

I. Welcome & Agenda

Margaret Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

II. Working Group Breakout Sessions

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

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

III. Working Group Session Summaries

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

a. Behavioral Health Working Group

In attendance: Melissa Rodriguez, Laura Mosedale, Spencer Vigoren, Kevin Martin, Lauphiette Kincey, Curtis Mack, Antonio Chapa, Albert Yi, Claire Lawless, Anna Zogas, Gail Soffer, Phil Wong, Mark Mitchell, Roxann Abrams

1. Val Reyes made request to recruit more participants in the physical health group. Currently there is only one participant in that cohort.
2. Action Arm
 - a. Mark Mitchell- Discussed 211 as a resource and its effectiveness in dealing with the Vet population. Described some negative encounters experienced by Antelope Valley Vet programs. Also discussed Value Options as and EAP for military and need for excellent customer service in working with the vets. He also was in contact with Mayor Riordan and possibility to make donor contacts.
 - b. Claire Lawless of IAVA explained her organization's vast data base for referral resources which may help augment what 211 is able to provide.
 - c. Sherry Winston- Discussed need of BHWG to decide on an area of focus to be presented as she pitches various radio and T.V. stations regarding PSA for the group. Also need a press release and talking points before she can approach the various station producers. A group discussion regarding the issue of veteran suicide rates and need for prevention programs.

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

b. Career Advancement Working Group

- Presentation with Luci for CEU for Veteran iring Fair for Employers
- Provide feedback and comments

c. Families & Children Working Group

Attendees: Deborah Hayes, Co-Chair, Debbie Nichols, Co- Chair, Carla Cavalier, Emily Vogl, Terry Winston, Kymisha V. Jackson, Sascha Bensinger, Tracy Larsen, Patrina Croisdale, Paul Blount, Madeleine Bruning

Introductions and Welcome to our new participants. We have (6) individuals who are new to our work group this month, representing the following organizations: Veteran Resource Corp, Hariett Buhai Center for Family Law, and Cal State University Northridge, School of Social Work – 2nd year MSW Candidates.

Discussion:

- Shared the goals and mission of the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) and how their resources have supported our efforts to identify military connected children in the schools and in our communities at large.
- Review meeting minutes from November meeting.
- Shared various resources for military connected children and their families including, Professional Tutors of America Inc., a national tutorial program that is providing low cost and free tutorial services to military families dependent upon their circumstances, (ie.) children of fallen service members receive free tutorial services.
- Reports from participants on activities last month (conferences, training, etc.) Debbie participated in a conference for Wives of War (supporting wives of wounded warriors), Carla attended the Minority Women Vets conference in November, and Deb Hayes conducted a presentation to 2nd year MSW students at Cal State University Northridge School of Social Work.
- Discussed issues involving female vets and their families. Specific concerns related to the numbers of homeless women vets with children and to concerns related to vet women and female spouses who are suffering from perinatal mental health issues. The Families and Children work group will conduct further research into these concerns.
- Shared with the work group the updated Military Children's Resource Guide. The Families and Children work group participants were encouraged to share any additional resources they are aware of that may be helpful to military families with Deb Hayes who will add them to her MC Guide update scheduled for April 2014.
- Emily shared the following websites
<http://www.militarychild.org/news-and-events/2013-seminar-speaker-materials>
Presentations and handouts taken from the 2013 National Conference in Washington, DC. For those who are interested in further information on the impact of deployment –
<http://www.deploymentpsych.org/Military-Culture>
Please check past minutes for additional web related resources and also refer to the Military Children's Resource Guide for resources and Toolkits. To obtain previous LAVC Families and Children meeting minutes go to the link: <http://cir.usc.edu/los-angeles-veterans-collaborative>
- We shared the letter that was drafted for the LA County Health Care Network. Benefits in outreach to the LA County Health Care Network community include increased opportunities to support building the capacity of community medical providers in (Military Culture, Working with Military Families, etc.) The letter has been approved by LAVC and will be given to Dr. Lawrence M. Opas, Chief, Department of Pediatrics, LAC+USC Medical Center.
- The work group discussed the LAVC Survey and how each agency represented can support the need to obtain survey respondents. Our goal is to have at least 1,000 spouse respondents that will represent the child/family concerns in military families. It was requested that each work group member make effort to outreach the LAVC Survey to programs, individuals targeting military families. **Please bring to our next meeting or send via e-mail to Deborah and Debbie, the names of agencies, organizations or individuals that you have personally contacted regarding the dissemination of the LA Vets Survey to gain family responses. We need extensive outreach in this effort.**

- Upcoming conferences/meetings with details to follow:
 - 1) The Los Angeles Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs, Joseph Chicas, Coordinator, is planning a Roundtable Discussion with members of the Los Angeles Unified School District and community providers in order to address the concerns with military connected students within the District. Mayor Garcetti, a Reserve member, supports the development of a plan that will allow the District's identification of military connected students in order to provide resources and support as needed, - date to be scheduled
 - 2) Vet Treatment Court Conference – date to be announced,
 - 3) Women Vets Summit – March 19th.
 - 4) Innovation for Moms, Minds and Hearts, Emerging Considerations in Maternal Mental Health (California Maternal Mental Health Collaborative – www.2020momproject.com) January 23, 2014 at the California Endowment from 9am – 5pm.
To Register – www.camaternalmentalhealth.org/january_23

d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group

Available Resources

- Military Women in Need has funding available to assist female vets & survivors with move-in costs.
- New Directions for Veterans is in the lease-up phase of a permanent housing development in El Monte, and more applications are needed.
 - 40 studio apartments for the chronically homeless; PB-VASH subsidy
 - Move-in scheduled for February 2014

VA Presentation

- John Nakashima of the VA Greater LA Healthcare System presented data on various homeless veteran counts and the CHALENG survey
- Homeless veteran population for GLA has decreased, but the percentage of homeless veterans who are returning OEF/OIF/OND continues to increase.
- 2013 CHALENG survey, which identifies the unmet needs of homeless veterans, is open until December 31.
- Upcoming additions to GLA VA campus:
 - Building 209: 60-bed Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence to open June 2014
 - Building 402: comprehensive homeless center with co-located primary & mental health care, benefits services & homeless services to open January 2014.

e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group

- SSVF – discussed process
- Vet Treatment in DC
 - What is the need for this?
 - 1170.9 Legal authorization with California. Amendment for retro expungement of records.

- 240 in country
- Need to educate private attorneys fir DUI
- Increase MSW's in these courts

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 8, 2014
- February 12, 2014
- March 12, 2014

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, January 8, 2014

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office

1150 South Olive Street, 11th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90015