populations. (No update)

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

The Housing & Homelessness Working Group is exploring how to develop a cost-benefit analysis of housing veterans. The group cited a 2009 report and will find out if the Department of Veterans Affairs or another agency has conducted such an analysis. The group will then research the feasibility of producing a similar report regarding the Los Angeles area.

The group also discussed how it might engage public officials to discuss creating tax credits for landlords who rent to veterans. Moreover, the group would like to educate landlords about the importance of housing veterans.

The gap in housing for homeless veterans was also discussed. According to the group, because Veteran Spouse Benefits (VSB) mainly provides funding to house veterans with dependents, very few resources are available for single veterans. The group identified this gap in policy and discussed how to address it through advocacy efforts.

One attendee informed the group that the 2012 Homeless Count will be taking place later this year and encouraged Collaborative members to participate, especially to cover the less densely populated areas outside of Skid Row.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Inventory existing housing units for veterans in Los Angeles County. (No update)
- Create a cost-benefit analysis of housing homeless veterans. (Under evaluation)
- Contact elected officials regarding the potential creation of tax credits for landlords renting to veterans. (In planning)
- Educate landlords about renting to veterans. (In planning)

**e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

The Legal & Re-Entry Working Group again discussed how to change the existing penal code so that veterans are identified upon their entry into the criminal justice system. Currently, veterans are not identified in the criminal justice system. Furthermore, female veterans are 35% more likely to be incarcerated than their civilian counterparts. By identifying these veterans, the group believes that best prevention and intervention practices can be determined. An attendee informed the group that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is trying change its booking sheets to identify veterans—an effort that has been ongoing for two years. The group will explore this effort further.

***New action items:***

- Research veteran identification efforts in development through the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

#### **IV. Administrative Details**

##### **a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**

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

- August 8
- September 12
- October 10

##### **b. Collaborative Mailing List**

To join the Collaborative's mailing list, or any of the working group mailing lists, please contact Megan Hazle at [hazle@usc.edu](mailto:hazle@usc.edu).

#### **V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 8, 2012**

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office  
1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

#### **Attachments:**

1. JULY 11, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES

**Attachment 1: JULY 11, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Amanda	<b>Anderson</b>
Lisa	<b>Anderson</b>
Lina	<b>Berrio</b>
Brennan	<b>Burnett</b>
Julie	<b>Cederbaum</b>
Joseph	<b>Chicas</b>
David	<b>Curry</b>
Amanda	<b>Dixon</b>
Laura	<b>Ferreri</b>
Eric	<b>Frye</b>
Evelyn	<b>Garcia</b>
Geo	<b>Garcia</b>
Joshua	<b>Graham</b>
Syreeta	<b>Greene</b>
Louie	<b>Guan</b>
Stephani	<b>Hardy</b>
Anthony	<b>Hassan</b>
Deborah	<b>Hayes</b>
Megan	<b>Hazle</b>
Adrienne	<b>Isaac</b>
Gerald	<b>Johnson</b>
Lisa Jo	<b>Keefer</b>
Alice	<b>Kim</b>
Laura	<b>Lechtenberg</b>
James	<b>Maddox</b>
Devaki	<b>Magee</b>
Carl	<b>McKnight</b>
Max	<b>Molina</b>
Frances	<b>Nedjat-Haiem</b>
Teresa	<b>O'Neal-Payne</b>
Esai	<b>Orozco</b>
Susan	<b>Pangelinan</b>
Tony	<b>Perez</b>
Leslie	<b>Reynolds-Rottman</b>
Rudy	<b>Reza</b>
Mary	<b>Sanders</b>
Tracy	<b>Satterfield</b>
Gail	<b>Soffer</b>
Jo	<b>Sornborger</b>
PJ	<b>Stigers</b>
Stephanie	<b>Stone</b>

Nicole	<b>Townsend</b>
Kathleen	<b>West</b>
Marguerite	<b>Womack</b>
Dave	<b>Young</b>



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR Megan Hazle, Communications, CIR
<b>9:40 am</b>	<b>Review of Issues To Be Addressed in Working Groups</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourns</b>

**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Ms. Megan Hazle, CIR Project Manager for Communications, welcomed everyone to the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative meeting. Ms. Hazle outlined the mission of the collaborative and briefed everyone on the meeting structure. Ms. Hazle also introduced the development of an online discussion forum to be used to coordinate activity on action items between meetings. The platform is intended to increase efficiency and create the ability to share information regarding resources useful to the Working Groups (WG).

