



MEETING AGENDA

9:00 am	Engagement and Access Working Group
9:30 am	Check-in
10:00 am	Welcome & Agenda Nathan Graeser, Collaborative Coordinator, CIR
10:10 am	Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Survey Update◆ Upcoming Events◆ Sharon Rapport discussed Prop 41◆ Bobby Shriver, BOS candidate, spoke on importance of voting and the landscape of veteran issues in LA County
10:30 am	Working Group Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Behavioral Health◆ Career Advancement◆ Families & Children◆ Housing & Homelessness◆ Legal & Re-Entry◆ Faith Based◆ Higher Education
11:30 am	Review of Working Group Sessions
11:55 am	Administrative Items & Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ LAVC Facebook, Minutes and Website Nathan Graeser
12:00 pm	Collaborative Meeting Adjourns

I. Welcome & Agenda

Nathan Graeser, Community Liaison/Analyst welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Anthony Hassan, Director of CIR and addressed the LAVC and thanked them for their hard work and reminded leaders and CEO's of the Impact Day on June 6th.

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**
- **Higher Education**

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.

IV. Behavioral Health Working Group

- a. Facilitated by Captain Michael Franc & Val Reyes
- b. BH Work Group Secretary: Sherry Winston, LMFT
- c. In attendance: Nancy Adamson, Randy Del Cid, David Hahn, Melissa Rodriguez, Mark Mitchell, Lynne Hostein, Guy McCloud, Patricia Jackson-Kelley, Ricky Shultz, Leslie Reynolds Rottman, John Osborne, Aaron Mallary, Arielle Moan, Carl McKnight, Roxanne Abrams. Scott from Battle Buddies.
- d. Introductions of new members: Ricky Shultz, American Arts Trust 323 324 3614 or 818 497 5510, John Osborne, Project Welcome Troops (stress reduction) 310 488 9650, Aaron Mallary, Soldiers Project, 818 761 7438 Arielle Moan MSW Student USC, David Hahn, American Arts Trust President,
- e. Emphasis on using 211 for resources and not "re-inventing the wheel" by duplicating services. Address services available to veterans. Per Captain Franc, empirical experience, the resources are there but vets do not necessarily want treatment. Question is how can this group make a paradigm shift to change the image of mental health treatment?

- f. Lynn Hostein-Use of media, i.e. So Cal Connected on KCET. Need to make contact executive producer to pitch the idea. Morning shows are always looking for segments to air. Or contact news director or the assignment desk. Segment producers for a specific show. Need to have veterans already identified to talk on the segment. Theme: Resistance to therapy by the vets.
- g. Aaron Mallary- putting together a veteran's speakers panel to address the resistance through the Soldier's Project. Also need to get veteran's to google/search for resources.
- h. Nancy Adamson- need to increase search engine optimization for vets to have easier access to services.
- i. Arielle Moan- use of social media- twitter, Facebook and search engines.
- j. Carl McKnight-DMH- need to address sense of shame attached to the stigma of behavioral health services. Missing the younger services.
- k. Lynn Hostein- Need to also connect with the families of veterans to help influence vets to come for counseling services.
- l. CBS National Veterans program.
- m. Roxanne Abrams-Operation IV- mother of veteran who committed suicide due to PTSD, agrees with groups perspective of reasons why vets do not seek services.
- n. Scott from Battle Buddies Foundation-theme of trust and treating PTSD as an entire package. Focus on success stories. With these stories, helps to elicit trust. Put a face on the campaign, i.e. Pat Tillman.
- o. Our website needs to include all of our resources
- p. Need for a compelling story.
- q. Captain Franc- need to do mid month actions so that we can start moving forward on the goals of the committee. Melissa to work with Aaron Mallory.
- r. Guy Mc Cloud-VA- use of Dropbox as a platform.
- s. Val Reyes- to sponsor teleconference: for a subcommittee. Media/social media/Drop Box.
- t. Members to self identify as volunteering for a subcommittee to be headed by Val Reyes initially: Per interested generated, the following have volunteered to participate in a mid-month conference call to be organized by Val Reyes:

V. Career Advancement Working Group

- a) The Career Advancement Group continued their work on preparing for the USC-CIR Veteran's Hiring Event to take place on May 29. Adam Renteria shared an update on the number of veterans and employers enrolled. Many attendees were participating in the Navigator Program and shared how that was working so far.
- b) Michael Wolf then gave a presentation on the his work with Mayor Garcetti's Veteran's Affairs office to engage employers in the Los Angeles Area in the Mayor's Hiring Initiative. Michael is bringing together a small group of Human Resources professionals from a variety of industries to provide guidance to the Mayor's Office, to the Collaborative and eventually to other employers around the issue of recruiting and retaining veteran talent. The Career Advancement Group anticipates working very closely with this group.

