



**MEETING AGENDA**

<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Engagement and Access Working Group</b>
<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Check-in</b>
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Agenda</b> Nathan Graeser, Collaborative Coordinator, CIR
<b>10:10 am</b>	<b>Announcements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Survey Report in September</li><li>◆ Upcoming Events</li><li>◆ Veteran Health Care Working Group Starts next month</li></ul>
<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Working Group Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Behavioral Health</li><li>◆ Career Advancement</li><li>◆ Families &amp; Children</li><li>◆ Housing &amp; Homelessness</li><li>◆ Legal &amp; Re-Entry</li><li>◆ Faith Based</li><li>◆ Higher Education</li></ul>
<b>11:30 am</b>	<b>Review of Working Group Sessions</b>
<b>11:55 am</b>	<b>Administrative Items &amp; Closing Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ LAVC Facebook, Minutes and Website</li></ul> Nathan Graeser
<b>12:00 pm</b>	<b>Collaborative Meeting Adjourns</b>

**I. Welcome & Agenda**

Nathan Graeser, Community Liaison/Analyst 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**
- **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) Val Reyes made request to recruit more participants in the physical health group. Currently there is only one participant in that cohort.
- b) 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.
- 2. 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
  - 3. 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.
  - 4. 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
    - f.

## V. Career Advancement Working Group

- a) 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) Deborah J. Hayes, Co-Chair; Debbie Nichols, Co-Chair
- b) **Attendance:** Carla Cavalier-Bowdoin, LCSW; Gail Soffer, Operation Mindful Warriors; Kenneth Lynch, Operation Mindful Warriors; **Stephanie Howard**, Core Issue Productions; **Wanda Johnson**, ATG – Caregiver Services; Pauline Tan, The Village Family Services; Monica Rodriguez, Didi Hirsch CMHS; Sarah Duerr, Hope For The Warriors; Mickiela Montoya, Dept of VA; **Tabatha Renz**, IAVA; Hubert Sutton, Retired Army; **Jhoselyn Ramirez**, Military ONESOURCE; **Lisa Flores**, US Army Reserves – Family Programs; Madeleine Bruning, USC Keck School of Medicine/Mt St Mary's College
- c) Introductions and Welcome to new participants, who are indicated above in **BOLD**.

- d) Jake Rademacher – *Brothers at War*, briefly spoke to the work group about this film that he is involved with and offered screenings to any groups interested. There is a DVD and companion workbook available as well. Website: [www.Brothersatwarresiliency.com](http://www.Brothersatwarresiliency.com)
- e) **Reports on work group member's participation in activities during the past month related to military connected children and families.**
- f) D. Hayes and D. Nichols shared preliminary results from the Community Leaders meeting with DELOITTE on 6-6-14. The LA Vets survey involved 1,850 respondents to survey, 83% male vets, 16% female vets responded. The primary takeaways from the LA Vets Survey – 1) *Veterans need jobs and support during the transition to civilian employment* 2) *Veterans do not know where to go for services and resources.*
- g) Deb Hayes and **Monica Rodriguez** met with **Brandon Penn**, California National Guard – Operation Ready Families, Southern California Coordinator for Youth and Children at the Azusa National Guard Armory. This was an opportunity to share his program's mission and activities related to Guard children and families. Monica was also able to address with Brandon the **Didi Hirsch MFAR (Military Families Are Resilient)** program as a community support for military families, providing resiliency training, case management, outreach and resources.
- h) Brandon's work area coverage extends from the Ventura/Santa Barbara areas down to San Diego. He has many resource materials available for military families and providers, free of charge. We brought back many items for today's participants. We have an open invitation for Brandon to attend our work group meetings. To access additional materials from Brandon, his contact info is as follows:
  - i) [Brandon.j.penn2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:Brandon.j.penn2.ctr@mail.mil) 626-633-8199 Office 818-402-3296 Cell
- j) Deb Hayes and Monica Rodriguez also toured the **211 LA** offices and met with **Patricia Herrera**, 211LA Coordinator of Developmental Screening, to discuss the addition of a military identifier question on calls to her Unit responding to the developmental screening of children ages 0-5 years. In addition to taking information and resources calls from throughout Los Angeles County, 211LA has Care Coordinators available 24/7 who are able to address the resource needs of military, veterans and their families. *On calls referred for developmental screening will also be those military connected callers who have children 5 years old and younger.* We discussed with Patricia the various needs of military families who have young children. In her program, calls are provided case management support to ensure access and follow up to services.
- k) AB 2341 Quirk-Silva – Bill passed through the State Assembly committees and is in the Senate. This bill would allow for the identification of students whose parent(s) or primary caregiver is Active Duty. There is disappointment that the identifier does not include children of the Guard and Reserve who make up a sizeable number of children throughout the State of California.
- l) **Jhoselyn Ramirez, Military ONESOURCE** shared the need for children ages 9-17 years in Active Duty, Guard or Reserve families with recent discharge, to participate in a survey (Military Kids Connect survey) <http://militarykidsconnect.t2.health.mil>. Total time for participation in the survey is no more than 1.5 hours. The participants will receive promotional items from Military Kids Connect. Contact Jhoselyn Ramirez , Volunteer Coordinator,

(310) 357-4917 - [jhoselyn.ramirez@gmail.com](mailto:jhoselyn.ramirez@gmail.com) or Debbie Nichols – 714-536-6184 - [Debbie@militarychildrenscollaborativegroup.com](mailto:Debbie@militarychildrenscollaborativegroup.com) for further information and referrals.