Ms. Hazle announced that each working group would soon elect co-chairs to help streamline. The co-chairs will facilitate the meetings, submit the WG meeting summary, track action items and updates, and attend quarterly meetings with Dr. Anthony Hassan, CIR Director, and the other WG co-chairs.

The election process will take place over the next month and will consist of:

- Online ballot survey to all LA Veteran Collaborative members to gather nominations
- Acceptance of nominations
- Announcement of candidates
- Election survey

**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**

**III. Working Group Session Summaries**

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

**a. Behavioral Health Working Group**

The Behavioral Health Working Group discussed reaching out to Lieutenant Joshua Graham and Dr. Carl McKnight to see if they would be interested in being nominated for the co-chair positions in the working group.

The group also discussed creating media campaigns for law enforcement in regards to veteran behavioral health. Semantics used when identifying military service were discussed (e.g., using the wording "Have you served?" vs. "You have not served").

The group noted that websites listing resources for veterans are not updated at the local level, making it difficult for veterans to get linked to services in their area.



***Update on previous action items:***

- Engage with the California Department of Veterans Affairs to better inform how the application can more effectively guide veterans to access services. (No update)
- Evaluate existing public service announcements regarding veterans and explore ways of incorporating those messages into existing programming. (In progress)

***New action items:***

- Continue working on “Gold Seal of Approval.”
- Identify strategies to assist in updating websites with local veteran resources.
- Send resources to Colonel Smith, LA County.

**b. Career Advancement Working Group**

The Career Advancement Working Group developed an action plan for next steps. Members identified the immediate goals as: continuing to work on the asset map, including listing career development resources; and, identifying gaps in services.

In addition to developing the asset map, the group plans to organize two separate focus groups that will assist in assessing veteran and employer needs and wants around the area of employment.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue developing asset map. (In progress)
- Reach out to Chase, Prudential, Humana, LA Chamber of Commerce, EDD, and Worksource to join the Career Advancement working group. (EDD will be joining next WG meeting)
- Create and disseminate veteran employment survey and discuss findings at future meetings. (Completed)
- Seek sources of funding for development of asset map such as LA County Board of Supervisors. (No update)

***New action items:***

- Contact Collaborative members to find out what career resources they may be connected to.
- Work with CIR in coordinating logistics for focus groups.

**c. Families & Children Working Group**

The Families & Children Working Group focused on progress on action items from the past meeting. Ron Astor and Debbie Nichols are working together to bring the military children survey system put in place in San Diego to Orange County, with hopes of instituting it in Los Angeles as well. Deborah Hayes has been in contact with Rep. Napolitano’s office but has no updates at this time. The group is working with local social work programs and utilizing interns to help gather information about military children in schools.

The group also discussed the comfort level of military families in identifying themselves, connecting families to existing resources, and identifying veterans as well as active duty, Reserves, and National Guard.

Debbie Nichols and Deborah Hayes will be nominated as co-chairs for the group.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Reach out to Dr. Ron Astor from USC Building Capacity, an education-based initiative focused on military children in San Diego. (Debbie Nichols in contact)
- Contact Suh Chen from USC School of Social Work, who piloted one of the first military children programs in the LAUSD. (Max Molina will contact)
- Create an in-service training for educators. (No update)

***New action item:***

- Draft a position statement by September 2012.

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

The Housing & Homelessness Working Group agreed with the new Collaborative structure which will include co-chairs and agreed that a one-year co-chair term would be best.

One member suggested contacting a retired U.S. Senator who can potentially guide the group in the policy advocacy process.

The group informed the Collaborative that there is movement in the area of providing tax credits for landlords who give veterans preference in housing. There is both strong support and opposition to this proposed policy.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Build inventory of existing rental units. (No update)
- Perform a cost-benefit analysis to housing vets. (No update)
- Reach out for support from elected officials in creating potential tax credits for landlords leasing to veterans. (Movement in DC, but local feasibility still being assessed)
- Educate landlords about housing veterans. (Planning stages)

**e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

The Legal & Re-Entry Working Group nominated Amanda Anderson as the co-chair.

The group decided to focus on educating each other and the community about pending laws and policies that impact veterans. One strategy identified was to draft legislative/policy letters that can be sent to organizations and inform their advocacy efforts.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Research veteran “identification” efforts at the Sheriff’s Department. (No Update)

***New action items***

- Present pending legislation at the next meeting.
- Choose 3 bills to focus on and draft letters.