VI. Families & Children Working Group

- a) **Introductions:** Deborah Hayes, Co-Chair Debbie Nichos, Co-Chair
- b) **Attendance:** Hubert Sutton, Ret. Army; Adabel Lee, UCLA ,Project FOCUS; Monica Rodriguez, Didi Hirsch CMHS – MFAR Program; Pauline Tan, The Village Family Services; Charli Hitesman, USC NROTC (spouse); Wendy Lethin, Semper Fi Fund; Kenneth Lynch, Operation Mindful Warrior; Gail Soffer, Operation Mindful Warrior; Mickiela Montoya, Veteran, Dept. Vet Affairs.
- c) **Introductions:** Deborah Hayes, Co-Chair
- d) Report on participation in Activities during the month of April/May, discussed the Month of the Military Child event at Patriotic Hall, online military culture training opportunities for behavioral health providers - Star Behavioral Health Providers (UCLA Nathanson Family Center & Purdue University), Joining Forces meeting with the California National Guard – Children & Youth Programs in Pasadena and the SPA 7 DCFS Provider Resource Fair – Focus on Military Families.
- e) Shared upcoming events – Memorial Day Salute to Vets, Arcadia Park and the Goodwill Stand Down, June 6th and 7th. Didi Hirsch will be attending both of these events for outreach to families.
- f) Work Group members are encouraged to participate in community activities and to share this information with others. If you are aware of an upcoming training or event related to military families, please email Deborah Hayes and Debbi Nichols, Co-Chairs, so that we can share it with the LAVC and our workgroup members.
- g) **Discussion:** Participants shared information regarding their agencies including services provided to military families as well as program needs. **Didi Hirsch CMHC** (mental health programs including Suicide Prevention Hotline) has 11 program sites throughout Los Angeles County. They have clinicians and case managers who have received training in military culture and are providing mental health services to veterans and their families who are MediCal eligible through the MFAR program - Military Families Are Resilient. Discussed limitations on delivery of services to only MediCal eligible clientele and the need expand services when possible. **Operation Mindful Warrior** is a non-profit organization dedicated to support service members, veterans and their families, who are experiencing difficulties in transitioning and adjustment. They find that the symptoms of PTSD, TBI, and many physical and emotional injuries are positively impacted by the practice of mindfulness and mindfulness meditation. Operation Mindful Warrior is available to share their work with your agency/program.
- h) Discussed AB 2341 (Quirk-Silva), a bill that will allow for the statewide identification of military connected children of the Active Duty service members, providing data on their attendance and educational outcomes. There is concern that this bill does not mention the identification of Guard and Reserve affiliated students. Joseph Chicas, Veterans Affairs Coordinator for Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has asked that we support the inclusion of Guard and Reserve affiliated students in this pending Bill.
- i) Sheila Rupp, Los Angeles Air Force Spouse of the Year was recommended by Charli Hitesman as someone whom the Work Group should outreach to, as she is

very knowledgeable of military family needs and resources. Plan to invite her to our next meeting.

VII. Housing & Homelessness Working Group

- a) **Services for at risk populations:** The working group discussed services available to Veterans who may not meet the VA's current priorities for VASH. As many homeless Veterans may not need the intensive supportive services that come with VASH, limited VASH resources can be best targeted to the most vulnerable populations. CES is a good way of assessing need. The VA representative agreed to have an appropriate VA employee discuss VASH priorities at the June meeting.
- b) **LAHSA Winter Shelter Program:** The Winter Shelter assessment shows different levels of Veteran homelessness around LA County and indicates that there have been decreases in the number of homeless veterans, especially at the Skid Row Winter Shelter. Location preference may be a cause of the decrease in numbers at the Skid Row shelter.
- c) **Proposition 41:** Sharon Rapport from CSH presented more advocacy information for Prop 41. The funding will only go towards Veterans housing, even in mixed population buildings, and will only be available for new developments and substantial rehabilitation. If your organization has yet to endorse Proposition 41, please visit <http://www.yesonprop41forvets.org/org-support-form/>. The legal working group did a great breakdown of the legal language, which you can see at <http://goo.gl/CvFFXy>
- d) **SSVF Rule Change:** The VA is proposing a rule change to SSVF, creating a new "extremely low income" category, which would be eligible for more assistance. Veterans up to 50% AMI will still be helped. To view the key changes, visit: <http://goo.gl/kAA7bb>. The deadline to submit comments to the VA on the proposed rule is June 23, so the Group will discuss potential comments at the June meeting.
- e) **211 Veterans Portal:** The working group determined that VASH and SSVF administrators and Grant Per Diem bed services by region would be most useful to homeless Veterans who are looking for housing information.

