

Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative

1150 S. Olive St.
Sunset Theater, 11th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Meeting Agenda

March 12, 2014

- 9 a.m. Engagement and Access Working Group
- 9 a.m. Check-In
- 9:30 a.m. Announcements
- Survey Update
 - Recruitment
 - Upcoming Events
 - New Working Group: Higher Education
- 10 a.m. Working Group Sessions
- Behavioral Health
 - Career Advancement
 - Families & Children
 - Housing & Homelessness
 - Legal & Re-Entry
 - Faith Based
- 11 a.m. Review of Working Group Sessions
- 11:25 a.m. Administrative Items & Closing Remarks
Nathan Graeser
- 11:30 a.m. Collaborative Meeting Adjourns



Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2014

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: Shanty Acevedo, Randy Del Cid, Veronica Lira, Mark Mitchell, Lynne Hostein, Dennis Lisaius, Melody Winster Head, Bryan Reeves, Ken Lynch, Laura Mosedale, Guy McCloud, Francisco Ortega, Shahrouz Golshani, Ripsime Oganyan, Cheryl Mosley, Nicole Fowler, Phil Wong, Himyu, Carmi Ruiz, Diane Vines, Caldwell Williams, Leslie Reynolds Rottman.
- iv. Introduction of new members.
- v. Ken Lynch- Brian Reeves- Bringing mindfulness to veterans. Address high suicide rates of veterans. Def: how to be present in the moment without judgment but with compassion. Connecting mind and body. Working with vets on Skid Row with VOA. Brook Army Medical Center. Somatic Experiencing with trauma. Empower facilitators to lead meditation and mindfulness meetings throughout the country. Work with PATH for homeless population.



- vi.** Melodie Winter Head-Federal Reserve- Have community programs rather than face to face services. Organizing a retreat for female veterans relative to agricultural arenas. How to finance a business, credit rebuilding, how to make sound financial decisions. Also addressing housing issues for all veterans. Based on promotions of micro issues in the community.
 - vii.** Himyo- Vets Transition Training. Take veterans from military to civilian life. Six aspects, finance, mind, body, spiritual, community etc. Finding a new group of inclusion.
 - viii.** Caldwell Williams- Vets Transition Training- Since most military vets went into military just out of high school, so don't have sense of who they are. Have view of life only as military ergo difficult to come back to civilian life.
 - ix.** Shanty –Randy Del Cid- Vets Center- not part of the VA clarification. Community based program for counseling. A peer to peer counseling at the onset. Readjustment counseling and now bereavement counseling, sexual trauma. Free services and confidential from the VA records. Also able to see active duty military personnel. Use Yoga for Warriors, and fly fishing run by Viet Nam veterans. Need admin help to negotiate other VA benefits. Spouses of combat veterans.
 - x.** Ripsime Oganyan- Archdioses United Way funding to provide services with post 9/11 veterans. \$700 per veteran to be used to help stabilize life situation.
 - xi.** Capt. Franc-Save a Warrior- equine therapy with mindfulness and transcendental meditation for warriors. Work with very serious PTSD, and severe physical disabilities. Not evidenced based. Funded by David Lynch Foundation. All services free to the veterans who attend.
 - xii.** Laura Mosedale- VA- Sexual Awareness month in April. Also speak to male and female MST survivors. Hard to find providers to work with MST survivors. Mostly not certified in CBT course.
 - xiii.** Need volunteer to vet out programs. Veronica Lira volunteered to do the vetting of agencies and organizations that use evidenced based practices.
 - xiv.** Mark Mitchell to host discussion panel – April 2nd LMU Moral Injury workshop. Wed 7-9pm
 - xv.** Brentwood last Sunday Operation Mindful Warrior, to speak about our resources. All are invited Contact Ken Lynch 971 258 6795
- b. Career Advancement Working Group**
- i.** David Brown and Adam Renteria presented the Navigators Program in support of the USC Veterans Hiring Event. Members of the Career Advancement working group will be providing their services and time in terms of this program.
- c. Families & Children Working Group**
- i.** Deborah Hayes – Is attending a meeting to address Military connected children who have Special Needs.
 - ii.** Debbie Nichols - Is attending a Federal Implementation Academy (SAMHSA) with the California Interagency Council on Veterans. Their focus this year is on the Military – service members, veterans, spouses, and military connected children. Opportunities to

participate in community engagements from this Academy will be forthcoming beginning in June. These events will occur across the country with continued discussion on strategies and best practices in serving military, veterans and their families.