**IV. Administrative Details**

**a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**

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

- September 12
- October 10
- November 14

**b. Collaborative Mailing List**

To join the Collaborative's mailing list, or any of the working group mailing lists, please contact Megan Hazle at [hazle@usc.edu](mailto:hazle@usc.edu).

**V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 12, 2012**

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office  
1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Attachments:**

1. AUGUST 8, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES

**Attachment 1: AUGUST 8, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Laura	<b>Alongi Brinderson</b>
Amanda	<b>Anderson</b>
Lisa	<b>Anderson</b>
Lina	<b>Berrio</b>
Brennan	<b>Burnett</b>
Bibi	<b>Caspari</b>
Joseph	<b>Chicas</b>
Diane	<b>Cropper</b>
Alexis	<b>Denny</b>
Brenna	<b>Filazzola</b>
Eric	<b>Frye</b>
Syreeta	<b>Greene</b>
Louie	<b>Guan</b>
Dustin	<b>Harris</b>
Deborah	<b>Hayes</b>
Megan	<b>Hazle</b>
Steve	<b>Hydon</b>
Adrienne	<b>Isaac</b>
Gerald Dean	<b>Johnson</b>
James	<b>Maddox</b>
Jason	<b>Mannino</b>
Maximiliano	<b>Molina</b>
Monica	<b>Mooring</b>
Debbie	<b>Nichols</b>
Teresa	<b>O'Neal-Payne</b>
Susan	<b>Pangelinan</b>
Jaclyn	<b>Paxton</b>
Shaun	<b>Pruett</b>
Steve	<b>Renahan</b>
Leslie	<b>Reynolds-Rottman</b>
David	<b>Smith</b>
Gail	<b>Soffer</b>
Peter	<b>Stigers</b>
Stephanie	<b>Stone</b>
Deborah	<b>Weaver</b>
Dave	<b>Young</b>



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR Megan Hazle, Communications, CIR
<b>9:40 am</b>	<b>Review of Issues To Be Addressed in Working Groups</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Meeting Adjourns</b>

## I. Welcome & Agenda

Dr. Anthony Hassan, CIR Director, welcomed the attendees and recognized the Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative for making steady progress and improving its organizational structure. He informed the attendees that a foundation is interested in possibly funding the Collaborative's work. An update will be provided at a later meeting.

Ms. Megan Hazle, CIR Project Manager for Communications, introduced the newly-elected working group co-chairs and provided an overview of their role and responsibilities over the next year. The elected co-chairs are:

### **Behavioral Health Working Group**

Co-Chair: LT Joshua Graham, California Army National Guard ([joshua.d.graham3@us.army.mil](mailto:joshua.d.graham3@us.army.mil))

### **Career Advancement Working Group**

Co-Chair: Lisa Anderson, Salvation Army ([lisa.anderson@usw.salvationarmy.org](mailto:lisa.anderson@usw.salvationarmy.org))

Co-Chair: Gentry Humphrey, California Employment Development Department (EDD) ([gentry.humphrey@edd.ca.gov](mailto:gentry.humphrey@edd.ca.gov))

### **Families & Children Working Group**

Co-Chair: Deborah Hayes ([dejhayes@gmail.com](mailto:dejhayes@gmail.com))

Co-Chair: Debbie Nichols, Military Children Collaborative Group, Inc. ([debbie@militarychildrencollaborativegroup.com](mailto:debbie@militarychildrencollaborativegroup.com))

### **Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

Co-Chair: Stephani Hardy, Cloudbreak Communities ([stephanihardy@earthlink.net](mailto:stephanihardy@earthlink.net))

Co-Chair: Steve Renahan, Shelter Partnership, Inc. ([srenahan@shelterpartnership.org](mailto:srenahan@shelterpartnership.org))

### **Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

Co-Chair: Amanda Anderson, California Women's Law Center ([amanda.anderson@cwlc.org](mailto:amanda.anderson@cwlc.org))

Co-Chair: Gerald Dean Johnson, Law Project of Los Angeles ([geraldj58@gmail.com](mailto:geraldj58@gmail.com))

Ms. Hazle informed the group that the co-chairs' contact information will be listed on the Collaborative's webpage (<http://cir.usc.edu/los-angeles-veterans-collaborative>).

