



MEETING AGENDA

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| 9:00 am | Engagement and Access Working Group |
| 9:00 am | Check-In |
| 9:30 am | Welcome & Agenda
Anthony Hassan, Director, CIR
Nathan Graeser, Collaborative Coordinator, CIR |
| 9:40 am | Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Survey Update◆ Recruitment◆ Upcoming Events |
| 10:00 am | Working Group Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Behavioral Health◆ Career Advancement◆ Families & Children◆ Housing & Homelessness◆ Legal & Re-Entry◆ Faith Based |
| 11:00 am | Review of Working Group Sessions |
| 11:25 am | Administrative Items & Closing Remarks
Nathan Graeser |
| 11:30 am | Collaborative Meeting Adjourns |

I. Welcome & Agenda

Anthony Hassan, Director of CIR and Nathan Graeser, Project Specialist welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

II. Working Group Breakout Sessions

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

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

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

- i. Facilitator:** by Captain Franc & Val
- ii. Secretary:** Sherry Winston, LMFT
- iii. Attendees:** Leslie Reynolds-Rottman, LMFT, Laura Mosedale, Carmi Ruiz, Mark Mitchell, LMFT, Benjamin Sanchez, Roberto Hernandez, Lester Brown, Guy McCloud, C. McKnight, Phil Wong, Joshua Rivers, Himyo, Kira Haglund, Lance Griepenstroh, Nick Madarang, Veronica Lira, Randi Del Cid, Agustin Rangel, Allison Clement, Suzi Landolphi, LMFT, Gail Soffer, Judith Broder, Jason Black, Patricia Jackson-Kelley, Danielle Janne
- iv.** Identified coordinated efforts and identified resources regarding services for veterans.
- v.** Discussed invite access to other agencies to CIR.
- vi.** Allison Clement-UCLA Health Star Program Tier Training 1,2,3 Tuesday Feb 25th in Los Alamitos. Tier 2 April 3 & 4th, Apr 28 & 29th Tier 3 May 28 & 29th. Starproviders.org- training for behavioral health training. Tier 1 & 2 trainings. Tier 3 1 is for licensed clinicians.
- vii.** Vetting BH providers with evidence based practices.
- viii.** Mark Mitchell presents an ORS program to follow quality control of the sessions for vet and clinician. Mark to follow up with more information.
- ix.** Danielle Janne-Use of 211 for resources re: veteran population. Needs group help in vetting appropriate providers.

- x. ~~Dr. Work Group indicated focus to vet Dr providers and continue growing the current master list. 211 A Portal for information referral for care coordination for veterans.~~
- xi. Dr. Judith Broder spoke about Soldiers' Project resistance from already qualified therapist to do yet another training to be considered to be on the approved provider list. Dr. Broder gave information re: Soldiers' Project is free to vets. Qualified therapist need to take a minimum of 3 workshops re: military culture etc. Iraq & Afghan vets. Therapists have peer supervision re: their work with vets. Community outreach to advocate for vets. Educating the civilian community. Requirements, Iraq or Afghan conflict. No matter discharge status, or sexual orientation, or marital status, or family members. Turn around is 2-7 days to get an appointment. Intake worker initiates the process with general details on availability and access to transportation. No probing questions in the initial contact.
 1. Therapist assigns to the qualified therapist
 2. Some are still active duty
 3. Deal with approach avoidance of the vet. If no initiated call by vet then therapist with pursue the appointment.
 4. Just started QC survey for client satisfaction level.
 5. No s/I in their 10 years of existence.
 6. Unlimited visits
 7. Licensed TX can go to Soldiersproject.org
 8. Provides military culture training to non SP clinicians and lay people.
- xii. Laura-Question to assign UCLA or USC program as the recognized training program for the vetting process.
- xiii. Guy Mc Cloud- VA--List of competencies that need to be met before a decision is made.
- xiv. Motion to put Soldiers' Project in list of vetted providers. Grandfather Soldier's Project in to the vetted category. Motion approved. Barriers to access of services relative to a vet's resistance to therapy from a recognized VA program. Stigma re; reputation is a barrier to having vets become less resistant to services. Stigma VA run by veterans, they don't understand. False belief for limited services. Choice of services is empowering for the vet. Not qualifying for services. Fearful that their confidentiality will be compromised. Problems with forms and getting services
- xv. Kyra Haglund – Volunteers of America– Research on yoga focus on combat trauma. Alternative therapies to be used, ie equine, somatic experiencing. To be addressed in Physical health group.
- xvi. Joshua Rivers-(veteran) The Battle Buddy Foundation- service dogs organization for Vets. Psychiatric and mobility service dogs.
- xvii. Motion:9 30am meeting to talk re: practices before the main meeting. Joshua & Kyra to present
- xviii. Vet Center- Randy Del Cid and Shinty Acevedo
- xix. LA Veterans Transition Trainings, Inc- Himyo- Concern re: politics interfering with the collaborative work.
 - xx. Save a Warrior- Suzi Landolphi, LMFT & Lt. Jason Black
- xxi. Dr. Mc Knight- Valor- LA county veteran program- Working with Military Veteran's Affairs for one stop contact. Medical certification in process. Services throughout the county. Vouchers to house 50 veterans that are homeless. Work with vets that don't qualify for services get help.. VSO begins in March 2014. Hours 8am to 5pm.
- xxii. Patricia Jackson Kelley- presentation re: veterans affairs from the OC Veteran's collaborative. Giving veterans' a better voice vis a vis in government affairs.