- iii. Mission/Vision of the Families & Children's Work Group: Identify military connected children in LA County in order to have greater access to support, resources and referrals.
- iv. Since mid-November, 2013, Deborah Hayes and Debbie Nichols have been working collaboratively with Jose Chicas, Coordinator, LA Mayor Garcetti's Office of Veteran's Affairs and the LA Unified School District (Health & Human Services), in developing a means of identifying military connected students who attend LAUSD schools and pre-K programs. As a result of our efforts, effective August, 2014 there will be a military student identifier placed on the District's Student Emergency Cards. This action has led to the development of an Assembly Bill which proposes the adoption of a State wide military student identifier. Identifying military connected students provides an opportunity for school based and community resources to better reach military families who are in need. Additionally, this action will bring attention on a Districtwide level, including the training and support for school staff, in order to establish a community of caring within our schools.
- v. LA County Health Care Network- A letter was drafted and sent to Dr. Lawrence Opas – LA County USC Medical Center Intern is to heighten the awareness of health care providers in LA County regarding Military connected children. Goal to have the County's medical providers (county hospitals, community clinics, physicians, integrated health providers, home visitors, etc., to identify military connected children).
- vi. Madeleine Bruning participated in Grand Rounds in order to bring to awareness among the medical staff, the needs of military connected children and the importance of having a means by which to identify them upon initial assessment and evaluation in medical settings.
- vii. Department of Public Social Services- SPA 7 is hosting a Meet & Great on April 24th at the Family Support Collaborative Network in Downey. Deborah Hayes will address the program participants on the need for DCFS involvement in understanding the needs of military connected children and their families.
- viii. April is Military Child Month - The Work Group discussed last month how we along with the Mayor's office and LAUSD could have an event that recognized the military connected child and the recent events of LAUSD adopting language on their Student Enrollment Card that would identify military connected students. (See Emergency Card – YELLOW Highlighted area)
- ix. Initially we spoke about having an event at a park or at the LA County Museum. Due to time constraints for permitting, this was not possible. Carla Cavalier volunteered to seek proclamations from our elected official's offices. So far, she has Herb Wesson, City Councilman who is preparing a proclamation on behalf of the whole LA City Council. Additionally, she has the office of Congress member Bass working on securing a proclamation and has submitted a request from the LA County Board of Supervisors. Anyone with contact in Board of Supervisors to make certain that this is followed up on?? Please let us know. Deborah Hayes has contacted Senator Holly Mitchell's office with a request as well.

- x.** Due to the limited timeframe that we have to work in, it was decided to have a smaller venue consisting of invited guests and military connected student/family participants. Deborah contacted Pastor Sauls (Holman United Methodist Church) who generously agreed to host an event at his church in the West Adams area. The time and confirmation of the proposed date – Saturday, April 26th is needed. Deborah is waiting to hear from Pastor Sauls. Time of event – 10:00am – 12:30pm or 1:00pm to 3:30pm. Expected number of guests - 30
- xi.** Holman UMC's mission is working with recently transitioned veteran women and their children. They are proposing a range of services for this military family.
- xii.** Assistance with design of invitation send out on Evite, and program – Deborah is putting together a program outline needs graphics ++
- xiii.** Program will be no more than 2 hours long. Will have Color Guard and musical selection (singer), Introductions, Panel Discussion – parent, military connected student, military (FRG or Educational liaison), school district rep, community agency, Response from (Bass, Mitchell or Mayor's office), Recognition of (4) military connected students, one from each Education Support Center – WE NEED the MAYOR's Office (Joseph) to handle getting plaques or something nice from the Mayor to be presented to these kids. We will ask them and their parents to come to the event and be recognized. Deborah has been in touch with Nancy Jefferson and Maria Castro to identify the students for us. Possible they will have - Students enter a contest, draw a picture or write a brief essay about. "What Being A Military Connected Kid Means to Me." One from each Educational Center will be selected to attend the event, and Presentation of Proclamations
- xiv.** Who should be invited? Key School District personnel, Military personnel, University, community, agencies, potential donors (Corporate) Deb Hayes has a contact at Wells Fargo Bank, WHO DO YOU KNOW to invite?? Send suggestions to: dejhayesconsulting@gmail.com
- xv.** Press Release, and contact with media outlets for coverage – print, TV, pictures need to be taken. Volunteer photographer??? NEED SUPPORT in this area.
- xvi.** Decorating of table (food) and CLEAN UP – VOLUNTEERS from Work Group needed
- xvii.** Color Guard – Deb H will contact Sgt Reason at Garfield High to invite his Color Guards, she also has a possible singer (female veteran)
- xviii.** Refreshments – Mayor's office has volunteered to provide refreshments – need to check with Joseph Chicas to confirm this. Otherwise, we need to solicit donations from – COSTCO, Smart n Final, Restaurants, CIR/USC?? Anyone have contacts to help?? Please let us know.
- xix.** Need (4) gifts, one each for the selected military students. (ie) family tickets to an amusement park, movies, etc. See if CIR (Dr. Hassan et al, can assist with contacts for these type items). It would be great to have a basket of goodies for each of the 4 students who are being recognized.
- xx.** Gail Soffer invited the group to participate in the Women Veterans Symposium, March 19th at the VA Hospital. She is in charge of the 'children's play area', and is requesting volunteers to assist with child activities while the parents are engaged in the conference. Erica from Didi Hirsch CMHC will attend and Mickiela is also involved with assisting in