## 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

### III. Working Group Session Summaries

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

#### a. Behavioral Health Working Group

The Behavioral Health Working Group discussed stigma as being a big barrier to veterans accessing mental health care. Specifically, the group cited access to suicide prevention services as a challenge for veterans. The group advised that resources should be available in this area, and that an effort should be made to identify or create these resources. Also, the group will continue to work on solving stigma by educating veterans and their families about resources.

##### ***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue working on the “Angie’s List” idea by compiling a list of available behavioral health services. (In progress)

##### ***New action items:***

- Compile a list of resources with which working group members are connected.

#### b. Career Advancement Working Group

The Career Advancement Working Group discussed two surveys that it will work on in the coming months. The first survey will be distributed to veterans and is intended to gauge what they perceive to be best practices around employment assistance. The second survey is intended to assess employer attitudes regarding employing veterans. In order to accurately gauge varying needs among veterans, the group suggested including Vietnam veterans, post-9/11 veterans, student veterans, disabled veterans, homeless veterans, unemployed veterans, and employed veterans.

##### ***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue developing asset map of resources for veterans in the LA-area. (In progress)
- Continue coordinating logistics for veteran employment and employer surveys. (In progress)

##### ***New action items:***

- Build a contact list to include agencies in the asset map.

#### c. Families & Children Working Group

The Families & Children Working Group discussed drafting a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Education and Board of Supervisors to inform them of the unique needs of military children in the LA-area. The group also discussed how interns might best assist the group in achieving various tasks.

In addition, the group will research pilot programs on military children in schools. Members noted that it is important for administrators to get the word out to families about these types of programs. One school district in Orange County was surveyed and findings were used to garner support for military child services to that particular school district.

##### ***Update on previous action items:***

- Draft a position statement by September 2012. (No update)
- Create an in-service training for educators. (No update)

##### ***New action item:***

- Draft letter for submission to LA County Board of Education and Supervisors.

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

During the collective meeting of attendees, the Housing & Homelessness Working Group reported that they had a low turnout during the working group session. The group is working on building participation, specifically from the VA VASH program, LA-DMH, United Way (Home for Good), and the LA Home Services Authority. The group will also reach out to developers who offer permanent supportive housing.

The group also provided an update regarding the community care ordinance and stated that the ordinance would have unintended consequences such as increasing homelessness. The group inquired about how the Collaborative goes about taking positions on policies or pending legislation. Ms. Hazle suggested that the working group draft a letter on behalf of the Collaborative regarding their concern about the ordinance and send to community leaders. She stated that CIR would consider being a co-signer to the Collaborative's letter.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Build inventory of existing rental units. (No update)
- Perform a cost-benefit analysis to housing vets. (No update)
- Reach out for support from elected officials in creating potential tax credits for landlords leasing to veterans. (Movement in DC, but local feasibility still being assessed)
- Educate landlords about housing veterans. (No update)

***New action items:***

- Increase working group participation by inviting representatives from VA-VASH, LA-DMH, United Way (Home for Good), LA Home Services Authority, etc.

**e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

The Legal & Re-Entry Working Group identified laws and policies relevant to veterans which are currently pending. The group plans to write position papers about these laws and policies and disseminate the papers to various organizations. The group will identify three new laws and a write position paper on each one. Specifically, the group identified the Sexual Assault Training and Oversight Prevention (STOP Act, HR 3435) for its review and support.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Research veteran "identification" efforts at the Sheriff's Department. (No Update)
- Present pending legislation at the next meeting. (Ongoing)
- Choose 3 bills to focus on and draft letters. (In progress)

***New action items***

- Research and write position papers on key policies and legislation.

**IV. Administrative Details**

**a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**

The Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Upcoming meetings are:

- October 10
- November 14
- December 12



**b. Collaborative Mailing List**

To join the Collaborative's mailing list, any of the working group mailing lists, or to get extra information on community events or opportunities, please contact Megan Hazle at [hazle@usc.edu](mailto:hazle@usc.edu).