f) For 211:

i. HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

The HUD-VASH program provides Section 8 Voucher rental assistance under a supportive housing program for homeless veterans, with a priority for chronically homeless veterans. This program combines Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance for homeless veterans administered by local public housing authorities with case management and clinical services provided by the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) at its medical centers and in the community and by subcontractors to the VA

Contractor	Main Office Address	
San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center	6842 Van Nuys Blvd 6th floor	Van Nuys

Volunteers of America of Los Angeles	3600 Wilshire Blvd Suite 1500	Los Angeles
People Assisting Homeless	340 N. Madison Av	Los Angeles
LAMP, Inc.	526 San Pedro St	Los Angeles
Downtown Women's Center	442 S San Pedro St	Los Angeles
South Central Health and Rehabilitation Programs	1055 Wilshire Blvd Suite 1620	Los Angeles
Step Up on Second Street	1328 2nd St	Santa Monica
West Bay Housing Corporation	1390 Market St Suite 405	San Francisco
County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (DMH)	550 S Vermont Av 12th floor	Los Angeles
OPCC	1453 16th St	Santa Monica
St Joseph Center	204 Hampton Dr	Venice

VIII. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group

- a) Introductions
- b) LA Law Library
 - a. Melinda, Laura Cobien, and Janine Liebert provided a brief overview of the services offered by the LA Law Library's E-Branch and discussed the possibility of a portal at Patriotic Hall
- c) Circulated the link to endorse Prop 41
- d) Co-Chairs briefly summarized PC 1170.9, discussed the differences between 1170.9(h) (restorative relief) and 1203.4 (expungement) and Jodi Galvin recounted her efforts to ensure 1170.9(h) relief is actually implemented by the DOJ
 - a. Circulated and discussed sample letter for homeless vet challenging parking citation for extenuating circumstances within the first 21 days in the interest of justice
 - b. Circulated and discussed letter to Executive Officer of Parking Management and Regulations addressing the "interest of justice" issue that, once finalized, will be distributed throughout Collaborative for signatures
 - c. Jodi discussed proposal for renegotiating the City's parking citation collection contracts with more robust mechanism for dealing with such tickets for homeless vets at any time--has been put on the agenda for June
 - d. Jodi discussed possibility of similar proposal for renegotiating towing and impounding contracts
 - e) Group discussed how best to collaborate on script for PD's office to elicit information on the experiences of veterans involved in the criminal justice system for the purposes of 1170.9 sentencing briefs
 - a. sub-group will continue to work off-line between meetings (As with all items)
 - f) Discussed desire and need to set-up Collaborative-wide training, began brainstorming and discussing possible logistics

- g) Annie Hudson-Price provided brief overview of the California Delegation's experience at SAMHSA's conference on veterans and the criminal justice system\
- a. The need for identification of veterans at every step of criminal justice involvement was the key take away and action item for the CA delegation
- h) Co-chairs reminded the group of the vet-specific, court-ordered DV programs that are available in Los Angeles and distributed information to those who had not attended previous meetings

IX. Faith Based Working Group

- a. Finalized Faith based Curriculum and set a date for an appointment to create and fill out 1 day and six week training USC office of Religious and Civic Engagement on 6/4.
- b. Developed plan an meeting to build support and outreach to our contacts to begin outreach for course. Went over outline for curriculum, identifying any needs to fill in gaps in curriculum. Finalize one day and six week course for implementation on 6/14.

X. Higher Education Working Group

- a. This discussion focused on the information provided veterans on campus and off campus. Our goal is to invite our sister campus to participate and come up a plan to that we all mirror each other. We will start with the Triages on campus.
- b. **Best Practice College Campuses**
 - Develop a Triage on campuses – (CSUDH)
 - (on campus information and other campuses)
 - Asses Student needs
 - Benefits information
 - Up to date resource guides
 - All campuses like FACEBOOK page for information purposes
 - Know the right information to direct veterans on campus and off campus
 - Resume preparing (small groups)
 - Referral services
 - Information on legal services
 - Family law
 - Criminal Background information

XI. Administrative Details

- a. **Upcoming Collaborative Meetings**
The Collaborative meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The three upcoming meetings are as follows:

- June 11, 2014
- July 9, 2014
- August 13, 2014

b. Closing Remarks

Nathan Graeser thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone about the Orange County 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

XII. Next Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

10:00 - 12:00 pm

Sunset Theater

1149 South Hill Street, 11th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90015