the Symposium.

- xxi.** As per Gail Soffer's report, no one in attendance today in the work group responded positively to requests to assist with the Military Child Recognition

d. Housing & Homelessness Working Group

- i.** Prop 41 (ne AB 639) - Background: Veterans home ownership program voters passed 6 years ago but money didn't move. The CalVet homeownership program was a decent program when interest rates were higher than they have been in recent years. The money has not being used in the past few years because the interest rates are no longer competitive. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) agreed to move \$600 million from the homeownership program to a capital program to produce affordable rental housing for homeless and at-risk of homeless vets via Prop 41. The Prop 41 text is not specific, because California propositions do not go into detail with pages of regulations. After the voters pass it, the Legislature passes bills to implement. However, the California state departments of housing and veterans affairs are already planning to issue requests for proposals this year, should the voters pass Prop 41. That request will require developers to arrange to provide services such as mental health and substance abuse services so homeless veterans housed under Prop 41 will not fall back into homelessness.
- ii.** There will be advocacy opportunities in the Yes on Prop 41 campaign.
- iii.** CA Homes and Jobs Act, SB 39- would provide more capital to produce affordable housing, including housing for homeless vets. Advocacy is needed to move SB 391 through the Legislature.
- iv.** Funding for Mobile Outreach - The United Way Greater LA RFP offers funding for homeless programs involved in the Coordinated Entry System.
- v.** GR: LA County's program for single adults- George Paccarelli of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services reported on the General Relief Program and its innovative housing allowance pilot, which allowed leasing of \$500 individual rooms in larger housing units. GR recipients receiving the housing allowance had greater increases in income from work or SSI than did other GR recipients. Advocacy is needed if the pilot is to be expanded.
- vi.** Permanent supportive housing- New Directions is providing services in new affordable projects including El Monte Veteran and ND Sepulveda.
- vii.** VA services moratorium memo- A VA memo limiting grant per diem access by discharge status is making it harder for non-profits to serve the vets who need them most. This will be discussed in detail in the April meeting.

e. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group

- i.** Opened with introductions
- ii.** Learned that LACBA has 1) recently hired Kylien Patel to work part-time to provide pro bono legal services to veterans at patriotic hall and 2) has named Andrew Culberson as the Director of their Veteran Pro Bono Project
- iii.** Both individuals have joined the L&R Group
- iv.** Reviewed the letter endorsing AB 639, as well as certain changes to the legislation, that the

Families group circulated and decided that, while we could not endorse it as a group to political advocacy funding restrictions on a number of our members, those of us who could would individually advocate

- v. Reviewed group member Kyle's draft of the 1170.9 posters for the awareness campaign and came to a consensus on necessary edits
- vi. Annie Hudson-Price updated the group on the status of the 1170.9 Brief Bank project and solicited feed back for culturally sensitive yet effective questions to include on the training for the PD such that the PD can elicit necessary information without triggering of shutting the client down. A number of members offered their expertise and agreed to converse further offline.
- vii. Jodi Galvin updated the group on the status of communications with veteran-specific DV programs and members of the group agreed to work with program providers to develop best practices so that these providers can slowly but surely provide more appropriate education and treatment
- viii. The group concluded by discussing the need to bring more members

f. Faith Based Group

- i. Assign to six pod curriculum for clergy to work with 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:

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

9:30 - 11:30 am

USC CIR Office

1149 South Hill Street, 11th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90015