**V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 10, 2012**

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office  
1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114  
Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Attachments:**

1. SEPTEMBER 12, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES

**Attachment 1: SEPTEMBER 12, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Laura	Alongi
Lisa	Anderson
Erna	Blanche
Brennan	Burnett
Adam	Carter
Bibi	Caspari
Joseph	Chicas
Alison	Cogan
Hector	Elizalde
Louie	Guan
Robert	Hartman
Anthony	Hassan
Megan	Hazle
Elizabeth	Heger
Jennifer	Henningfield
Adrienne	Isaac
Gerald Dean	Johnson
Sue	Kapitanoff
Lisa Jo	Keefer
Mary	Lawlor
James	Maddox
Devaki	Magee
Carl	McKnight
Anne	Murphy
Debbie	Nichols
Steve	Renahan
Leslie	Reynolds-Rottman
Mary	Sanders
Stacey	Sigman
Lisa Joy	Wolkow



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR Megan Hazle, Communications, CIR
<b>9:40 am</b>	<b>Review of Issues To Be Addressed in Working Groups</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Collaborative Meeting Adjourns</b>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Working Group Co-Chair Meeting</b>

**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Ms. Megan Hazle, CIR Public Communications Liaison, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She informed all attendees that the first Working Group Co-Chair meeting would be held after the Collaborative meeting. The Co-Chair meeting would focus on a discussion about working group formats, progress on action items, goal-setting and collaborative opportunities. She also advised each working group to focus on setting goals for the next 3-4 months and discuss any issues or items that should be reviewed at the Co-Chair meeting.

**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**

**III. Working Group Session Summaries**

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

**a. Behavioral Health Working Group**

The Behavioral Health Working Group is currently compiling a list of behavioral health resources for veterans and military families in Los Angeles. Members will then review the list and identify the most trusted and reliable resources.

Members indicated that consistent attendance within the working group is a problem. The group indicated they will email their members more frequently about the meetings to bolster attendance.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue compiling a list of behavioral health services in the community. (In progress)

***New action items:***

- Identify internal resources that WG members are connected to.

**b. Career Advancement Working Group**

The Career Advancement Working Group continued discussing two proposed surveys regarding veteran employment: (1) one to be distributed to veterans, and (2) one to be distributed to employers. The group discussed the possibility of USC Faculty/Staff assisting in the development of the survey instruments. The co-chairs will research this possibility and provide an update at the next meeting. More discussion is needed to define the scope, desired data,

and prospective audience for both surveys. Homework for the group is to consider these questions and bring recommendations to the next meeting.

The group also reviewed the work that has been done so far on the Veteran Services Asset Map. It was recommended that those working on the asset map connect with other organizations (LA county 211, CalVet, Valor Guide) that are gathering similar information.

Once the information has been gathered, it will be sent to HealthyCity.org to prepare the map so that veterans and service providers can locate available services. This map will also allow group members to identify gaps in service.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue developing asset map of services. (In progress)

***New action items:***

- Coordinate with other organizations on asset map.
- Define scope and goals for veteran and employer surveys.

**c. Families & Children Working Group**

The Families & Children Working Group discussed its position statement in the context of services available or unavailable to children of active duty servicemembers, non-active duty servicemembers, and veterans. The group discussed the creation of the letter and the style of language to be used to address Education of the Public, Private, Charter and Home schools regarding military children in grades K-12. Also, the group wants to include children with veteran parents as well as non-active or active duty caregivers to military-connected children.

The position letter should:

- Encourage identification of military-connected children enrolled in all schools.
- Promote identification of the special needs of military children and the school programs available to them, as well as support services schools may take advantage of.
- Provide examples of existing school programs through which school administrations, counselors, and teachers support military children's needs. Also, mention that Orange County Department of Education, San Juan Capistrano school district has included questions on its student enrollment form to help identify military children.

The group also inquired about LA County agencies and ways of graphing connections within agencies and interfacing services that address child neglect, needy families, food stamps, medical, housing, transition, violence, and CATCH family clinic. Although other counties have Interagency interface, LA County does not. The group feels the need to map connections between collaborative groups, outreach church groups, and faith-based organizations supporting programs for military-connected families.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Draft a position statement. (In progress)
- Create in-service training for educators. (No update)

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

The Housing & Homelessness Working Group indicated that they continue to have low attendance and participation at meetings. The group spent most of the time discussing issues that individual members are currently dealing with. The group agreed to begin outreaching to specific individuals by making personal contacts and sending emails to increase participation.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Build inventory of existing rental units. (No update)
- Perform a cost-benefit analysis regarding housing veterans. (No update)
- Reach out for support from elected officials in creating potential tax credits for landlords leasing to veterans. (In progress – There is movement in DC, but local feasibility still being assessed)
- Educate landlords about housing veterans. (No update)
- Increase working group participation by inviting representatives from VA-VASH, LA-DMH, United Way (Home for Good), LA Home Services Authority, etc.