b. Career Advancement Working Group

- i. The group met to brainstorm and provide feedback to the planning team for the USC CIR Veterans Hiring Event. We reviewed a proposal for volunteers from organizations in the Working Group to serve as navigators for veterans that RSVP for the hiring event. The navigators would spend 10 hours per week in service to assigned veterans assisting them in locating positions for which they were qualified, preparing them to interview for those positions and advocating for them with the employers at the event. They would also follow up with the veteran after the event to determine outcomes.
- ii. Feedback from the group on this proposal was as follows: 10 hours per week may be too much to ask from volunteers who are also professionals in this field. Possibly organize trainings/classes well ahead of the event to provide group training on preparing for the event. Use resources from the Collaborative to teach these classes. Could still use the mentor/navigator idea for more intensive services (such as advocating and follow up) but would require less time from the volunteer. In the training or on-site during the hiring event have information/assistance for those veterans interested in entrepreneurial opportunities. Have space available for employers to schedule same day on-site interviews with veterans as well as scheduling interviews in advance. Encourage employers to move away from the “just apply on-line” strategy at the event itself. For those employers where applicants must apply on-line first, use the classes and the navigators to prepare the veterans for this so they are not let down. Also prepare them to speak to specific jobs available with these employers so that they can present their “elevator speech” at the employer’s booth. Provide list of employers to the veterans and challenge them to research the companies and specific jobs that they qualify for.
- iii. The group also received an update from Luci Ursich regarding the on-line employer training that will be sent to all employers that register for the hiring event. Luci is still in need of some success stories for each segment of the training as well as feedback on the information. Working Group Chair will email the revised training to the group for feedback.

c. Families & Children Working Group

- i. **Mission:** To heighten the awareness and impact policy related to the concerns and needs of military affiliated (connected) children and their families. Particular attention is addressed to the families of the Guard and Reserve service members who as a result of their status may not fully access resources within the military service delivery system or within their communities.
- ii. **Vision:** Children and families impacted by the military service of their loved ones will be identified in order to receive the supportive care and attention needed to maximize their adjustment to challenges associated with the deployment process. The identification and coordination of services for military connected families will serve to enhance the military affiliated child's healthy growth and development and family functioning.
- iii. **Attendees:** Deborah Hayes, Co-Chair, Debbie Nichols, Co-Chair
Liz Beaty, Brenna Filazzola, Hubert Sutton, Corey Burke, Madeleine Bruning, Brandon Pelletier, Wendy Lethin, Rachel Feldstein, Sarah Duerr, Maruska Moore, Carla Cavalier, Kristine Hesse, Wes Cram, Jennifer Henningfield, Joseph Chicas
- iv. **Agencies Represented:** Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law, 1736 Family Crisis Center, Americorps, Mount St. Mary’s College/ Keck School of Medicine,

Scout, 11 and, Imagine LA, Operation Ready Families, National Veteran Foundation, CIR – MSW Intern, Cal State University, Northridge, LA Mayor’s Office of Veteran Programs

