



MEETING AGENDA

9:00 am	Check-In
9:30 am	Welcome & Agenda Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR Margaret Thomas, Collaborative Coordinator, CIR
9:40 am	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Survey
10:00 am	Working Group Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Behavioral Health◆ Career Advancement◆ Families & Children◆ Housing & Homelessness◆ Legal & Re-Entry
11:00 am	Review of Working Group Sessions
11:25 am	Administrative Items & Closing Remarks Margaret R. Thomas
11:30 am	Collaborative Meeting Adjourns

I. Welcome & Agenda

General David Petraues welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He discussed the importance of participating in the collaborative and encouraged the participants to continue to focus on providing the highest quality of services to veterans and their families while empowering the veteran community to sustain themselves independently.

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. Groups were asked to think about what information from such a survey would help them the most.

a. Behavioral Health Working Group

Discussed and continued to work through their resource list. The group continued to highlight and vet current resources to add to the group's resource guide.

b. Career Advancement Working Group

19 individuals in attendance which included many new participants. Agenda for the meeting was discussed.

Presentation (45 minutes):

Tim Johnston from the Veterans Benefits Administration provided an overview of Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) which helps Veterans with service connected disabilities prepare for, find, and maintain suitable careers. For Veterans with service connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VR&E provides services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible. The VR&E services that were discussed included Chapter 31, Chapter 35, Chapter 36, and Chapter 18. Additional resources and information can be found at vetsuccess.gov.

Networking (5 minutes):

The final 5 minutes were set aside for networking opportunities between individuals within the working group.

c. Families & Children Working Group

Attendance: Deborah J. Hayes, Co-Chair, Debbie Nichols, Co-Chair, Jim Gilek, Madeleine Bruning, Monica Nelsen.

Welcome and brief introductions. Many thanks to Margaret for securing our new meeting space, we are delighted!!

Review of last month meeting notes.

Madeleine reports that interest by medical professionals in the issues surrounding military connected children and families is increasing as evidenced by the acceptance of posters (Military Children), developed by two of her students to the upcoming Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) conference.

Additionally, on October 25th, Madeleine is presenting at USF's Joining Forces National Nursing Conference, "Best Practices in Teaching Military and Veteran's Health Care." In addition, ten students from each discipline -USC Schools of Medicine, Social Work, and PA program with nursing students from Mount St. Mary's College will formulate teams to process vignettes with military family issues, in a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to practice. Deborah Hayes is participating as a group facilitator.

Discussed the LA County Health Care Network letter that was drafted and submitted to Margaret for approval by the general body. We are requesting that the letter is sent to the contact person at the LA Co. Health Care Network by November so that Madeleine will have an opportunity to follow up and set date for meeting to discuss issues further and action plans.

Discussed that the letter be signed by Madeleine, Deborah, Debbie and Margaret and/or Anthony.

Plan to meet with LA Co Health Care Network in January or February 2014 regarding an action plan for the identification of military connected children and families on LA County Health Services Intake and Assessment forms.

Utilize Veteran's Day as a Launch for the various veteran related campaigns. (LA Co Health Care Network, LAVets Survey, etc.

Regarding the dissemination of Vets Survey, we brainstormed places that we need to alert to support the roll out. It would be helpful to have radio/TV/ public service announcements, posters to put up at different locales. Media campaign that is supported by the Mayor's office. Need for Spanish translation of media items.