***New action items:***

- Increase meeting attendance through outreach to individual members.

**e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

The Legal & Re-Entry Working Group discussed reentry issues that impact veterans, specifically in the context of relevant legislation and policies. For instance, the group mentioned that the STOP Act (is Sexual Assault Training and Oversight Protection) is currently being considered by Congress. Also, they informed the Collaborative that Betsy Butler is sponsoring a series of bills that affect veterans (AB 2490, AB 2371, AB 1904). Specifically, the group informed the Collaborative about AB 2490, which helps incarcerated veterans obtain their VA benefits.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Research efforts at the Sheriff’s Department to identify veterans who are arrested. (No update)
- Present pending legislation at the next meeting. (Ongoing)
- Choose 3 bills to focus on and draft letters. (In progress)

***New action items***

- Continue researching legislation impacting veterans and working on position letters.

**IV. Administrative Details**

**a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**

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

- November 14
- December 12
- January 9

**b. Collaborative Mailing List**

To join the Collaborative’s mailing list, or any of the working group mailing lists, please contact Megan Hazle at [hazle@usc.edu](mailto:hazle@usc.edu).

**V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 14**

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office

1149 South Hill Street, Suite H-1114

Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Attachments:**

1. OCTOBER 10, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES

**Attachment 1: OCTOBER 10, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Laura	Alberti
Amanda	Anderson
David	Barr
Richard	Caines
Joseph	Chicas
Alison	Cogan
Sidney	Gardner
Joshua	Graham
Louie	Guan
Heather	Harris
Katie	Hashimoto
Megan	Hazle
Elizabeth	Heger
Gentry	Humphrey
Patricia	Jackson-Kelly
Gerald Dean	Johnson
Sue	Kapitanoff
Lory	Lagro
Sujetlana	Lazio
James	Maddox
Jason	Manniro
Howard	Mationg
Stephanie	Molen
Debbie	Nichols
Teresa	Oneal-Payne
Tiffany	Perez
Tyler	Platt
Lisa	Raggio
Steve	Renahan
Valvicent	Reyes
Leslie	Reynolds-Rottman
Lizette	Rha
Cris	Scaglione
Gail	Soffer
Peter	Stigers
Stephanie	Stone
Kathleen	West
Kazuko	Yamazaki
Michelle	Yashar
Dave	Young



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR Megan Hazle, Communications, CIR
<b>9:40 am</b>	<b>Review of Issues To Be Addressed in Working Groups</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Collaborative Meeting Adjourns</b>



**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Ms. Megan Hazle, CIR Public Communications Liaison, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She briefly reviewed the meeting structure and working groups for first-time attendees.

Dr. Anthony Hassan, CIR Director, then announced that USC CIR had recently received a grant from the Newman's Own Foundation to fund a new position that will provide administrative support to the Collaborative as well as oversee a new survey of veterans and veteran services in the Greater Los Angeles area. This new position will be funded for a fixed, one-year term and will be under USC CIR. An announcement and position description will be sent to all Collaborative members as soon as the position is posted on the USC jobs website. Once the parameters of the survey have been determined, USC CIR will ask Collaborative members for their input on data that they would like to collect, for inclusion in the survey.

**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**

**III. Working Group Session Summaries**

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

**a. Behavioral Health Working Group**

Currently, the Behavioral Health Working Group is gathering a list of behavioral health resources for veterans and military families and determining criteria for what resources will be included on the list. After drafting the criteria and list, the group will then ask the entire Collaborative for feedback and suggestions.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Gathering a list of behavior health providers based on set criteria.

**b. Career Advancement Working Group**

The Career Advancement Working Group will be compiling questions from its members regarding data that it would like to see gathered through the USC CIR survey of veterans

and military families in Los Angeles. The group is also compiling a list of local military-friendly employers for possible inclusion in the USC veteran hiring event in March 2013.

The group has received an initial draft of an asset map of veteran employment resources in the LA-area. Group members were asked to submit additional resources to Lisa Anderson so that they may be added to the map. The group's goal is to produce a list of veteran employment resources that provides information as well as a quality rating. The rating system and a monitoring system have yet to be determined.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue working on asset map.
- Suggest questions for USC CIR LA veterans survey.