- m) **Tabetha Renz**, representing **Iraqi and Afghanistan Veterans of Association – Rapid Response Referral Program (IAVA/RRRP)**, shared that since Jan. 2014, they have received from California, 500 referrals resulting in 280 cases that are being case managed by their MSW staff. Resource, referrals, supportive counseling are provided online and by telephone to service members and veterans residing in California and New York. Website: [www.iava.org/rrrp](http://www.iava.org/rrrp)
- n) Debbie Nichols attended the LAVC community network meeting this morning prior to our meeting and indicated that they are requesting that each work group develop a list of resources that include their agencies and programs that are utilized by their service population. Deb Hayes shared her Military Children's Resource Guide and solicited any updates or changes in contact information. These changes will be reflected in the next guide update and will be sent to Nathan to disseminate via the LAVC website.
- o) **Upcoming events**
- p) July 24, 2014 – Hope for the Warriors is sponsoring a fundraising event on the Battleship IOWA, in San Pedro. Contact Sarah Duerr – [sduerr@hopeforthewarriors.org](mailto:sduerr@hopeforthewarriors.org) for ticket information.
- q) Sept 28, 29<sup>th</sup> – LA County Perinatal Mental Health Task Force – Training at the Taglyan Cultural Center, Hollywood, CA - Deb Hayes and Kathleen West are presenting a workshop that will address Perinatal Mental Health Issues with Military Connected Women and the Impact on their Children and Families.

## VII. Housing & Homelessness Working Group

- a) **Proposition 41:** Proposition 41 passed with voter approval! Thanks to all of the organizations in the Collaborative that participated in advocacy efforts. **New Update:** Stakeholder meetings discussing implementation will occur throughout the state in July. To sign up for the afternoon Los Angeles meeting, visit <http://goo.gl/OzBAqi>
- b) **SSVF Referral Information:** The working group went over a SSVF referral information packet compiled by Phil Bowers of VOA. The guide includes basic eligibility information, SSVF Agency listing and contact by SPA and an SSVF referral form for case managers. Referrals from the VASH program will use a separate package. To access the SSVF referral information, please visit: <http://goo.gl/DkNvcB>
- c) **SSVF Proposed Rule Change:** Recently, the VA released a proposed rule change to SSVF that would expand services for an extremely low-income population and clarify what SSVF funds can and cannot be used for. The working group went through the proposed changes in detail. All of the SSVF funds must be tied to housing stability, and funds must go through a third party rather than be directly dispersed to a Veteran. SSVF can pay for hotel vouchers for up to 30 days if a household has dependents and is transitioning between housing. SSVF funds can be used to purchase refrigerators, mattresses and pay for the application

fees. We clarified that it is illegal for property managers to ask for an extra deposit for service animals. To view key points of the proposed rule, visit: <http://goo.gl/kAA7bb> .

- d) **SSVF Proposed Rule Change Public Comment:** During the discussion of the SSVF Proposed Rule Change, the working group discussed ideas for public comments if they chose to submit one on behalf of their agencies.

## **VIII. Legal & Re-Entry Working Group**

- a) Introductions
- b) Reviewed various 1170.9 poster designs, line-edited the selected choice and approved a final version
  - a. Each individual committed to a distribution strategy
- c) Reviewed "Clean Plates" Parking Citation Proposal and discussed necessity
- d) Informed group of plan to create enormous Veteran Advocate Training with collaboration from other co-chairs
  - a. Discussed various professional credits the training will offer
  - b. Reviewed potential speakers and the organizations that have already expressed interest
  - c. Reviewed tentative dates
  - d. Discussed desire to videotape
- e) Updated the group on Jodi Galvin and Kathleen West's efforts to educate the community about, and improve, veteran-specific DV programs
- f) Reviewed 1170.9 Brief Bank initiative and discussed next steps (including collaborating on intake "script" for PDs)
- g) Discussed the endorsement by Cal Humanities of a book about Veterans Returning Home and the need to ensure this conversation is occurring in all of our various communities
- h) Opened up the conversation to the group and invited feedback on what else members would like the co-chairs to address/would like the group to focus on/projects that needed support
  - a. One member requested more focus on MST. She was referred to experts in the area and has committed to discussing next steps with these experts and bringing an action plan back to the group
  - b. Another member discussed the Harriett Buhai Center for Family Law's Swords to Plowshares grant to work with female veterans dealing with DV and we discussed potential collaborations and support the group might provide
- i) Discussed passage of Prop 41 and importance of finding out more about implementation phase (and getting involved in implementation)

## **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 7/4.

- b. Developed planning 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. Our discussion focused on preparing a letter for Mayor Garcetti. This letter will ask the Mayor for his support in asking that the LACCD be more involved with Veterans on their campuses and in attending the collaborative. The letter will be ready at our next meeting.
- b. We have requested that all community colleges attend. We will need your assistance with having the CSU and UC to attend the next meeting. Our focus is to work on colleges best practices..
- c. **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:

  - July 9, 2014
  - August 13, 2014
  - September 10, 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](mailto:graeser@usc.edu)

## **XII. Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, July**

10:00 - 12:00 pm

Sunset Theater

1149 South Hill Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90015