Brainstorming sites to target in dissemination of the LA Vets Survey to get representation from military families: Airports – LAX, Burbank, SF Valley, Santa Monica, Compton, Hawthorne; Libraries (LA County and City); Metro buses, train lines (Metro Expo, Gold line, Blue Line, etc.; Nathanson Family Center – FOCUS Project; The Soldier's Project therapists; Didi Hirsch CMHC; Local Churches – send info to church secretaries to place in the Church Bulletins – send by Wednesday in order for placement in Sunday Service announcements; LA Unified Schools and other Local Districts – Parent Centers, LA County Office of Education – Parent Centers and School Mental Health Coffee Shops – Starbucks, Coffee Bean & Tea; Agencies represented within the LA Vets Collaborative – Put on agency FACEBOOK

links if they have accounts; Yellow Ribbon has a statewide website. Place announcement re the survey on this website with request for those living in LA County to complete survey; USO's, VWF Posts; LA Air Force Base, Fort Mac Arthur (San Pedro) – Family Readiness Centers, Los Alamitos; Identify any meetings or conferences related to military content and have flyers/posters available for participants; Radio/Television/Neighborhood Papers and Spanish language media

Webinars related to children - Debbie Nichols shared the Army One Source webinar for engaging military families and the importance of having Faith Based involved in the Collaborative.

Deborah reminded the group of the work that Didi Hirsch is doing with military families and passed out the agency's brochures. Discussed services and contact info.

Debbie Nichols will be attending and speaking at upcoming event Oct 24th sponsored by 360 Veterans, a nonprofit organization in San Marcos for supporting military spouses dealing with a loved one with Combat stress.

Regarding State policy modification addressing the needs of the children. Debbie was informed by several organizations that there are two policies very similar to military children's needs. One policy is Federal and another State of California.

Deborah and Debbie requested to Margaret to have these policies researched by *USC CIR*:

The McKinney-Vento Act (Homeless Education Assistance Act) - (Federal)
<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/McKinney.pdf>

California State - AB 490 Ensuring Education Rights for Foster Youth
http://www.youthlaw.org/events/trainings/ab_490_ensuring_educational_rights_for_foster_youth/

d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group

The group discussed the current available housing stock in LA. Also discussed new ways to get those in real need of housing into housing and or how to better connect these individuals to needed services.

Discussed the involvement of builders and usable land to build housing on.

Also discussed gateway hospital with VOA, have beds available and have different criteria than the VA.

e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group

We had a special guest Linsey Sin, Deputy Secretary, Women Affairs, CAL Vet. She's exploring women's housing that may have legal issues along with committee members Kathleen West and Cacilia Kim. She is part of many of the conference calls hosted by Mary Ellen Salzano for veteran issues. When she learned that many public defender offices don't ask if clients have military experience which is an

obstacle to them utilizing the benefits of Penal Code section 1170.9 for alternative sentencing, she suggested the possibility of creating legislation for that. We will follow up on that. Blas Villalobos gave us a brief update on Patriotic Hall. They are trying to get onto the board of supervisors schedule. There will be a tour this Thurs in the morning and in the afternoon at 4 by Blas Villalobos (US Vets) & Paul Freese (Public counsel) for several of the entities that provide legal services for veterans. There will be another tour later in the month by LACBA executive staff, Margaret Thomas, Steve Peck—executive director of US Vets to explore helping with legal services there.

We had a number of new members this month. Ginny DuRivage, Social Worker manager with LAFLA who'd really like to develop more ways to help veterans resolve traffic tickets including at stand downs. Andrew Trindle, Social Worker at Public Counsel, I believe the Center for Veteran Advancement. Rebecca Miller, JD at Levitt & Quinn who actually helped write the grant that helps pay her salary! Levitt & Quinn is the primary entity to help low income people with family law matters. Rebecca plans on donating specific amounts of her time at Patriotic Hall as the legal clinic and it's coordination becomes developed. Joe Sorrentino, retired LA DA, author, marine and Harvard law graduate. All of us got to know each other a little better.

We finalized our mission and goal statement! I will attach it to this email. We have an overview & update of our pending projects which I'll attach so all members can have and share. We encouraged everyone to spread the word about our committee and to both invite and bring people to the next meeting to help us grow and succeed with our mission & goals!

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 13, 2013
- December 11, 2013
- January 8, 2013

b. Closing Remarks

Margaret Thomas thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone again about the 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 Margaret Thomas at Margaret.thomas@usc.edu

V. Next Meeting

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office

1150 South Olive Street, 11th Floor

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