***New action items:***

- Compile list of veteran friendly employers to be used for USC hiring event

**c. Families & Children Working Group**

The Families & Children Working Group discussed the action items from the previous meeting and reviewed the group's Mission/Vision and Objectives. Members were encouraged to add to or review the Objectives. The group's Mission/Vision Statement and Objectives are still being worked due to the group's broad range. Members discussed the need to address not only the issues of school-aged children (K-12<sup>th</sup> grade), but also the needs related to young children (0-5 years), as experiences in these early years provide the foundation for resiliency and impact later academic and social/emotional interactions.

Members recommended that the group's target family categories be clarified to include veterans, Guard members, Reserves, Active Duty and other service-connected individuals. Members identified the need to recognize that a child may not only be impacted by a parent's service and/or deployment, but also by that of other significant family member (e.g., brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, step-parent).

***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue developing the working group Mission/Vision statement.
- Continue developing the working group Objectives and policy statement.

***New action item:***

- Identify contacts within faith-based communities.

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

The Housing and Homelessness Working Group had a large meeting with many new members. A representative from California State Senator Carol Liu's office informed the group that they are bringing together a coalition of legislators who want to work on veterans issues.

Members also discussed an issue that affects many veterans who are transitioning to permanent housing -- trouble finding furniture. The group proposed that they solicit furniture donations and then distribute it to VASH households.

The group also suggested meeting with decision-makers at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Members discussed the possibility of including 'on-the-ground' individuals and practitioners, in order to create an informative exchange and unite efforts.

***New action items:***

- Evaluate the possibility of soliciting furniture donations.
- Determine best ways of engaging VA decision-makers.

**e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

The Legal and Reentry group reported that it had a small group at today's meeting. The meeting was informational rather than pursuing specific goals. The group spent time talking about current issues. Through their discussion, they identified that one way they will look to progress is by educating more people and more attorneys about legal issues pressing veterans.

**IV. Administrative Details**

**a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**

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

- January 9, 2013
- February 13, 2013
- March 13, 2013

**b. Collaborative Mailing List**

To join the Collaborative's mailing list, or any of the working group mailing lists, please contact Megan Hazle at [hazle@usc.edu](mailto:hazle@usc.edu).

**V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 9**

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office

1149 South Hill Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90015

**Attachments:**

1. NOVEMBER 14, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES

**Attachment 1: NOVEMBER 14, 2012, MEETING ATTENDEES**

<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>
Isabel	<b>Aldana</b>
Amanda	<b>Anderson</b>
Lisa	<b>Anderson</b>
David	<b>Barr</b>
David	<b>Barr</b>
Tanya	<b>Both</b>
Adam	<b>Ca</b>
Antonio	<b>Chapa</b>
Joseph	<b>Chicas</b>
John	<b>Daly</b>
Joshua	<b>Graham</b>
Syreeta	<b>Greene</b>
Louie	<b>Guan</b>
Stephani	<b>Hardy</b>
Heather	<b>Harris</b>
Anthony	<b>Hassan</b>
Deborah	<b>Hayes</b>
Megan	<b>Hazle</b>
Shai	<b>Holiday</b>
Donald	<b>Holt</b>
Mationg	<b>Howard</b>
Gerald Dean	<b>Johnson</b>
Sue	<b>Kapitanoff</b>
Lory	<b>Lagro</b>
Laura	<b>Lake</b>
Laura	<b>Lechtenberg</b>
Nena	<b>Lopez</b>
James	<b>Maddox</b>
Carol	<b>McKibben</b>
Carl	<b>McKnight</b>
Gary	<b>Mitchell</b>
Laura	<b>Mosedale</b>
Anne	<b>Murphy</b>
Debbie	<b>Nichols</b>
Timothy	<b>Patterson</b>
Tyler	<b>Platt</b>
Oscar	<b>Polanco</b>
Val	<b>Reyes</b>
Leslie	<b>Rottman</b>

Gail	<b>Soffer</b>
Peter	<b>Stigers</b>
Kazuko	<b>Yamazaki</b>
Michelle	<b>Yashar</b>
Braxton	<b>Young</b>



## **MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Check-In</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR Megan Hazle, Communications, CIR
<b>9:40 am</b>	<b>Review of Issues To Be Addressed in Working Groups</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li></ul>
<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:25 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> Megan Hazle
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Collaborative Meeting Adjourns</b>

**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Ms. Megan Hazle, CIR Public Communications Liaison, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. She briefly reviewed the meeting structure and working groups for first-time attendees.