- v. Introductions and sharing of community resources. TAPS - (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors) www.taps.org , provides grief support for military families, recognition of the fallen
Strength in Support – www.strengthinsupport.org Provides mental health support to military personnel, veterans and their families.
- vi. Discussed areas where there is a need to identify military connected children and families and new connections that have been made within the last month. The following agencies have been contacted Dept of Child and Family Services (DCFS) – Training Division and Nurse Family Partnership.
- vii. At the request of Joseph Chicas, Coordinator for Veterans Programs, LA Mayor’s Office, the work group brain stormed ideas to support the Mayor’s proposed City wide recognition of April as the Month of the Military Child. It was suggested and agreed upon by the work group to have the Mayor’s office plan an event recognizing military connected children at an open space, ie. (La Cienega Park or the grounds around the African American Museum/Museum of Science and Industry, would be attractive. Both areas are near public transportation (Expoline), and could provide a great venue for speakers, child centered activities including outdoor games, prizes, balloons, art contest, etc.)
- viii. Additionally, we discussed interim plans to assist Joseph with a meeting to be scheduled in April, which will involve LAUSD personnel, USC’s Building Capacity and other interested parties, to develop an action plan for the District’s schools in preparation of the role out of the identification of military connected students on the upcoming school year Student Emergency Information Form. Both Deborah and Debbie will share information they have access to which will support the individual schools’ recognition of military connected students during the month of April.
- ix. Identified “Success Stories” generated from this past year of convening with the Families and Children Work Group.
 - 1. Working in collaboration with LA Mayor Garcetti’s Office of Veteran Services, Joseph Chicas, Coordinator, Los Angeles Unified School District, and USC Building Capacity, Deborah Hayes and Debbie Nichols participated in a series of meetings which led to the District including on the school year Student Emergency Information Form a section that identifies whether the student is from a military connected family. At the start of the next school year, August, 2014, this form will be given to every student enrolled in LAUSD, including Infant Centers, Pre-K programs (Early Childhood Education Centers), Special Education Centers, and K-12 programs. This information will assist the District in better providing resources and support to these students and their families. What is impressively significant about this collaboration is the fact that it took only 6 weeks from the beginning of our conversations to the end, to have plan approved.
 - 2. Additionally, Deborah and Debbie are providing technical assistance in preparation for the role out of an Educator’s toolkit that will support Local District Administrative staff, Principals, school support staff, teachers and parents in understanding the needs of military connected students and their families. Deborah Hayes continues to update a Military Children’s Resource Guide that will provide information on local, statewide and national resources for military families.

3. The Families and Children work group drafted and delivered a letter to Dr. Lawrence M. Opus, Chief of Pediatrics, LAC+USC Medical Center, Los Angeles Health Care Network. We requested an opportunity to meet with him in discussion of the need within the County's medical system to have a means of identifying the military connected children and families who are utilizing medical services. Madeleine Bruning is the work group point of contact for Dr. Opus and is also in a position to interact closely with the Director of Residents at LACoUSC hospital regarding our initiatives. Additionally, Madeleine Bruning and Deborah Hayes are scheduled to present to Keck School of Medicine, Grand Rounds on the topic of Military Children and Families.
4. The Families and Children work group has identified other program areas including the Department of Child and Family Services and community agencies, private schools and preschools, WIC, LA County Nurse Family Partnership, Family Day Care providers, etc. to approach regarding the identification of military connected families.
5. The Families and Children work group members are actively engaged in activities that support military children and their families. Madeleine Bruning was sought out by a student at Mt. Saint Mary's after the student saw Madeline's name and contact information written on a wall in the restroom. This student was interested in learning more about military families and the challenges they oftentimes face. From this initial contact, Madeleine and this motivated student have organized a Military Child & Family series at Keck School of Medicine. They are utilizing the support of guest lecturers to provide a heightened awareness among 1st and 2nd year medical students. This program will produce on-going seminars throughout the year.
6. The Families and Children workgroup, which represents various agencies and individuals who have interest in the well-being of military families, has managed to effectively interact as a team in order to accomplish our defined goals and objectives. We have consistently maintained the interest of work group members and strive to share information and resources which will further enhance our ability to work with military children and their families.