**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**

**III. Working Group Session Summaries**

All attendees then re-convened to review the discussions from each working group.

**a. Behavioral Health Working Group**

Currently, the Behavioral Health Working Group is drafting a unique mission statement and working on clarifying goals for actionable items. The group is gathering a list of behavioral health resources for veterans and military families and determining criteria for what resources will be included on the list. After drafting the criteria and list, the group will then ask the entire Collaborative for feedback and suggestions.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Identifying mission
- Identifying goals
- Building action plan for the next six months

**b. Career Advancement Working Group**

The Career Advancement Working Group will be compiling questions from its members regarding data that it would like to see gathered through the USC CIR survey of veterans and military families in Los Angeles. The group is also compiling a list of local military-friendly employers for possible inclusion in the USC veteran hiring event in March 2013.

The group has received an initial draft of an asset map of veteran employment resources in the LA-area. Group members were asked to submit additional resources to

Lisa Anderson so that they may be added to the map. The group's goal is to produce a list of veteran employment resources and develop an asset map that provides information as well as a quality rating. The rating system and a monitoring system have yet to be determined.

***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue working on asset map.
- Suggest questions for USC CIR LA veterans survey.

***New action items:***

- Compile list of veteran friendly employers to be used for USC hiring event.
- Identify the need for a significant web presence to collect info.
- Find new ways of getting new members involved.

**c. Families & Children Working Group**

The Families & Children Working Group discussed the action items from the previous meeting and reviewed the group's Mission/Vision and Objectives. Members were encouraged to add to or review the Objectives. The group's Mission/Vision Statement and Objectives are still being worked due to the group's broad range. Members discussed the need to address not only the issues of school-aged children (K-12<sup>th</sup> grade), but also the needs related to young children (0-5 years), as experiences in these early years provide the foundation for resiliency and impact later academic and social/emotional interactions.

Members recommended that the group's target family categories be clarified to include veterans, Guard members, Reserves, Active Duty and other service-connected individuals. Members identified the need to recognize that a child may not only be impacted by a parent's service and/or deployment, but also by that of other significant family member (e.g., brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent, step-parent). Additionally, the group discussed the need for age specific groups of military children to address differing needs in schools. This would be used to create a tool to be used in schools

***Update on previous action items:***

- Continue developing the working group Mission/Vision statement.
- Continue developing the working group Objectives and policy statement.

***New action item:***

- Identify contacts within faith-based communities.
- Find new ways of getting new members involved
- Build association with Friday Night live as tool for outreach
- Work on position paper to reach out to schools
- Find new ways to ID children associated with military

**d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group**

The Housing and & Homelessness Working Group had a large meeting with many new members. A representative from California State Senator Carol Liu's office informed the



group that they are bringing together a coalition of legislators who want to work on veterans issues and looking to move the group into state building.

Members also discussed monthly community calls with VA- all work groups members should participate.

Members discussed the possibility of including 'on-the-ground' individuals and practitioners, in order to create an informative exchange and unite efforts.

***New action items:***

- Evaluate the possibility of soliciting furniture donations.
- Determine best ways of engaging VA decision-makers.
- Take part in VA monthly phone calls

**e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

The Legal & Re-Entry Working Group discussed current areas each organization was working in. Additionally, the group brainstormed new ways to create veteran specific programs dedicated for veterans (e.g. dealing with tickets, DUI's, misdemeanors). The work group discussed a proposal to have a judge at each courthouse to streamline vet facilitation as well as trying to analyze fixing benefit claims for vets and female vets with MST. The group announced free attorney services (e.g. debt, immigration, divorce) for vets called the Valor Guide.

**IV. Administrative Details**

**a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**

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

- January 9, 2013
- February 13, 2013
- March 13, 2013

**b. Collaborative Mailing List**

To join the Collaborative's mailing list, or any of the working group mailing lists, please contact CIR at [cir@usc.edu](mailto:cir@usc.edu).

**c. Closing Remarks**

Dr. Anthony Hassan thanked everyone for coming and announced that CIR has just received funding for hiring a Collaborative administrator to run the LA veteran collaborative and conduct a city-wide survey and evaluation of veteran needs in Los Angeles county. The Collaborative administrator announced position will be posted in January. CIR will then convene community members/WG co-chairs to outline survey after the collaborative in January.

**V. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 9**

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office

1149 South Hill Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90015