d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group

- i. Successes and Continuing Opportunities: AB 639 passed the Legislature and was signed by the Governor. Next, we all will have the opportunity to work to secure voter approval in the Spring 2014 election. The VAGLA and LAHSA are negotiating a proposed 2014 Point-in-Time Homeless Count to document our continued success in reducing the numbers of homeless veterans in Los Angeles. Should the negotiations be successful, we will have an opportunity to volunteer to help count.
- ii. New Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's Priorities- The group brainstormed over LA Mayor's Office Veterans Affairs Coordinator Joseph Chicas' request for policy initiatives for Mayor Eric Garcetti to pursue to help veterans and reached consensus on these: Establish a priority for use of surplus City-owned property to develop housing for veterans. Support allocation of resources for capital, rent subsidy, and services to produce permanent supportive housing for female-headed households with children. Identify and provide resources for supportive services in permanent housing for formerly homeless veterans. Support a change to federal policy to allow the VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to provide 9 months, rather than 5 months, of rental assistance, as 9 months is the realistic duration needed in Los Angeles to help homeless veterans secure income.

Support a change to federal policy to allow the VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program to assist veterans of all discharge statuses.

e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group

- i. New Members introduced themselves
- ii. Discussed AB 639 and agreed to come prepared to the next meeting with outreach methods to help it pass on the June 3rd ballot. Committed to making its passage a focus of our group. Also agreed that any opposed to the measure could present at the next meeting before we decide as a group to endorse it.
- iii. Committed to launching a campaign to educate the criminal justice system/legal community as well as veterans and their families about Penal Code 1170.9. In particular, discussed creating and distributing posters, flyers, and electronic information. Individual members committed to various roles, including: graphic design, wording, printing and distributing. Will have at least the poster by the next meeting. PC 1170.9 campaign may include posters, postcards, business cards, getting entities to put things up on their electronic sites--ALL means possible to educate BOTH military & veteran communities and their families as well as the criminal justice system as a whole about PC 1170.9
- iv. Distributed information about the 3 veteran-specific, court-approved DV programs in the Los Angeles area. Specific members agreed to contact the program coordinators to discuss how the programs can best address PTSD-specific instances of domestic violence.
- v. Becky Miller discussed her grant to work with veterans confronting child support issues
- vi. Agreed to continue recruiting members

f. Faith Based Group

- i. In Attendance: Elaine Moore, Marina Curin, Caldwell Williams, Rev. Garcia, Pastor David Hart, Rabbi Kevin Bemel, Theresa Varn and Pastor Kelvin Sauls
- ii. Introduction Comments: Faith Based should be more empowered to assist, inform and develop education and training components to strengthen veterans and their families. Experience and research says that family and spouses go to faith base for support. There is a need for resources especially for Hispanics. Faith based should be connected and know their community resources to better serve the veteran community. There are 22 million Veterans in the USA (No more WW1 Veterans. Suicide rate is on the rise with Veterans. Most Veterans are Roman Catholic or Southern Baptist. Typical Veteran serves 4-8 years and in combat, unchurched and have small amount of faith connection. Profound faith deficit; low college graduates. One in the group felt uncomfortable with the term moral injury. Expressed most Veterans are concerned with a continuum of recovery. Felt they would never recovery from the moral injury of serving. Preferred term – Journey of Recovery. Felt injury meant repair. How do we help communities of faith create: 1) Referral system, 2) Tools to offer communities of faith 3) Resources and 4) List of interested churches. Develop a system of veterans helping veterans
- iii. Next Steps: Contribute to and support curriculum development and expansion of upcoming faith based training – Pastor Sauls introduced to the group. How to reach out to other faith groups? – Rabbi Bemel volunteered. Develop a referral system and questionnaire prior to attending the scheduled training.
- iv. We need to support: Prop 41, CA Housing and Jobs Act, Section 8 vouchers, New Veteran Services (NOVA) – New Money, and USC Employment event

IV. Administrative Details

a. Upcoming Collaborative Meetings

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

- March 12, 2014
- April 9, 2014
- May 14, 2014

b. Closing Remarks

Nathan Graeser 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 Nathan Graeser at graeser@usc.edu

V. Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 12 , 2014

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office

1149 South Hill Street, 11th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90015